



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIV Number 8/9

August/September 2020



Editorial

As anticipated last month, the village heating project is again a major topic as decision time approaches. The *Crier* hopes in this edition to help everyone to make their decision, **a decision that potentially affects the whole village**: the project will not go ahead if not enough households sign the heat supply contract in November. By 8th Oct we all need to decide if we are interested enough to ask the project to do a heating survey of our house.

The letters section is very active this month, mainly with letters about the project, both for and against. These raise a number of further questions in addition to those posed last month and Janet Hall, who's become quite a familiar face in the village, provides some answers on behalf of the project. Later on in the *Crier* there are six and a bit pages with details about the project, many of which are only now becoming clear.

There is an interestingly diverse set of views aired. One thing is clear, a crystal ball would be a big help in our decision-making! For example will UK climate change policy mean that oil will no longer be available for domestic heating or too expensive to be a viable option? If so will the district heating scheme be the most cost effective solution or will another source of energy, e.g. electricity, be the answer? And many other points - read on ...

Were it not for the heating project, and to some extent COVID, the improvements to the Village Hall would have been a more prominent item of village news. These are none the less important and should greatly improve the flexibility of use of the Hall and help with distancing during COVID.

There are at last a few events beginning to appear again, mostly virtual events held on-line, but one at least, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, is planned to be live but outdoors. The Red Lion has already had a live outdoor event early in the month which rather unfairly it seems, particularly given all they did for the village during lock-down, earned them a complaint to the council about noise - and I'm told it was even all over quite early at 8:30pm.

Other than the heating project, I'd expected it to be quite a short magazine this month but as you can see it isn't, many thanks to all our contributors! Please keep the contributions rolling in. Next month we hope to be back to our normal monthly rota.

James Matheson

Cover Picture: *What are they celebrating* by Thomas Newbolt



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

COFFEE MORNING with a DIFFERENCE!

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Friday 25th September, 10.30 am - 12 noon

Coffee, of course, on the day but **OUTSIDE** at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Swaffham Prior.

Cake Stall:- Homemade cakes, biscuits, savouries, preserves. I am going to compile a list, in advance, of cakes etc for sale. If you can let me know what you would like to make and then I can match it up with other people who can then choose what to buy. I'll endeavour to email the list nearer the time, with prices, to as many people as possible. It's rather a complicated way of doing this but it's in case the weather is inclement. Goods can be collected on the day. However, if the weather is awful and you've ordered a cake I will deliver it to you and collect the money and any donation that you may care to contribute. My phone number is 01638 743720.

Raffle:- Prizes will be welcome in advance and a raffle ticket attached to each prize. Tickets will be £1 each, as usual, and can be bought in advance or on the day. It will be run along the lines of a tombola stall so prizes can be taken as they are won!

Colin the Caterpillar :- It's one of those silly games that I encourage you to play each year. Colin the Caterpillar is a picture of an iced log cake covered in sprinkles. I'll hope to email it to everybody nearer the time. When you've guessed an approximate number of sprinkles just let me know. It will cost £2 per go and the winner can take half the total from the game which amounts to taking home £20 max. (You can also play this on the day.)

Donations :- In advance or on the day. **ALL** donations will be very welcome in our efforts to raise as much as possible for Macmillan on this rather different, socially distanced, occasion.

This Macmillan Coffee Morning will be rather weather dependent but if it's dry we can be outside in the garden, suitably dressed if it's chilly. I'm sorry I can't invite you inside this year because of Covid-19. I really hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come but if you can't then I'll be happy to accept your donations. You must know by now that I'm after your money for this worthwhile charity!

Ruth Scovil
(01638-743720)

Dear Editors

Heating Swaffham Prior

How is it possible that HSPT were awarded over £2 million when so many questions remain unanswered. We are told the scheme has been "closely monitored by a number of govt. departments" and also by BEIS – which runs that catastrophic Smart Meter scheme, the costs of which now run into £13 billion and rising.

The answer must be that all these departments were dazzled by the "hard fact"

that 166 have shown there is a solid “demand”, that 166 households are interested in being connected up. From HSPT figures it has been established that 36 houses in the High street fall into this category. As HSPT’s request to put up a poster of support, failed so miserably, why not ask just 20 of the 36 High Street homes to sign a joint letter to the Crier. HSPT must know who they are.

At one of the very first public meetings someone asked “How many people want this?” The quick answer was that the question was “irrelevant.” It cannot remain irrelevant for ever, hiding behind the “hard fact” that 166 homes have “signed up” - whatever that exactly means.

While I do think very highly indeed of the HSPT Team one must remember that they are sales people. They only have one product to develop and to sell. That is their job. That is why they are paid, and it must be a fascinating and challenging project.

But it would be helpful and honest to tell us how many people actually intend to join the scheme rather than that “Ms French had met villagers who seemed keen, even though no-one could ‘sign up’ yet”, - that vague and multi-purpose phrase again.

What would the sales pitch have been if this village had gas?

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editors,

In support of the District Heating Scheme.

The Heating Scheme is a good thing. We get rid of oil and reduce carbon emissions – fantastic. Installation is free for early joiners and it will be cheaper than oil – great. Oil may be cheap at the moment, but it won’t stay that way. Hopefully, we will get fast fibre, which will make working from home easier. Installation of new oil and gas boilers is being phased out and will be banned in the not to distant future. Let’s get ahead of the curve and install an alternative while the government funding is still available. The construction project will create jobs and help the economy – we need that right now.

The coverage in the Crier so far has largely been negative. I’m not sure it reflects the full spectrum of opinion, it certainly hasn’t reflected all of the conversations I have had with other people in the village. I suspect there is a silent majority in favour of the project. That is not to say the criticism and comments are unmerited, the Parish Council has done a good job of holding CCC and the project team to account, cost and performance should be robustly debated. We must challenge the scheme to ensure we get the best for the village. It will work best with our engagement. Join in!

