



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIII Number 3

March 2019



Editorial

"I didn't vote in the Referendum. I didn't think it would be right, I didn't know anything about it." So spoke a young man in the Red Lion in 2016 and what a Sage among Asses! Yes, he KNEW he didn't know anything about it. So now as we sail down the Primrose Path in hot pursuit of a blade of yellowing couch grass which we're sure we spotted on the other side, we just hope there might be some ink next month (it may come from Denmark. Or then, maybe not...) to print another Crier.

Meanwhile, all is well in the Village, our own 29th March big problem being the absence of a Parish Clerk. Solved in a flash. On hearing of this problem, no less than FIVE people stepped forward. Many thanks to them and a Big Welcome to Rosie Featherstone, who will be our new Clerk (see Our Reporter).

Fond goodbyes to Henry Brown this month, as Mark Lewinski comes to the very last extract from his fascinating memoirs. Not for too long though, we're sure we'll get round to rerunning a few in the not too distant future. Meanwhile, Henry's March problem is that he's lost his cook! See his Ad, let's hope we can fix that as well.

We went to Bulbeck's Amateur Dramatics last week — what fun. And what a shame there's no Prior Amateur Dramatics! We know we have an expert Dramaticist in this very village, writing on our *Letters* page even. Don't miss the Lent Lunches, the soup is delicious, and even we might have a go at the Sunflowers. See you Quizzing....

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *A Sting in the Tail* by Lorraine Izon

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

The Great Sunflower Challenge

Just a heads up on our plans to get Swaffham Prior full of sunflowers this year ! We are starting a sunflower challenge.

The sunflower plants will be judged at the "Swaffham Prior Autumn Show" September Sat 14th. We may have to send out judges to your garden to measure up !!!!

Jenny Brand (show organizer) has bought lots of sunflower seeds and pots ready to get started. As I run a gardening club in the school I will distribute seeds and pots to the garden club children and others.

Would you like to grow some? Jenny Brand has offered to distribute pots and seeds to anyone or group who wants to take up the challenge. Do contact her by email. jenny.brand26@gmail.com

We are including in the challenge any adult or child with connection with the village ie my grandson attends the school but lives in Longmeadow.

Some families may wish to take up the challenge, grandparents for their grandchildren, individual children or even some serious gardeners. The aim is to get digging and planting to get sunflowers throughout the village.

If you can plant in a way that the flowers are visible to passers by that would be lovely. A row of sunflowers in your front garden would be lovely if you have a sunny spot.

You can start planting the seeds inside in February to March. Pick the seeds up from Jenny or purchase your own seed packet when shopping.

I am planning on starting my sunflower seeds mid March with the school and will be sending back pots home with the children. Also I plan to plant some seeds out directly into the school soil as soon as the earth warms.

So green fingers crossed something comes up. Do join in and support our Autumn Show. Various prizes for different categories will be awarded ie the tallest, the most sunflower heads, the most beautiful etc...

Sue Wade and Jenny Brand
(see more on page 8)

Swaffham Prior Autumn Show – 14th September

Sunflower Challenge

Jenny Brand (email: jenny.brand26@gmail.com), an organiser of the show, is handing out sunflower seeds to make a colourful display in your garden and in the village.

Do pick up some seeds from Jenny or a local garden centre to join "the challenge".

Plant the seeds inside during Feb/March
OR straight into the soil as soon as it warms.
Find a sunny place near a wall and keep watering and feeding!

Jenny will organise judging on
Saturday 14th September at
the autumn show or perhaps
insitu.

Prizes for The Tallest, The
Most Prolific, The Most
Beautiful etc.

All adults, grandparents and
children connected with the
village, do join in and support
this village event.



Dear Editors,

Careful Management?

As a very local government Freedom Of Information request, could Mr Everitt divulge the methods of "careful management" referred to in his February *Crier* 'report' whereby the residents of this village have been deterred from putting themselves forward for membership of the Parish Council for many years, and so ensuring no election takes place. I appreciate that this has ensured continuity of service which in turn has served to minimise significant change to facilities in the village, in contrast to some neighbouring parishes.

I seem to have slipped through the net last time round. I wouldn't want anyone else to have a similarly unfortunate experience.

Mark Lewinski

Easter Lilies

Each year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies will cost £2.75 per stem this year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.



Ruth Scovil

Cook Required 4-6pm 5 days per Week

£10 per hour

Contact Henry Brown, 25 Greenhead Rd

Tel 01638 742985.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

People sometimes wonder why I am happy to sit through PC Meetings, month after month. There are reasons, but especially at this particular moment. As a nation we are UNSTABLE – economically, politically, socially, and emotionally. The PC cannot produce headlines like Tusk's sending to Hell those who are happy to put the Good Friday Agreement at risk, or the dire warnings from a whole range of industrialists, with some even skipping the country. But there is also cheerful news such as our decision to convert a ferry boat and a freighter into warships. These will presumably accompany our brand new aircraft carrier (any planes yet?) which is being sent to the China Seas to give a China a stern warning.



Against all this our PC is STABLE. So, onto the meeting. We have a new Clerk, and this is a triumph. She is Rosie Featherstone, a paediatric nurse, with two young children, wishes to be involved in the village, does some voluntary work for Anglesey Abbey, and has had no experience at all as a Clerk. Initially she will be Assistant Parish Clerk until the April meeting, after which Paul will be Assistant Clerk until Rosie is completely happy with the job. Steve said that after the last Crier ad five new applications for Clerk had been received. This is great tribute to the Village and its wish to be involved, and also a tribute to the Crier as an effective means of spreading news.

Next month there is going to be great story about the Local Plan. It cannot be revealed yet so readers will need to have a little patience. Meantime great progress has been made with the allotments saga and, as the saying goes, “all things come to those who wait”. Very recently Allotment 5 has become available, it is well cultivated, and has been offered to James Willmott. This is instead of Allotment 2 which has long been neglected and is a right mess with brambles etc. So it truly is “the best of all possible worlds”. The meeting was very pleased for James.