The draft contract is out for review, have a look, and give your opinion. Visit the website (<https://heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk>), ask questions and find out all you can about the project. We will be asked to sign up soon, so get informed now. I’ve found the project team approachable and willing to answer questions, and the plans have been changed in the light of previous feedback from the village, so they do listen.

David Unitt

Dear Editors

Piped hot water is not the only answer

Has the use of electricity for heating been considered as an alternative? The infrastructure is in place and electricity is increasingly generated using renewable resources.

Roz Chalmers

Dear Editors,

No Heat Despite Living Next-Door

It rapidly became apparent to us that, despite living immediately adjacent to the proposed borehole field, the Swaffham Prior Community Heat Network would not apply to us or any of our neighbours further down Heath Road as all the heat will be conducted away from us. Therefore, our viewpoint on the proposed heating scheme *per se* is relatively neutral. However, we do believe that certain statements made by the proposers of the Heating Scheme are somewhat biased.

For instance, it is asserted in the planning application that Heath Road is “*a single track cul-de-sac road – from which only a few properties and farms are accessed.*”. There are around 20 homes and 3 businesses on Heath Road. That doesn’t match our definition of “a few” and makes us wonder how many of their other statements have been similarly ‘spun’.

The ‘Glint and Glare Assessment’, which alleges to have studied possible effects from the solar panels, refers in four places, including the Executive Summary, to **Oxford** airport. Unsurprisingly, it is concluded that it will not be affected by the solar panels in Cambridgeshire. Whilst this point may seem trivial, if such an obvious error has been overlooked, what other, more subtle and possibly more critical errors have been missed? Do the “*no effect levels*” cited refer to residences close to an Oxfordshire site rather than the one in Cambridgeshire? There is certainly no mention of any possible effect on our house, even though our view of the panels, to quote another part of the application, will be “almost face-on”. Similarly, any effects on pilots flying into and out of Newmarket racecourse have been completely ignored. Given these errors and omissions, the disclaimer at the front of the ‘Glint and Glare Assessment’ makes interesting reading: “*Neo Environmental Limited shall have no liability for any loss, damage, injury, claim, expense, cost or other consequence arising as a result of use or reliance upon any information contained in or omitted from this document.*”

The Heating Scheme seems to be compared only with oil-based schemes as if there were no other alternative. In April last year, we had our oil-fired boiler replaced by an air-sourced heat pump (ASHP) system. Despite the initial scepticism of one of us, the house was kept comfortably warm last winter, the noise from the external fans was minimal and less obtrusive than the old boiler, and, of course, there were no more expensive oil deliveries or panics that the level in the tank was getting low. We did have to replace a small number of old radiators, but the garden and road outside did not have to be dug up and the entire installation took only a few days (“a few” being less than 5, not close to 20). We will also receive RHI

(Renewable Heat Incentive) payments from the government for a total of 7 years. (Anyone interested in installing an ASHP may be interested to know that the government is considering replacing the current RHI scheme with an up-front payment of £7,000, or possibly more, towards the cost of the installation.)

Naturally, our electricity usage has increased, but our oil consumption is zero, and we are free to shop around the various electricity suppliers for the best deal. We are not tied to a monopoly contract with prices based on that of oil heating and which may be increased if “climate change levies and taxes increase the cost of oil-fired heating.”

Christine and Michael Carrington

Dear Editors

Cui Bono?

According to Wikipedia, Lucius Cassius, a most honest and wise judge, was in the habit of asking time and again in lawsuits: “to whom might it be for a benefit”. So who does the village heating scheme benefit? Aside from those that draw fees and costs from the generous grants that have been made available and those who wish to enhance their careers, what about us?

Now that the elephant is charging, the project has felt confident enough to release some of the estimated costs of joining and leaving the scheme. It has also been made clear that future costs are not guaranteed but will ‘vary with variation of relevant indexes and any changes in legislation which impact the costs of delivering the scheme’, or in other words no one knows what the future costs will be - so ‘to whom might it be for a benefit’ if estimates are wrong?

In addition, the costs of leaving the contract (cancellation charge) have been set out over the next 30 year period (yes - 30 years!), but no comment has been made on how much it will cost to get the underground pipework off your property or indeed whether you will be legally allowed to remove it.

So it seems that the scheme is leading people into a financial commitment that will be extremely difficult and costly to leave over the next 30 year period – in essence a financial ‘lock-in’ with no formal guarantee to be, or remain, the cheapest energy solution. So with no forward guarantee to minimize fuel poverty, “to whom might it be for a benefit?”

What about the ‘...significant risk that oil boilers (like petrol and diesel cars) will cease to be allowed to be produced in the foreseeable future’. As I understand it, disadvantaged and elderly people are eligible for heating grants and if the government is to take away a primary source of heating from millions of citizens they will have to take up the slack of any excess fees for those that cannot afford to pay - otherwise they are wilfully putting lives in danger. Equally, the ban on gas and other fossil fuel boilers will only apply to **houses built in 2025 and beyond** in other words **New Build**. So this is merely scaremongering rather than the provision of a benefit.

With regard to existing properties, the Federation of Petroleum Suppliers - the trade body for the heating oil distribution industry – believes that a renewable liquid fuel or bio-fuel could be introduced as a low carbon solution... stating that current oil

heating systems will work with this fuel. *Which? magazine website, today.* So why change, what is the benefit?

I dealt with Carbon in the last Crier issue but it is worth remembering that to build is to create emissions - construction activity does NOT reduce carbon emissions.

OK, so what is in it for Cambridge County Council (CCC) and the Community Land Trust (CLT)? Without sufficient sign up from existing property owners, the scheme opens the door for new build to meet the carbon saving targets for the scheme – I haven't heard of suggestions for this and indeed have been told on many occasions that the scheme is not to create opportunities for new developments. Since the scheme is proud of its Community transparency, plans to build new are as transparent as mud, so no benefit there then!

What about the CLT? "The Company is set up to operate as a community land trust on a not for profit basis for the public benefit in the area of benefit and **the Company's objects are specifically restricted to the relief of financial hardship by the provision of Social Housing, and housing** (upon terms appropriate to the beneficiaries' means) **together with associated amenities, facilities and infrastructure**" Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust (limited) Articles of Association filed with Companies House 27th May 2014.

The heating scheme seems like a lot of infrastructure, for the small number of CLT houses on Rogers Road, so still no benefit. Since, the scheme is not for new developments what is the motivation of CCC and the CLT? And, moreover, "to whom might it be for a benefit?"

Paul Latchford

Dear Editors,

Doublethink

"The power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them" - George Orwell, 1984.

1. The Swaffham Prior Heating Project initial take-up is projected to be about 50% (~160 houses).

2. The project needs 90% (290 houses) take up within five years to meet its fictitious carbon and financial targets.

3. If someone joins after the initial take-up, it will cost them an additional £2,000 connection fee per household, one house at a time, on top of any boiler conversions etc.

Steve Kent-Phillips

Dear Editors,

Heat Project

I support the Community Heat Project, taking the long view that we must reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and that this represents a significant step along the way. At some time in the foreseeable future I intend to be using the system - but how

long should my long view be? I find myself sympathising with St Augustine, who wrote ‘Lord, make me chaste, but not yet’.

I have a diesel car, an oil-fired Aga which provides all the hot water, and a nearly -new oil-fired boiler, all with lots of life in them, and am reluctant to sell or scrap any of them until they get tired. I suppose this makes me a bit of a hypocrite from the point of view of saving the planet, but the engineer in me can’t bear to discard useful and functioning systems.

The Heating Project is offering a draft contract to sign up for their system. It’s a bit intimidating, but probably covers all the necessary ground. However, I don’t want to commit to it now (see above) but there is no information about the likely costs (and hassle) of a connection in a couple of years’ time. I would be happy to pay a lump sum now for some future-proofing, in the form of pipework brought into the house and stopped off for future use.

I would like to be able to reassure the project that they will get me eventually, but I need some indication of their approach to the Not Yets, of which I suspect there may be several more out there.

John Chalmers

Dear Editors, Paul, Steve, and Alastair,

Response from Heating Swaffham Prior Team

Thank you for the letters that featured in the June issue of the Crier. I would like to address some of the details that were shared in these letters.

Since the June Crier issue, the project received approval from the Environment and Sustainability Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council on the proposed Draft Heat Supply Agreement (HSA) for consultation with residents. The HSA identifies the financial and legal aspects of the contract, much awaited by many people in the village. **We are very pleased to inform you that this edition of the Crier features a number of the confirmed financial details, including the tariff, what the connection charge includes, and cancellation costs etc.** We have also included a second article on Heat Interface Units, which provides information on the technology for installation into your home. This month a Heat Interface Unit (HIU) should be available to view in the village pub.

Many of the points raised by Steve and Paul were done so at the June 2020 Parish Council Meeting. Cambridgeshire County Council has provided a direct response to the Parish Council on these questions. Extracts from that response, relevant to the letters sent by Steve and Paul are noted below;

Carbon Saving

“The project is forecast to reduce annual emissions in Swaffham Prior by 1,285 tonnes per annum when connections reach 90% of the village (anticipated long-term growth). In total 47,000 tonnes of carbon emissions will then be saved over 40 years” *May 22nd Commercial and Investment Committee Report, Cambridgeshire County Council, 4.4, page 28.*

Carbon Footprint

Paul has previously asked the project team at a Parish Council meeting about the carbon footprint of the project, including its delivery and maintenance, and we issued the following information to the PC as follows;

“Carbon emission calculations can be made considering territorial-based or consumption-based emissions. Territorial-based (also referred to as production-based) consider the emissions made within national territory (e.g. UK), while consumption-based emissions account for all emissions generated from manufacturing, transporting and using a product or system – across all geographies and the supply chain. Carbon accounting standards determine how to set the boundary of your carbon footprint calculation.

Current carbon calculations for Heating Swaffham Prior use WRI GHG Protocol standards (<https://ghgprotocol.org/about-us>), and are made considering territorial-based emissions. The territorial-based accounting approach is the best way to compare emissions from the proposed district heating model and the existing mainly oil heating systems used in Swaffham Prior. If a consumption-based approach for the district heating project were adopted, we would also need to account for the emissions from the drilling, refining, production and shipping of heating oil, manufacture of oil boilers and other heating systems, and any other products and processes used for existing heating systems and compare these. Due to complexity and uncertainties inherent in this approach, most carbon accounting practices would use the territorial-based system for a more accurate comparison of options. Our approach compares emissions from the district heating electricity usage with the current fuels needed to generate the same amount of heating for the homes. This shows more clearly the carbon impact of the proposed heating systems.”

Network Construction

Regarding the network construction, also highlighted by Steve in the June Parish Council Meeting, we provided a statement to the Parish Council explaining the approach that has been taken on this issue:

During June, we provided a map of the preferred route for the heat network. This map did not show where on this route the network would be laid. A GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) survey will be carried out for the project in the near future to provide accurate information on the positions of utilities on the preferred route and other obstructions underground. This survey will contribute detailed information required to determine the exact positions of pipes on the route required for RIBA Stage 4. Currently only the high-level (RIBA Stage 3) outline of the network has been published, as this is required for the planning application. The network design will be finalised in the coming weeks and shared with you.

You were right to raise the concern of traffic flow. As with any utilities work, maintaining traffic-flow through the village will be a priority. It is not anticipated that any complete road closures will be required. The pipes will primarily be laid in roadways or verges.

Additionally, it should be highlighted that any works to be carried out to carriageways has to go through a statutory process, including advanced consultation

and notification with local residents.