If she [May] were playing strip poker she would be down to her underwear by now. This is not sexist, you may prefer a picture of Boris Johnson...

Allen proudly passed around a few copies of a new glossy booklet extolling the merits of Ely and surrounding districts. This has been produced by ECDC hoping to attract visitors to Ely and the area, especially American visitors post Brexit. The question is where to distribute the booklets. I did notice there was a very nice small ad for The Red Lion, felt quite proud of Steve, until I noticed it was for the pub in Soham.

Paul, who is putting together the agreement for the hire of Sid asked Steve if he could make a small change which would both simplify and tighten up the agreement.. Steve and the PC readily agreed. It seems that several councils are interested in our SID. Everything is going through with new Trust Deed for the Village Hall. The PC owes the Village Hall some money and, with its Chairman Alan Durrant now on the PC, Steve was able to ask

him whether he could pay in May as the Village Hall often takes months to pay in a cheque, and Steve needs to finalise the accounts. Alan smiled sheepishly, and agreed. Meantime the Village Hall glistens with its new fences.

Anyone wishing to stand in the forthcoming PC elections needs to get in their application on 21st March or soon after. Contact the Clerk if you wish to stand and he will send you the papers. In Parish Councillors Reports someone asked where the snowdrops are. We should be overrun with them. Three snowdrops had been seen in one spot, and a single one elsewhere. It was suggested they were late in coming up. No-one appeared to be particularly worried. More concern was expressed about the large number of bright green notices advertising an Easter Antiques

Fair in Peterborough. The meeting was assured they would not be there long, and within a few days they had gone. There are just a few lingering in the countryside.

In spite of human failings, which we all have, we do need a Stable PC in such difficult times. There must be few in Britain who are not concerned for or against Brexit. Theresa May to some appears to be playing a game of poker with our future - "just let me have one more bet as the casino doesn't close for 45 minutes". If she were playing strip poker she would be down to her underwear by now. This is not sexist, but you may prefer a picture of Boris Johnson. On the 17th February The Mail on Sunday reported that Jacob Rees-Mogg (who has moved part of his business to Ireland), displays in a window of his £6 million London Town House a poster reading - "No deal? No problem." That must be so reassuring for business leaders and industrialists!

The meeting ended at 8.30 for the second month in a row,

I wrote this in the third week of February. By the time it appears history may have been made. Or maybe, just a plea for more time.

Alastair Everitt

SWAFFHAM PRIOR



Village Feast

25th May

Your Village Needs You!

We are already planning planning this year's extravaganza with a Circus theme.

So, if you have:

- any circus skills you'd like to show off,
- any ideas for new entertainments,
- a business you'd like to promote,
- a penchant for organising events,
- the desire to keep Village traditions alive
- or just an hour or two to help run a stall

We would love to hear from you!

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall
7.30 pm Saturday 16 March

Tickets £6 each. To book a table, contact



Jenny Brand
(01638) 742161

or
Lynne Rand
(01638) 741960

Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses !!

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

Cakes, Coffee

& West Lodge Pottery

FRIDAY 5th April

10.30 - 1pm

In aid of
Motor Neurone
Disease Association



at
41, Cage Hill, Swaffham Prior
POTTERY, CAKE STALL, RAFFLE



St. Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Lent Lunches

in support of

"Buy a Brick"

to build a house

in our link Parish of Mara, Tanzania

- Monday 18th March – 1 Mill Hill (Dee Noyes)
- Wednesday 27th March - 73 High Street (Kate Child)

12 noon; soup and a roll; limited spaces - booking essential!

743983 or email admin@anglesevgroupparishes.co.uk

No charge for lunch; donations please.



See page
22 for the
latest
from
Mara

Heather Johnson, our CMS link person at the Rehema project in Mara has asked us to support Jeska, one of the café employees. Jeska is recently widowed and the only breadwinner, and she and her children are about to be made homeless. Please "BUY A BRICK" so they can start to build their own house. Bricks cost 50p each – thank you for your support!

BODY TALK

A new thematic course on the most
intimate of genres,
the nude

Tuesdays or Wednesdays
April 30th / May 1st to 21st/22nd at Swaffham
Prior V.H.
10.15-12.15 a.m.



***This is no cover
up: the Bare
Essentials and
more..***

It will complement spring exhibitions at the Royal Academy: *The Renaissance Nude* (March 3rd to June 2nd) and a special in focus display on contemporary video artist Bill Viola and his icon, Michelangelo, *Life Death Rebirth* (until March 31st) which showcases how both artists fashion the body to express powerful emotions and intense spirituality

Renaissance Italy was a pivotal time for the nude in the western world with a renewed interest in ancient Greek and Roman art. The human body was brought to the forefront of innovation, becoming the most cutting-edge of genres, above all transforming Christian art with new interpretations.

We shall trace the development of both the male and female nude through examples by Titian, Raphael, Michelangelo, Leonardo, Durer, Cranach and more. Examples will include anatomical drawings, paintings and marble and bronze sculpture.

Email deborah.monteiro@btinternet.com for fees/more info

Upon reflection

In my unremarkable life, I've met
Many folk now gone.
Some, who had a claim to fame,
Others, who had none,
But somewhere, sometime, we did meet,
And I'm sure, most would agree;
That though I might remember them,
They may not remember me.
(One does not get a second chance to create a first impression.)

Ophir

Donations!

Many thanks to Sylvie Short for her very kind donation to the *Crier* this month.



Sunflowers

Helianthus annuus, the common sunflower, is a large annual forb* of the genus *Helianthus*. It is grown as a crop for its edible oil and edible fruits. This sunflower species is also used as wild bird food, as livestock forage, in some industrial applications, and as an ornamental plant in domestic gardens.

* A forb (sometimes spelled phorb) is an herbaceous flowering plant that is not a graminoid (grasses, sedges and rushes). The term is used in biology and in vegetation ecology, especially in relation to grasslands and understory.