Project Scalability

In Cambridgeshire County Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan, approved May 2020 at Full Council, working with oil dependent communities in Cambridgeshire to shift off oil is a key action. The Council has set up an Environment Fund to deliver its climate change targets and one element of that Fund is to support other villages to develop projects to shift off oil. This work is already taking place and currently three villages in Huntingdonshire are committed to developing schemes for their villages underway. As part of the government grant agreements we have received, for developing the Swaffham Prior Community Heat Project we are required to develop a 'Blue Print' for other communities to help them streamline their projects and save money on some of the costs for developing contracts and legal agreements. For example, we can share our design templates, energy modelling, carbon modelling and contract templates. ALL homes across the UK will be taken off oil by 2050 as the Government has legislated for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and government is particularly keen to target oil-based communities as these emit higher levels of carbon emissions per household compared to gas or other heating system.

I hope that the responses here and full documents now available address some of your concerns. I will take this opportunity to re-emphasise that the full business plan and full planning application, encompassing a huge level of detail on the project, are available via the heating Swaffham Prior website project and Cambridgeshire County Council websites. , I would recommend that all households read the two articles included in this Crier edition and the full Heat Supply Agreement. These articles focus on the essential financial and practical information, to support individual households in joining the project.

Kind Regards,

Janet Hall

On Behalf of the Heating Swaffham Prior Team

Dear Editors

Feedback to the Heating Scheme Team

I thought you might be pleased to include the attached message which I sent to the SP heating scheme team at the beginning of April, and received a belated cursory reply suggesting a considered reply would follow, but which is still not forthcoming. I don't expect my opinions to be particularly well received, but I think they are valid:

"Thank you for sending the newsletter 01, which arrived today. I have looked at your website, and there is no provision for making comments, that I could find. A few observations.

The idea of opening up the energy market from a monopoly, as it was, to a free market was to provide competition. Your scheme would tie households to a 'monopoly provider'. There are no costings mentioned viz. cost to a household per unit of power.

It is well known that the most efficient way to keep a house warm is to super insulate it, as do the Scandinavians, Canadians, etc. where the winters are really harsh. Every building, no matter what type, can be insulated to a very high degree. It keeps heat in when cold outside and cold in when hot outside. The 'free' heat pro-

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

WITH A DIFFERENCE!



**WE ARE
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CANCER SUPPORT**

Ruth Scovil's GARDEN

The Oaks, Manor Farm Court

Lower End, Swaffham Prior

Friday: 10.30 am - 12.00 noon



25th September 2020

vided by your scheme will go to waste anyway, if all the properties concerned are not properly insulated.

The thought of digging up half the village to provide underground hot water heating to radiators is quite frankly a huge and seriously wasteful idea when the alternative is to show and encourage householders to use modern space age insulation materials to insulate their properties.

By the way, if you have not come across Air Broadband, originally RASP, which covers the whole village, I strongly recommend it, as does Steve Kent -Phillips our local computer guru."

Kind regards,

Jeremy Mitchell

Dear Editors

Educational Standards

I agree entirely with Alastair Everitt's concerns expressed at some length in his May *Crier* Parish Council 'report', about the state of the government and about educational standards at this time; and the questionable quality of language in government communications. I did notice though that the April PC meeting being 'reported' on seems not to have been bothered about the government. Nor about anyone's language either, although that's not surprising maybe as I know from my experience with the Parish Council that they themselves are not concerned that their own communications should be easily intelligible to all others in the village. They believe that Google is there to help anyone who can't make sense of what they publish. That's what they told me, anyway.

However, as Mr Everitt says "*every GCSE and A level student, ought to be asked to write a critique of Boris Johnson's letter which he sent to very household.*"out of "*the same concern about bad examples being pedalled to the public and lowering our national standards*" in the interests of keeping up our national language standards, I do suggest before those students start writing, to take note that 'very household' should have said 'every household'.

Also 'pedalled' should be 'peddled'. Unless Mr Everitt envisages it happening on a bicycle, in which case fine, and I look forward to seeing it happen.

Mark Lewinski

(Eds note: this letter was accidentally left out of last month's *Crier*)

BON MOT NUMBER 109

"There is no more time-wasting process than that of believing people will act, and then finding that they will not".

Bill Mollison (1928 - 2016)

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The July Parish Council Meeting must have been quite a relief after the gruelling Heating Scheme debate at the June Meeting. That did not end until 10:30 and the Red Lion faithfuls would have been champing at the bit in the good old days. In July it ended an hour earlier and Zoom is now working well with three members of the public participating and raising questions. Let not technology shut you out.



The big subject was **Grave Headstones**. As we now have an 80 page or so guidance document we can move ahead and test the stability of the grave stones in the cemetery. Jude and Alan have started the testing. Do read Jude's account in the Minutes which shows this is not simple and David Isted has taken the PC to task. It really is worth reading. I believe that if a grave stone is defective or dangerous the repair cost falls on the person who commissioned it or on his descendants. So one day someone may receive a knock on the door and a bill for someone who died 80 years go and who they barely knew. I think that's right.

Another matter of interest for the whole village has been why Bulbeck **Play Area** was open and ours was closed. Then ours opened. And then it closed again. And the closure was confirmed at the July meeting. And then it opened again. David had carried out a risk assessment on the playground and recommended it should be closed saying the PC was responsible for any transmission of coronavirus, The PC followed this advice and the closure notice went up again.

This all sounds very reminiscent of that "Don't deliver the Crier" warning which we had a few months back. Anyway it is now open again and at the August meeting is due to be discussed again. What fun. Could be the story of the month – almost. A near neighbour had always been amused because those kids with a bit of savvy would go to the back, and enter through the small gate which did not forbid entry.

Charlotte Cane's warnings about the financial control and viability of the East Cambridgeshire Trading Company (ECTC) are now coming to roost. At the ECDC meeting on 18th June, after the PC meeting, ECTC not only confirmed that it will not be able to repay to ECDC the £1 million loan when due, **But it is worse**. They now want new loan facilities of up to £4.9million. This will enable them to repay their original loan. The new loans are due to be repaid by July 2023. They are 18 months behind with their building plans, When Charlotte raised these concerns last year I recall she was firmly told she didn't know what she was talking about.