All information courtesy of Wikipedia

What's not to love about the magnificent sunflower?

And this year we'd like gardens throughout the village to be full of their cheerful and wildlife-friendly faces.

The Village Hall Autumn Show (on September 14th this year) will have a category for Sunflowers in Gardens. There will be no need to grow them in pots, or to dig them up and bring them in. They will be judged where they are growing.

What's more, planting can start *now*:

we will provide you with giant sunflower seeds and a pot to start them off in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill.

If you want to take part, phone Jenny Brand on 01638 742161 to get your free seeds.

BON MOT NUMBER NINETY FIVE

"An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have.
The older she gets the more interested he is in her."

Agatha Christie (1890 – 1976)

Julie's recipes for March

One for Pancake Day on Tuesday 5th March and one for St Patricks Day on 17th March:

Blueberry Pancakes

- 300g blueberries
- 125g caster sugar
- 125g plain flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 2 large eggs beaten
- 300ml buttermilk
- Icing sugar for sifting



1. Simmer blueberries and 75g sugar together until softened and keep warm. Sift the rest of the sugar, flour and baking powder into a bowl. Whisk in the eggs, then the butter and buttermilk.
 2. Heat and lightly grease a frying pan with butter. Drop in tablespoons batter and cook for 2 minutes. Turn and cook the other side for 1 minute. Keep them warm while making the rest. Finally top with blueberries and dust with icing sugar. Makes 20.
-

Irish Stew

- 1.25kg boneless lamb chops
- 15ml vegetable oil
- 3 large onions
- 4 large carrots thickly sliced
- 900ml water
- 4 large potatoes cut into chunks
- 1 large fresh thyme sprig
- 15g butter
- 15ml chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste

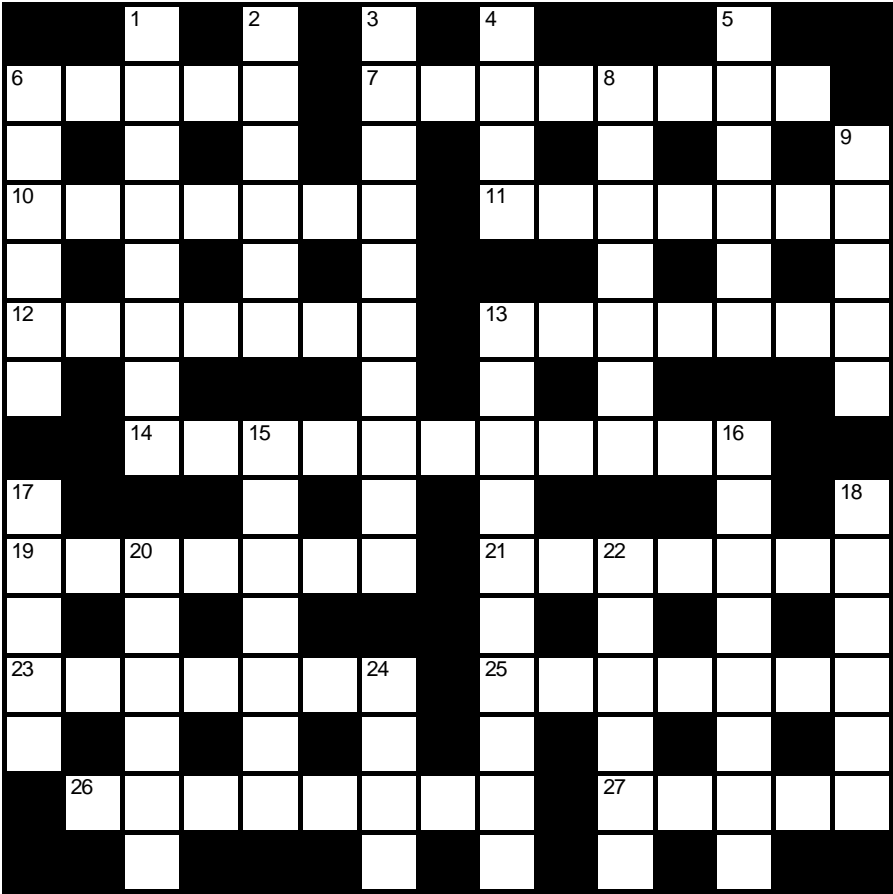


1. Trim any fat from the lamb. Heat the oil in a flameproof casserole and brown the meat on both sides. Remove from pan.
2. Quarter the onions. Add to the casserole with the carrots and cook for 5 mins until the onions are brown. Return the meat to the pan with the water. Bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer for 1 hour.
3. Add the potatoes to the pan with the thyme sprig and cook for a further 1 hour. When the meat is tender let the stew settle for a few minutes and remove any fat from the liquid with a ladle. Stir in the butter and the parsley and season well. A complete meal in one. Serves 4.

Crossword Number 162

Compiled by BYWELL

Clues marked with '*' contain no definition, save they refer to ways of dealing with those long winter evenings. Send your answers to the editors by 18 March 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

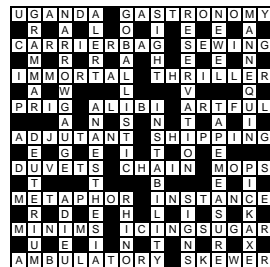
- 6 Complain directions include saying hello (5)
- 7 Dark grey fish to fuel a ship (8)
- 10 No finer deployment to nether region (7)
- 11 First light runs out at one point (7)
- 12 Lake Mead's banks eroded after the French campaign (4,3)
- 13 Yes, if he's prepared to take a broad view of things (7)
- 14 *What the police say they did after she was caught speeding? (4,3,4)
- 19 Held back by streptomycin, a growth that is natural (7)
- 21 * Teletubby books running round in front (7)
- 23 Duck, hard of hearing, loses head to Cockney criminal (3,4)
- 25 Memory of stage appearance on Embankment (7)
- 26 Evolution of race is no sequence of events (8)
- 27 Parrot takes on board river transport (5)