At some point every local, district and county council will be discussing the government's **radical change to planning regulations**. Again "Build – Build – Build" is one of those dangerous simple unconsidered statements so attractive to some people. Sure, planning regulations can sometimes be restrictive and annoying, but they are there for a purpose, and this village is grateful for them. And some rules are better than no rules. Have they heard of chaos. Meantime it has been pointed out that "90% of planning applications are permitted and housebuilders are sitting on 1,000,000 permissions – enough for four years of building at the present rate of



AN INVITATION

Look at the front cover illustration, and the caption.

What would **you** like to Celebrate?

One sentence contributions for next month's Crier, no names published, but we must know who sent it.

ENJOY

240,000 a year." ECDC has long had a frustrating battle over an application granted a great many years ago and in spite of pressure there is a loophole in the current regulations which allows the builder to do a little work and then just sit again. But there will be lot of wailing and crying from this village and many others. **"Take Back Control"** we will all be shouting.

On the other hand Boris Bruiser Johnson is a good chap as he came bouncing out of his corner, banging his gloves, supporting my recent advice to the village to "pump up those tyres, put the car keys into the drawer, etc." He has come out Trumps with a massive injection of cash to promote the cyclist. And Cambridge is right up there ahead of the scheme with the opening of the £2.3million Fendon Road roundabout. These are commonplace in the Netherlands and everyone understands them. But, to many/almost all here, it appears to be very confusing, thereby potentially dangerous. **It has hit the national press.** But it may well work out, though one does wonder whether there are some basic differences between the UK and the Netherlands. Does the pedestrian have right of way over the cyclist? And does the cyclist know this? Could be quite a frolic.

The PC has the Annual Village Assembly to be held on Tuesday 24th November. The Village Hall Committee is taking advantage of the Lock Down by starting the building work which will provide separate direct access to both the Main and the Small Halls, and also for each to have access to the new chair and table store. This has been long on the stocks and only recently has the funding been put together. Work will begin once matching bricks have been sourced.

Anyone lucky enough to be around on Tuesday morning 11th August will have seen the CATSURVEY van driving around the village. I first came across it waiting to get onto the bypass and to join the queue behind the brand new CATSURVEY van which dragged a very large wide sledge of brushes travelling at about 12 MPH. Eventually we all overtook. Returning later and coming through the village I met it again. It stopped outside Kate Child's. **I didn't know Kate had a cat.** I also stopped and asked this Catsurveyer what he was doing. This nice young man said he was mapping the roads ready for the new pipes. This and the Planning Application for the Heating Scheme could make it an interesting August meeting.

Alastair Everitt

VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

~ AT HOME ~

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

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



**Order your supper with scrumptious pudding in advance
and we will have it beautifully packaged ready for you to
collect to eat at home with friends and family
(or we will deliver, if required).**

**Pick up quizzes etc to take away, and join people from
throughout the village online for Harvest Bingo and the
raffle draw for our famous Fair Trade hampers!**



Prices held from last year:

**Adult £8.50; over 65/under 16 - £7.50;
under 11 - £5**

Please email for an order form

admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

**See: Anglesey Churches, Cambridge on Facebook
or collect a form from St Mary's Church**

**Menu, payment and collection details on order form; payment required
with order; last orders by 20 September, please**

**Please advise of allergies when booking;
we hope to be able to accommodate special diets**

Newcomers to the village especially welcome!

Robin Mathieson on his Father (continued ...)

Last month as part of an occasional series of articles and other features related to WW2 events we included a personal view by Robin talking about his father, Robert Mathieson DSO, who died in the liberation of Sicily. In this second and concluding part we have two further extracts from his letters home.



Photo by Lieut.-Col. R. Mathieson, DSO, DFC, TD

3rd November 1942

THE SECOND ATTACK

"Well, to get back to things. We practised and practised, and I really just finished one day's (or night's) work and dropped into a deep slumber before starting anew. And for a week before the battle I couldn't say anything in any case. Well, the attack took place on Friday night, and I didn't take part because the 2 i/c's place is at 'B' Echelon. However on Sunday I was sent for and off I went up to the front fully expecting that the battle was over. Instead of that I've now been 'in it' for ten days. So I've had quite enough battle experience, thank you very much! I arrived just in time for a second attack, which we successfully launched, taking all our objectives. However, in the morning, to our horror, we found large numbers of Germans, dug in, between our forward companies and Battalion HQ. I spent a hectic 24 hours trying to get through to them with food, water and ammunition. Peter Samwell..... in this push and lay out in no-mans-land for 24 hours before we could pick him up. (note: Lieut. Peter Samwell, Stirling).

TANKS BREAK THROUGH

"On Tuesday morning the tanks came up and advanced through, and 400 Germans surrendered to the Battalion and all was well. Since then I've lost all trace of time. We've been here, there and everywhere, Attacking there, defending ourselves from counter-attacks here, and so on. Today is our first day of comparative peace, and I've washed and changed my socks for the first time in ten days!"

In a second letter of the same day, Major Mathieson writes:-

"To go on with my blethers of Letter No. 1 of today's date. We are in a reserve position for the first time since the battle began. It's grand for a change - only a little long-distance shelling and a few dive-bombers.

(*Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders)

"I'm not allowed to say anything about casualties in a letter, but I think an exception might be made in the case of Bob." (Note:- Major Mathieson's cousin Lieut. Robert Mathieson, Falkirk.) "Bob was wounded a week past on Friday night in the initial attack. Tell Betty that the report came through that he is amongst the slightly wounded. This is official and should relieve her mind. Bob put up a very gallant show. He was in the first wave of the attack, and early on was wounded in the foot, but refused medical aid and carried on. It was only when passing through the second enemy minefield that a booby-trap on the wire exploded and damaged his hand, thus

forcing him to give in at last.

"Well, I've had all sorts of experiences, and so far (touch wood) Norman" (Note :- Major Norman White, Stirling)" and I are O.K. Adventures I have had plenty of, worst experience being enemy mortaring of Battalion H.Q. (reminiscent of the 7th Battalion in France!), which is extremely accurate and very unpleasant.

"Last Thursday night, when the Colonel was at the forward companies, the Bosche taped our H.Q. nicely with his mortar, and from 10.30p.m. to 10.45 he just unloaded. I could see or hear nothing due to the smoke and noise, and although the Adjutant was in a trench only 10 yards away he couldn't hear a word I was saying and I couldn't see him although it was bright moonlight. To make matters worse, the Hum had machine-gun fire coming down on both ends of H.Q., and to get to the medical post on one side and the ammunition dump on the other one had to crawl on one's tummy, with the bullets pinging a foot or so above one's head and landing about 40 yards to the rear.

"Even the shelling and the bombing I'm getting used to now. This has been an infantry battle so far-real last war stuff-infantry and artillery (bags of it!) - and is easily the biggest battle the British Army has fought in since 1918. I'm proud of the infantry, my division, and above all, my battalion. We have revenged Farnace with a vengeance. Will reply to all your letters 'when the battle's o'er.' "

ATTACKED KEY POSITION.

The third letter is dated 10th November, and is as follows:-

"Yes, I suppose it is a week since I wrote my last two air-letter cards to you - and they're not even posted yet! I thought things were over, more or less, for us, and yet last Tuesday night was destined to be our most glorious exploit. After I had written your letters and done one or two jobs, word came through that the Battalion was to attack a certain position that night. Just the Battalion alone, as it was a very narrow front, but we were to be supported by seven regiments of artillery - and we were, by Jove, we were.

"Well, what it boiled down to was that if we took this keypoint, the armoured forces would finally be able to break through. Well, we took it, and the armoured forces went through with what glorious results you will have already read about. I was allowed to take part in the attack this time. So now, I've seen every phase of battle and am contented! Our attack was a complete success, and we captured a German Divisional H.Q. with an immense amount of booty (hundreds of split new Iron Crosses amongst it). Most of the birds had flown, leaving everything in indescribable confusion. What a barrage our own artillery put down - it was magnificent. Thank goodness we were on the right side of it!

"Everyone from the G.O.C. downwards was congratulating us the following morning. What a wonderful sight it was next day to see hundreds and hundreds of our own tanks passing below us, and the sky dark with our own 'planes passing the same way. Well, we spent the next few days rounding up prisoners and small pockets of resistance, and now here we are in a more pleasant spot (for the desert, anyhow) with the Germans (and the war) miles away. It is scarcely believable - no guns firing, no bombs - and I had my pyjamas on last night for the first time in ages and ages! I'm

now going off for a bathe. It is a lovely sunny day, not too warm - just like June at home. Hard to believe that you will now have the November fogs."

FALKIRK HERALD SEPTEMBER 15TH 1943

"EXAMPLE AND INSPIRATION"

D.S.O. For Falkirk Colonel

The award of the Distinguished service Order to the late Lieutenant-Colonel Roy Mathieson, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, is officially announced. Colonel Mathieson, it will be recalled, was killed in action last month.

The honour has been awarded for gallantry in the attack on the Gabes Line when Colonel, then Major Mathieson, was second in command of the Battalion. The official citation states that Major Mathieson's continued gallantry and zeal, and disregard for danger, were an example and inspiration. After directing fire onto enemy positions, which were silenced for many hours, he organised and directed at advanced battalion H.Q.

In the afternoon, when it was found that the tank wireless link had broken down, Major Mathieson went alone on foot through heavy shell fire to make contact with the squadron commander of supporting tanks, most of which had been knocked out by the shelling. He organised a plan by which the enemy tanks were held at bay. The citation adds that Major Mathieson moved about fearlessly in the open all the day and refused to take cover.

A Few Favourite Food Fads

I always drink my gin in milk,
Stirred with a little stick.
It makes the gin as smooth as silk,
And gives the milk a kick!

I always eat my fish and chip
From copies of 'The Times'.
Not that they taste better,
But just because it rhymes!

I always eat my Brussels sprouts
In haste, designed to hide,
That I'm beset with fearful thoughts
That earwigs are inside.

I always eat my Soya beans
As a substitute for meat
With a conscience free from guilt;
They never used to bleat.

I like baked potatoes
More than a little bit
With a slice of Camembert
Dropped into the slit.

I never eat peas with honey,
And nor did my good wife.
Neither of us felt at ease
Licking them off the knife.