Down

- 1 Lower orders comprise lady flyers who interrupt musical accompaniment (8)
- 2 * That man's subjectively part of a university (6)
- 3 Academic translates hot classic (10)
- 4 Mail, maybe letters last held in universities (4)

- 5 Evil consequence of metal consumption by rodents (6)
- 6 Creep from dam party (6)
- 8 * State subversion of Satan (7)
- 9 Make a child pray (and in French!) (5)
- 13 Punishment cancelled as Peron fared badly (4,6)
- 15 Grandma's sharp cloth from China (7)
- 16 Soldiers' last day with any more manoeuvres (8)
- 17 Cockatoo that carries a bit of a bite (5)
- 18 Gnarled wader on boundaries of Tenby (6)
- 20 Force open by piercing strike at an angle (6)
- 22 Doctor's in the river Swift (6)
- 24 * Helping to make an Alfa Romeo (4)

Solution to crossword no. 161



We congratulate Lesley Daly the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Martin & Debby Clark, Jenny Brand, K Richards, Robert Nunn, Jo Pumfrey and Trish Whitehead.

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 eighth and final section of his post-war entrepreneurial life, having designed washing machines, cars, farm silos, and now spiral staircases.

The Mackay spiral staircase business, which became Crescent of Cambridge in New Street, Cambridge, alongside the rest of the Mackay enterprises, had become the largest spiral staircase company in the UK. The staircases were mass produced, mainly by the Camac Cask Co. in Dublin, a Guinness subsidiary.

When the oil crisis erupted in the 70s I went out to the Gulf and set up sales agents and also attended the Buildings Exhibitions at Jeddah and Bahrain; I had permission from Guinness to pay out the usual 5% bribes! Robin went out to the Gulf to instruct contractors on installation.



Henry talking to a potential customer

My son Robin was works manager and progressed the orders handed down from the drawing office. He also controlled the stock level of standard components, put

out landings and all special components to subcontractors, and was also the Crescent trouble-shooter.

Other staff included the accountant, Butler, good at chasing late payers; Middleton, the Northern sales representative; and Jefferies, the erection manager, a reliable man.

When Ernest Saunders took over the management of Guinness he gave all the non-brewing subsidiaries 7 days to form consortiums and to come up with an offer for their company. Robin, Butler, Middleton, Jeffries and I were the only ones willing to participate. I had to negotiate with the private bank appointed by Guinness to arrange the disposals.

Unfortunately, we were holding a lot of stock, valued at £250,000. This was not a result of over-ordering by Crescent but was directed by Camac when they needed to keep their workforce busy. I managed to convince the bankers that Crescent required large stocks of components just to operate and they agreed a price of £50,000.

The company solicitor advised that we should go to the Midland Bank for a loan; this was granted, but only if we took on a nominee director of theirs – Zena Owens. Camac was wound up and I had the tread tools transferred to a Midlands press company. The cores were made to order by B & D Willetts (Soham) and the balusters stayed with Gordon Friend of D. McKay. We quickly reduced our stock and paid off the loan. Before long, the directors had new cars!

Unfortunately we had acquired a serpent in the nest. Zena wanted to be chairwoman and, instead of supporting the management, decided to stand aside and allow Butler to dismiss me from the company, dismiss Robin from the board of directors and appoint himself as managing director and chairman. I had no alternative but to start up another spiral staircase company – Albion.

Zena never became chairwoman and was retired by the Midlands Bank. Butler and Middleton formed a partnership and fired Jefferies. Crescent was then sold to a private equity company, which then fired Butler and Middleton. That's how it can go when people put themselves before the business.

Albion Design of Cambridge

Albion's staircases were a refined version of Crescent's with dimensions exactly as per the UK Building Regulations. I built up sales to generate £75,000 net profit in the third year, when I sold the company to Cakebread Robey (London). My two financial partners, Philip Lancashire and Michael Sandler, were paid off and I retired at 67.

Today Albion is making spirals to BS 5395 located at B & D Willetts with Robin as manager and Philip Langford as chief draughtsman.

<http://www.albionspirals.co.uk/site/spiral-staircases.asp>

Last in a series of extracts from the Memoirs of Henry Brown

13 October 2014

By Mark Lewinski

Unfortunately we had acquired a serpent in the nest. Zena wanted to be chairwoman...



Hello folks and welcome to a new month of Out on the Wild Side. And I know I speak for many of us when I say, we are finally approaching spring, hooray! This month's topic will focus on the 'Brown European Hare' a native of the British Isles. A key question will be why the Hare is associated with the month of March? Well, march is here already, it sure did that quickly. Why walk, when you can march after all. And this edition is the 'Mad Marchy' one so be prepared. Firstly, I must mention that I do not know why a raven is like a writing desk? If anyone does know, please send us a message. Just a bit of nonsense, well the 'March Hare' would say it's perfectly sensible, so sit back, relax, and attend a local tea party in your neck of the 'oogee' woods.... Enjoy.

Like the Wood Pigeons, the 'brown' Hare is a rather successful animal and is doing just dandy here in Britain. If you go down to the 'fields today', you're sure for a running surprise. When the fields are cut short throughout winter, this is the best time to see the Hares dancing and prancing about, exposed to view from a footpath or two. The best time to spot a Hare is either early morning or at dusk, so it's good news for the early and late birds among us, a win-win. They are remarkable creatures and are indeed the 'fastest land mammal' in the U.K, recorded as reaching speeds of 45mph! The Hare was first introduced to Britain by the Romans long ago—about 2 millennia to be précis—and they've been 'boxing mad' all this time.

Now, let's be honest. Thank you too Wikipedia, but most of us already know the phrase 'Mad as a March Hare', but why is a Hare mad and why particularly in March, why not August? The 'boxing' has a lot to answer for. In March, this is when the Hares are caught up in their courtship, with the passionate males—known as jacks—longing for the 'less receptive females' (the Jill's) who try to fend them off.

This causes the females to 'box' with the males, hence the courtship dance may be termed 'mad'. It's up to you to decide which sex you think is the madder or rather, more sensible. The Jills are generally larger and stronger than the Jacks too and if you're lucky enough to see the famous dance or box it's quite a display to witness. The 'box' is a selection process for the Jills to pick their fittest 'jack' ooh la-la! Hares share much with their Human neighbours in terms of lifestyle. They can live alone or in pairs. But on no account must you ever tell a Hare it's like a Bear because it will be Hare today gone tomorrow. Hares can also leap 3m into the air so watch your drones, or better still, send it over the Heath along Cadenham Lane and get some lovely videos we can post for Crier Online.

Hares bear their young in a shallow depression of grass called a 'form'. Hence, when their young grow up, it's called their 'formative years'...

Hares and Rabbits both belong to a family called the 'Lagomorphs', that's just how it flows. Hares are longer limbed than Rabbits and use their hind legs to regularly escape predation. They also have longer ears. Like Rabbits, Hares are herbivores, feasting not on crumpets and pots of tea but on grass, clovers and herbs, yummy. Crucially, unlike rabbits, Hares don't bear young below ground in a burrow or warren but in a shallow depression of flattened grass called a 'form'. Hence, when their young grow up, it's their 'formative years' (a joke). Their young are called 'Leverets' and are adorably cute. Interestingly, because leverets have no protection in the form against aerial or land predators e.g. the Golden Eagle, they are born fully furred with eyes open. This is called 'precocial'. Baby Rabbits by contrast with the burrow protection, are altricial, born blind and hairless.

Curiouser and Curiouser! To top it off, hares have not been domesticated, while Rabbits have in the form of our much-loved pets, in door and out but like with Hares, are also raised for food. For those familiar with Pokémon, our younger residents may appreciate this analogy; Hares are the next stage of evolution to Rabbits, i.e. Rabbits are the Pikachu of this world (and so adorably cute) but hopefully not lightning yellow and Hares are the Raichu 'yes I had to look that up'! Hares are the 'wilder rabbit cousins' and more mysterious for less of 'us' spend time with them. In terms of lifespan, Hares can live to be 12 years of age. Hares breeding seasons, including their 'boxing' courtships can last from January to August.

Hares are of course part of our folklore and literature. Famously featuring in Alice in Wonderland as the famous Mad March Hare with his friends, the Mad Hatter and the Door Mouse and also in stories from afar like Aesop's Fables in the Hare and the Tortoise. Lady gaga famously said, we're as 'free as our Hare', so next time, you're out and about in a field or two, let your hair run wild with you. Hares are remarkable creatures and we see them far too less than we ought to liken. Hares are of course still hunted, and this is to manage them, as part of our stewardship of the countryside, but they are also a spiritual mainstay of our country from ancient Britannic times to the modern day- always a joy to behold. **The Spring adventures have only just begun.**

By Jorge 'Mad March' Monteiro

The Reading Group Reads....

Normal People

By Sally Rooney

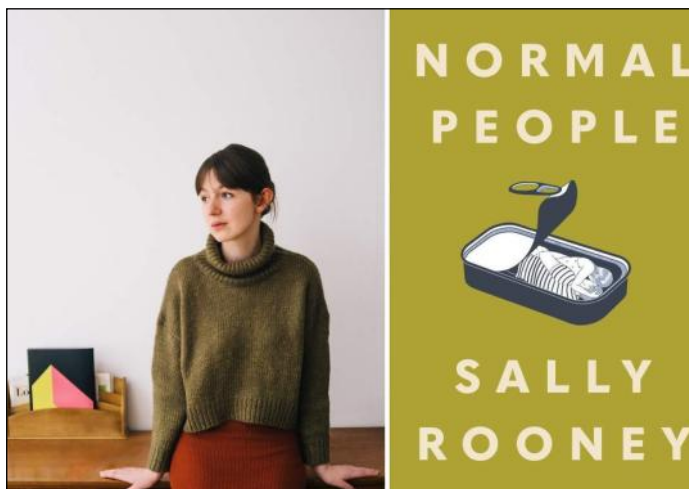
Marianne and Connell live in the same small town in the west of Ireland; she in a mansion, he on a council estate. Connell's mother, a single parent, works as a cleaner in Marianne's house. This much is known by all their fellow pupils at the school they both attend.

Marianne is an outspoken loner, noted, but left to herself; Connell is popular and well liked. What is not known is the close, secret relationship that the two have, and which they both are intent on keeping secret.

What follows is the development of that relationship: the mutual fascination, the friendship and the love: how they come to know each other, to misunderstand each other, to enjoy each other and learn about themselves physically and emotionally (or not) as they progress from school, through university, separation and relationships with other people.

It isn't a straightforward development and things may not work out as we'd like, or expect them to. But then, that's life, isn't it? And who knows whether they both have learned enough by the end of the book? Not everybody in the group fully enjoyed the book: some thought it was written on the back of current interest in the mental health of young people, but it is beautifully and delicately written. From it we can gain an insight into the lives of other people and perhaps even ourselves.

Next month's book is not the one mentioned in last month's Crier: It is "In the Kitchen" by Monica Ali, which we will discuss on Wednesday March 6th from 8 o'clock at Kent House (9 High Street) . If you'd like to join us, you're very welcome.



Brenda Wilson

Cambridge Fire and Rescue Service—March 2019

In a world of central heating and ‘green’ energy there are still many homes with open fires and wood-burners, so this month’s missive focuses again on homes with chimneys.

Have your chimney swept once a year, or more frequently if you burn wood

Avoid burning resinous woods that quickly build up soot

Burn only fuels suitable for your burner (eg. never burn anything other than wood in a wood burner) and do not overload it

Check the hearth, floor and furnishings near your fire for hot sparks/embers

Do not place objects on or over the mantelpiece which cause you to stand too close to the fire in order to reach them

Use a fire/spark guard to prevent accidental fires and make sure that it has the kite mark or conforms to British / European standards

Inspect your chimney breast, particularly the roof space in older buildings. Make sure it is sound and sparks/fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.