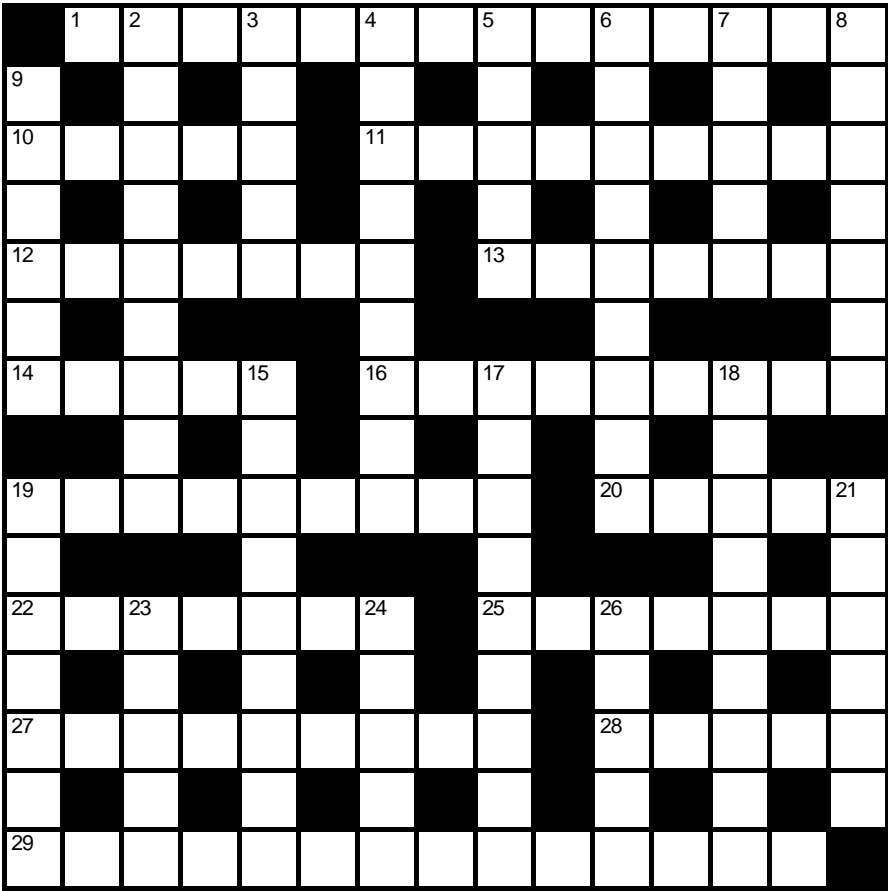
I always eat my peanut paste
With treacle, on brown bread.
It does not have a funny taste
Whatever may be said.

I always eat strawberries and cream
In a sort of summer dream.
And become far too indolent, or worse
To even attempt to finish this - - - - .

Crossword Number 177

Compiled by **OUNCE**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 21st September 2020. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a £20 meal voucher for the Red Lion—see the pub manager for full details.



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

Across

- 1 Fob off Sergeant ordered to make dish (4,10)
- 10 Relative elements trap bridge player (5)
- 11 Ineffective small measure putting lid on backing island (9)
- 12 Little Henry follows king in pale return of tusked mammal (7)
- 13 Aromatic dispatch of journalist we hear (7)
- 14 Study intensively to raise vessel? (3,2)
- 16 Sweet fairy (5,4)
- 19 E. Sussex town chant: e.g. Banzai (6-3)
- 20 Belgians without degrees in Scottish town (5)
- 22 Effects of one member's book (7)
- 25 Lost for words, demonstrating graph as Ian explains (7)
- 27 Perversely ask Bride, "Married?" "Get off!" (9)
- 28 Brown can't start vehicle without this, we hear? (5)
- 29 E.g. Anorexia, some poorly Grenadiers do it (6,8)

Down

- 2 Herb makes Beryl lose fifty-eight badly (9)
- 3 Rosy, cheeky or cool? (5)
- 4 Eclipse, right for cocktail component (6,3)
- 5 Predators, of 12A for example, or conservative American skinheads? (5)
- 6 Pre-Raphaelite with hairloss, problem for orchard dweller? (5,4)

- 7 Track in first of really black interior tunnels perhaps (5)
- 8 Cars stolen from distracted armed forces? What a liberty! (7)
- 9 AKA Mona Ny perhaps? (6)
- 15 Bobby modified open claim (9)
- 17 Rope Dumbledore's phoenix? Traitor! (3,6)
- 18 Member is dead; so pass a law (9)
- 19 Get angry about new tabby (7)
- 21 Be three, it's said in Sardinia. Cinzano, anyone? (6)
- 23 Postulate of some intellectual titans originally (5)
- 24 Sedate holy woman with help (5)
- 26 Rambler becomes US president in short time (5)

Solution to crossword no. 176

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

We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mention to Caroline Matheson who was the only other entrant with the correct answer to a difficult puzzle.

JULIE'S COURGETTE RECIPES

COURGETTE, FETA & MINT SALAD

3 MEDIUM SIZED COURGETTES
HANDFUL OF CHOPPED MINT
100G FETA CHEESE
OLIVE OIL
LEMON JUICE
SALT AND PEPPER
DRIED OREGANO

1. SHAVE COURGETTES INTO STRIPS.
2. DRESS THE COURGETTES WITH OLIVE OIL AND LEMON JUICE TO TASTE.
3. ADD CHOPPED MINT AND CRUMBLE OVER FETA CHEESE.
4. SEASON WITH SALT AND PEPPER AND A SPRINKLE OF OREGANO.
5. PUT INTO THE FRIDGE TO CHILL AND FOR THE FLAVOURS TO ENHANCE. A SIMPLE TASTY AND REFRESHING SALAD.

SESAME, HALLOUMI & COURGETTE WITH ...

2 MEDIUM COURGETTES GRATED
¼ TSP SEA SALT
30G SELF RAISING FLOUR
20G CORNFLOUR
2 TBSP TOASTED SESAME SEEDS
¼ TSP GROUND WHITE PEPPER
2 TSP FINELY CHOPPED MINT LEAVES
80G HALLOUMI. GRATED
2 LARGE EGGS
2 SPRING ONIONS FINELY CHOPPED
VEGETABLE OIL FOR FRYING

... CHILLI HONEY DRIZZLE

2TBSP HONEY
¼ TSP CHILLI FLAKES
2 LEMONS ZESTED

1. TO MAKE THE DRESSING. WARM THE HONEY. 2 TBSP WATER, CHILLI FLAKES AND LEMON ZEST IN A PAN UNTIL BUBBLING AND SYRUPY, ABOUT 3 MINS.
2. PUT THE GRATED COURGETTES IN A SIEVE AND SPRINKLE OVER THE SALT, LEAVE AND DRAIN FOR 30 MINS. THEN SQUEEZE OUT ANY LIQUID.
3. COMBINE THE FLOURS, SESAME SEEDS AND PEPPER IN A BOWL. ADD THE CHOPPED MINT, HALLOUMI AND COURGETTE, TOSS LIGHTLY TO COMBINE. CRACK IN THE EGGS AND USE A FORK TO STIR INTO THE MIXTURE ALONG WITH THE SPRING ONIONS. STIR UNTIL YOU HAVE A THICK TEXTURE.
4. HEAT 1 TBSP OF OIL IN A LARGE NON STICK FRYING PAN. WHEN HOT ENOUGH ADD HEAPED TABLESPOONS OF THE BATTER FOR EACH FRITTER AND FRY FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES UNTIL GOLDEN, FLIP THEM OVER TO ENSURE THEY ARE COOKED THROUGH. DRAIN ON KITCHEN PAPER AND SEASON, THEN FINALLY DRIZZLE WITH THE CHILLI HONEY TO SERVE.