Do **not** bank fires up too high - let them **burn right out** before retiring.

A qualified and competent engineer should install all **wood/multi-fuel burners and boilers** – regular maintenance should be undertaken to prolong the working life of the appliance. Specialist servicing and maintenance will usually be provided by the company from which you purchased the appliance, Also refer to www.solidfuel.co.uk for further advice and information

Ensure correct ventilation when the appliance alight

Wood burning appliances should use only the right quality wood, well-seasoned (usually kept dry and stored for around 2 years).

Regularly inspect the chimney and flues

Avoid wet or newly felled wood as this will cause tars/creosote deposits forming in the burning appliance and, dangerously, within the chimney

Using laminated chip boards will leave binding glue deposits

For each slow burning period there should follow a quick burn to dry out unwanted tar/creosote deposits and to warm up the chimney again

At the end of each burning season and at least once during the season the entire system should be cooled and thoroughly cleaned to maintain top performance.

Most importantly

Fit smoke alarms, at least one on every floor’s ceiling, that carry the kite mark or British Standard Number 5446 - **test your alarm weekly by pressing the test button and know the life of your battery** Also, always install a CO alarm in the room where the burner is installed.



**Are you treating
your Wood
Burner right?**

Michael White

firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or on 0800 917



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Andrew Sankey's talk to us this month, was entitled 'Pests—or Mr Mole and Friends'.

"Moles, cats, earwigs, snails and mice, must be destroyed, or all our labour is lost". So said Sir Thomas Hammer, a 17th century gardener. Not much has changed. (*Bad news for cats as well then.. Eds*)

Moles: Any devastation caused to an individual lawn or garden, is caused by one mole. They are very territorial and if you despatch one, by whatever method, another will soon move in. They can tunnel, 15 feet in one hour—200 feet in a night, searching for their favourite food, worms, bulbs, roots and tubers.

The RSPCA, say we must learn to live with them, but not everyone can do this. They can be trapped, but to do this, you need to know what you are doing and take the little creatures at least 10 miles away, or they'll be back! They hate horrible smells, (they have very sensitive noses), such as Jeyes fluid and mothballs, so stuffing cloth soaked in these substances, down into their runs, through the mounds, can be quite a deterrent. They might even go next door.

Rabbits: They love fresh green shoots, so these need to be protected, with wire. They don't like the smell of onions or humans, so put old socks, slippers and human hair round plants. (Perhaps better moved, if you open your garden).

Grey squirrels: natives of America, are a perfect menace and difficult to deter. There are now 3 million of them who eat crocuses, bird food and kill trees by stripping their bark.

Mice: They produce 5-10 in a litter every 10 weeks, so if you think you've got one you've probably got 20! They unfortunately love bulbs, but can be humanely trapped, using chocolate - much more irresistible than cheese.

Slugs: which we know, eat a large selection of our plants, specially, Delphiniums, Petunias and Hostas. (They don't go near geraniums!) Encourage all the things that eat them, into the garden-hedgehogs, frogs, toads and birds. They don't like soot and rhubarb leaves, but throwing them over the fence, won't work, as they too, will return, within a 2 mile radius.

However, Andrew, had two pretty good solutions- beer traps and garlic spray. Slugs love beer (research shows 99% prefer Guinness), so fill traps with this. What a way to go. Eau de Garlic- we were treated to a spray- made from crushed garlic, soaked in boiling water and strained, works wonders, as they hate it. Spray it on the plants they eat. It also works well on greenfly.

There was also a recipe for Slug Solution, but it was so disgusting, I don't think the Crier would print it!

Our next meeting is on March 19th, when Ian Limmer, the nursery manager, from Peter Beatles, in Norfolk, is going to talk to us about getting the best from your Roses. Every one is very welcome.

Margaret Joyce



The Swaffhams' WI

Mike Frances, who runs a company, called "Home Instead", gave us a very interesting talk on Senior Fraud Protection. Scams. The range of these, staggered us—mostly run from abroad, by large crime syndicates, persistent and intelligent. Once scammed in the most minor way, you go on a 'Suckers' list and you'll get done again.

Never think you are too bright, intelligent, or well educated, to be caught, because it can happen to anyone in an unguarded moment.

NEVER give your personal, financial, information, to anyone, unless you have initiated the call/ contact. NEVER give your PIN to anyone. If you receive a call, about anything concerning finance, always insist on calling back, on the number you have, to check their authenticity. Burn or shred, old papers with personal information on. If an offer is 'too good to be true'- then it is. Mega prizes and 'free' gifts, rarely are.

People that have been scammed, are often ashamed, frightened and often don't tell anyone. Elderly people, who change their behaviour and become withdrawn, may be victims.

Contact the Police, Citizen's Advice Bureau, or Action Fraud, if you have concerns. Banks are generally pretty good, if you've genuinely been defrauded, but NOT, if you have given the fraudster, your bank details.

A few statistics to finish- the average amount of a scam is £91,000, which equates to £10,000 per head of population. BILLIONS are lost every year in the UK. Scary.

Our Annual meeting is on the 18th March. New members are always most welcome.

Margaret Joyce

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Patients' Car Service: This service has been extended to cover made on the day appointments as well as the already established pre-booked appointments.

Strength and Balance: Two of the most important ways to reduce risk of falling and possible injury. For further information regarding help and activities go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/strongerforlonger

Cervical Smears: There has been a fall in the uptake of these so if you are offered one do please take it.

Diabetes: The number of people with type II Diabetes mellitus is on the rise, as many of you will be aware. It is due to our changes in lifestyle such as a more seden-

tary lifestyle, unhealthy food choices, weight issues etc. Changing our habits to healthy ones can prevent people from developing type II Diabetes and can help people who have been diagnosed to go "in remission". Things that will help are becoming more active, eating healthily, losing weight, stopping smoking and limiting alcohol. It is important to consult your GP as soon as you develop any symptoms that might indicate Diabetes such as excessive thirst, increased frequency in passing urine (also at night), losing weight without trying and blurred vision. Timely diagnosis is important to minimise lasting effects.

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 15 and 27 March, 12 and 24 April, 10 and 22 May 2019. Do join Steve for a walk he would be delighted to see you. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be Thursday 28 March 2019 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

Spring at Anglesey Abbey

Join us at Anglesey Abbey as we welcome the first signs of spring this March. With lots to see and do, spring is the perfect time for a stroll around the gardens, with fresh life to be found around every corner. From tulips in the Formal Garden to daffodils in the spring garden, as well as plenty of new wildlife to spot – there's endless opportunities to discover. Pick up a Spring Highlights guide at Reception to find out the best places to spot the different varieties of spring flowers within the gardens.

**We are now
taking bookings
for our Cadbury's
Easter Egg trail...**

The work on our exciting restoration project in the House will continue throughout March, which offers the opportunity for visitors to see Lord Fairhaven's collection in a new light. Follow the adjusted route around the House to spot collection items in different locations – a particular must see is the clock display in the Dining Room, with all 15 clocks displayed in the same room for the first time, offering a unique opportunity to view the vast range of clocks found within the House all in one place.

We are now taking bookings for our Cadbury's Easter Egg trail, which this year is running for 10 days during the Easter holidays, from 13th – 22nd April. Join us for a family adventure through the woods in our wildlife discovery area, complete our exciting nature trail and collect a chocolate prize! Pre-booking is essential and can be booked online via our website or by phoning box office on 0344 249 1895.

Don't forget our gardens and restaurant now open daily from 9:30am – start your visit with a warming breakfast in Redwoods or pick up a hot drink to takeaway and get ahead of the crowds and enjoy a relaxing morning stroll admiring the beauty of spring throughout the gardens.



February 2019

Station Car Parking Fees

Earlier this week Greater Anglia increased its car parking charges including Ely railway station.

East Cambs District Council has reiterated its commitment to freezing parking fees in nearby council –run station car parks for at least another year. The charges in Ely are £3 per day (24 hours) or £12 per week (7 days). This compares to £7 per day and £38 per week at the NCP operated station car park.



Graffiti

Residents in the district are urged to report on graffiti they see on public property. The council's aim is to remove any graffiti within 48 hours. Please report any sightings of graffiti by either telephoning customer services on 01353 665555 or by completing the online form. Graffiti on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.

Visits to Local Businesses

It was disappointing that our planned visit to Corkers Crisps has to be cancelled at short notice because an audit was being undertaken. A visit to Dojma Sake Brewery in Fordham will be undertaken on Friday 1st March. We are also hoping to undertake a visit to the National Stud before May.

Ely Southern By-pass

The by-pass opened to traffic in October last year. Since then work has been continuing on the new walkway which crosses the river and railway by the viaduct. The walkway officially opened to the public on January 23rd. The County Councils work at the Underpass to improve access for pedestrians, cyclists, and light traffic continues and should be finished the end of February.

The Community Transport Grant Scheme

East Cambs District Council is currently seeking applications to deliver their Community Transport Grant Scheme for 2019/2020. The purpose of the scheme is to provide and deliver community transport services to improve accessibility to work, education, essential public services and social purposes in the district. It also looks to address the problems of social isolation by helping to improve transport choices in East Cambridgeshire and aims to fill the gaps left by conventional public transport services.

The scheme is not just limited to existing transport providers; the council also welcomes applications from charities, social enterprises and community groups. Local enterprises are welcome to submit applications from 1st February to 30th April 2019. The applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have an interest in

transport and accessibility and must be a formally constituted group. Completed application forms must be returned no later than 5pm on Tuesday 30th April to Sally Bonnett, Infrastructure and Strategy Manager at East Cambridgeshire District Council. Forms can be submitted by post to: The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4EE or by email: sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk

Councilor Allen Alderson

East Anglian Air Ambulance – March 2019

Over the last financial year our highly trained and skilled trauma doctors and paramedic teams were dispatched 2,725 times by helicopter or rapid response vehicle – that’s an average of eight times per day – and they treated 1,722 patients. The life-changing and life-saving work they do, that helps not only the patients but also their families and friends, is not funded by the NHS but by the generosity of people like you. So on behalf of our 1,722 patients last year, our fantastic doctors and paramedics, a huge thank you! I never cease to be impressed by the generosity of people who spontaneously contribute time and again towards work carried out by The charity. Are you signed up to our weekly lottery ? if not, or if you would just like to know more about EAAA and keep up-to-date with patient’s stories, please visit our web site.



A BIG THANKYOU FROM MARA

Melina Gabilona from the Safe House writes:

Thank you so much for your gifts for the girls at the Safe House. From September to December you sent £8,500 and we don’t know how we could manage without your support.

In November we welcomed 25 girls escaping from FGM. Only 7 families gave an undertaking not to cut their girls. So we were able to send 7 girls home. More came in December, so we now have 52 girls safe here with us. We dare not send any of these back home.



It is your gifts which enable us to go to the villages with government officers and speak against genital mutilation; and also

provide the girls with education and basic skills, like sewing. So they are still here, needing all the support we can give them. So please do not forget them as they will be here for some time.

Bishop George joins me in saying thank you and wishing you all God's blessing in 2019.



(Further gifts gratefully received. Send to Revd Sue Giles and payable to Bot-tisham PCC, including your address if Gift Aid can be claimed on your donation.)



Love is ...

Last month we reflected on some responses from children to the question, “What does love look like?” For the next few months I intend to take an aspect of love from the Bible and encourage us to consider how we measure up to that standard in the hope that we may grow in our love for self, others and Jesus.

You may well have heard this scripture before, most likely at a wedding service: ***“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails”***. (1 Corinthians 13.4-8)

The Bible tells us **“God is Love”** (1 John 4.8) so one of the things I like to do with this passage is replace “Love” in the text with “God / Jesus”, ***“God is patient, Jesus is kind ...”*** We are called to follow Jesus, to be like Him, so it follows that we should strive to model these characteristics too, so, I often challenge myself by placing my name in the passage to see how true the statements are, ***“Alan is patient, Alan is kind ...”***

Love is patient. God is patient. Jesus is patient. Alan is patient (?) Insert your name into this statement.

‘Patient’ as defined in the dictionary, *“able to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious.”*

I regularly reflect on how patient God is with me, I would have given up on myself a long time ago, but God and Jesus do not give up on me. Jesus shows what He requires from us, teaches and demonstrates what life with Him is like, and gently leads us forward, recognising we will have struggles, constantly there for us, always loving us, ever ready to welcome us back if we stray, however far we have wandered.

I can be so impatient. My main triggers being: poor service, delays / waiting, self-centred people. This first aspect of love challenges me every time. I will make a conscious effort this month to grow in my patience with others, with situations I face, and maybe even with myself. Will you join me? Let’s see how we get on, and those of you who get opportunity, hold me to account!

It would be amazing to see you at RENEW, you are welcome every Sunday 10.30am at Bottisham Primary School. You will receive a warm welcome, a hot cup of tea or coffee, a relaxed environment and an opportunity to join us on a journey of discovering the great things God has prepared for us.

Rev’d Alan Brand

RENEW Services for March 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 3rd March. Morning Worship. 10.30am

With Holy Communion. (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 10th March. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Followed by shared lunch

Sunday 17th March. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Sunday 24th March. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Sunday 30th March. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

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

Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk

Or visit our website at www.renewchurch.org.uk

FREecycle



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

Offers

30 IKEA colourful plastic children's coat hangers; 3-drawer A1 plan chest (basic but functional); car booster seat. Emma/Guy 01223 812793.

Boxed Ricoh 211 printer probably unused. James 01638 741154

2.3m green plastic wavy slide (just the slide) – some scratches on it from use, but perfectly functional. Jun/Andy 01223 813362

Wanted

Pin board/ bulletin board, large or small. Tessa 01223 812035

Corrugated iron sheets. Toni 07803 364278

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

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

Your old light fittings, brown Bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). George 07895 064727. (For an idea of what George is gathering this for – please see <http://georgetrapp.co.uk/georgetrapplamps.html>)

Dear Friends,

A recent piece of research has suggested that people who appreciate things and people who are thankful for the blessings of their life and the kindness of others, are more likely to feel happy and content with life. Maybe that is no surprise, however it is interesting to have some empirical evidence suggesting a link between thankfulness and positive mental health. It makes sense that if you are looking out for the good things in your life and noticing the love of others then that will shape the way your mind views life and perceives things. Perhaps, at a very simple level, this changes the sensitivity of our appreciation. Gratitude may be able to stop us dwelling on what is difficult or negative.

“Gratitude may be able to stop us dwelling on what is difficult or negative”

A strand of thankfulness is woven through Christian worship almost as if God knew what would be important for his people. The central prayer in the communion service is called the eucharistic prayer, the great prayer of thanksgiving, and in that prayer, Christians remember and give thanks for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

There are prayers of thanksgiving within daily prayer too. New Christians are taught the importance of this pattern when they are prepared to take their place within the family of the church. They are encouraged to give thanks each day for all the good things in their lives. This pattern can then become a helpful reminder and discipline when we find ourselves facing difficult times where thanksgiving may not be the first thing on our minds. The general prayer of thanksgiving from the Book of Common Prayer is not a modern prayer but it is a beautiful prayer that many people used to learn by heart. It focuses on thanksgiving for Christ's presence in our lives and the way in which he sustains us, leading us to the things that are good for us.

March will find the Church keeping Lent, a season of preparation for the great celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. Traditionally this has been a time of penitence and discipline, but it is also a time when we are encouraged to count our blessings. Christian Aid publishes a Lent challenge called “Count your blessings” which encourages people to look at their lives and raise their awareness of things they take for granted. The charity uses this as a way to encourage Christians to consider their giving in support of development projects across the world but even without that dimension it is a great way of looking with fresh eyes at the blessings of our lives.

If you would like to join us in counting our blessings or if you would like to join us in Lent to learn more about God's love and call to us there is information below. We'd love to see you!

Google: Christian Aid Count Your Blessings 2019 for a daily challenge.

**Anglesey Lent Group: Lode Parish Church 7pm on Thursdays in Lent;
14th 21st 28th March; 4th and 11th April 2019**

Sue Giles

Church Services in March

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

Sunday 3 March, Sunday Next Before Lent

11am Matins

Wednesday 6 March, Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion (CW1T), Bottisham

Sunday 10 March, First Sunday of Lent

10am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1), Quy – with pan-cakes!

Sunday 17 March, Second Sunday of Lent

11am Family Service

Sunday 24 March, Third Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Children's Church, Lode

10am Morning Worship, Quy

Sunday 31 March, Mothering Sunday

6pm Evensong

*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; suethevic@btinternet.com
and our Curate is Rev'd Professor Gina Radford; gina.radford@btinternet.com*

*Details of services and events can be found on www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk,
www.facebook.com/angleseychurches and <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>*

*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 March 2019

Tue	5	Shrove Tuesday
Wed	6	Book Club, Kent House, 8pm [16]
Sat	16	Quiz Night, VH, 7.30pm [6]
Sun	17	St Patrick's Day
Mon	18	Lent Lunch,, 1 Mill Hill, 12 noon [6] WI AGM, 7.30pm, VH [19]
Tue	19	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm [18]
Wed	20	Crier Copy Deadline
Wed	27	Lent Lunch, 73 High Street, 12 noon [6]
Fri	6	Coffee & Cakes, 41 Cage Hill, 10-30-1pm [6]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying 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