Cambridgeshire Libraries can now accept new referrals to the Revised Library@Home Service. This service is open to Cambridgeshire Residents who fit a set criteria: -

The service is for anyone who usually relies heavily on reading books or listening to audiobooks AND who is housebound, shielding or isolating due to age or health conditions under the current COVID-19 Government guidelines.

People accepted for this service will be contacted by a member of the Library@Home Team who will arrange a doorstep delivery of specially chosen books/audiobooks. Deliveries will be monthly (by prior arrangement) and previously loaned books/audiobooks will be picked up when new ones are delivered.

To enquire about the Revised Library@Home Service you can contact us:

By email - volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

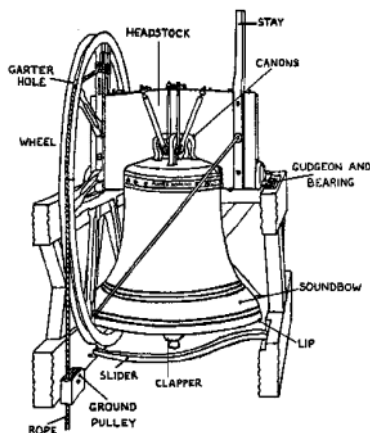
By phone – 07442 022 926 or 07342 700308

A member of Library@Home team will respond to the referral.

The bells, the bells...

Subject to lots of general health and safety considerations, and observation of any current Covid regulations, it is now permitted to ring the bells as part of a church service. However, we must first work through a comprehensive maintenance checklist to ensure safety for the ringers, and then get approval from the Churches' Conservation Trust before going ahead.

We hope to have this completed within the next three or four weeks, during which time you may occasionally hear individual bells being rung for a short time as part of the inspection and maintenance process. Thereafter we (and I hope you) look forward to hearing them rung properly again.



John Chalmers
Steeple Keeper

Miss Fix-It (Extraordinaire)

Do you have favourite things that are languishing at the back of the wardrobe because you've been told they can't be repaired?
Or you just haven't got a Round Tuit?

Busted Bangles, Taffled Tassels,
Broken Beads?
Ripped SILK & CHIFON Scarves?
Terminally Trashed Glad Rags?

Ring Kelly Keenan on 07703
331179
For All Of Your Favourite Things



The Cummings Affair *continued*

Lord Peter Wimsey, Inspector Charles Parker and Bunter confer.

Parker: Any progress Wimsey? **Wimsey:** No, I'm really puzzled by it all. I've never known a case being swept under the carpet so completely. **Bunter:** You know that Cummings is in 'contempt of Parliament'. **Wimsey:** By Jove, you're right. **Bunter:** He refused to attend the Digital, Culture inquiry into the use of fake news during the Brexit Referendum Campaign, which he ran. **Parker:** Yes I remember now. Parliament was very interested in the role of Cambridge Analytica during that campaign. A lot of people voted who had never voted before. **Wimsey:** You mean he just refused to turn up. Extraordinary behaviour. But I suppose no worse than packing your young son into a car for many hours with two people suspected of suffering from Covid -19. **Parker:** He must have very powerful friends. This makes this affair far more serious. It needs looking into. **Wimsey:** Now Charles, I think you should drop this altogether. You have your career to think of. Remember what happened to...well, never mind. **Bunter:** I agree my Lord. Shouldn't we leave it to someone like Father Brown, who may have a higher authority. He seems very adapt at resolving riddles, and to get people to repent and confess.

To be continued.

Will Father Brown take on the case?

DLS



The early morning goat procession down the meadow at Ivy Farm.

Annelie Hollstenius

Photograph of Florence sitting on top of the new Bug Hotel.

All created by

Jon Mold



DELIVERY of refuse sacks 2020

Your YEARLY supply of REFUSE sacks

East Cambridgeshire householders will soon receive a roll of 52 refuse sacks which are intended to last until the next distribution in a year's time. We will not be issuing any further sacks but additional refuse will be collected if presented for collection in suitable refuse sacks provided by householders.



New CALENDARS and GUIDES

The sacks will be accompanied by a yearly collection calendar. Please keep it safe and check your dates for Bank Holiday collections as some are scheduled earlier than normal. We have also added a recycling guide and waste reduction tips to help you lessen your impact on the environment.



DELIVERY dates

Please check when to expect your delivery and what your cut-off date is for reporting non-delivery. You can contact us from the week after your scheduled delivery.

Delivery area	Delivery dates	Please contact us if you have not received sacks by	Last date for reporting non-delivery
Ely	10 - 14 Aug	Mon 17 Aug	Fri 11 Sep
Soham	17 - 21 Aug	Mon 24 Aug	Fri 18 Sep
Grundy Fen, Little Downham, Little Thetford, Strettham, Stuntney, Upware, Wentworth, Wicken, Wilburton, Witchford Barcham, Barway, Chittering	24 - 28 Aug	Tue 1 Sep	Fri 25 Sep
Aldreth, Coveney, Earith Bridge, Haddenham, Mepal, Pymoor, Sutton, Wardy Hill, Witham, Witham Toll	1 - 5 Sep	Mon 7 Sep	Fri 2 Oct
Brandon Creek, Chettisham, Little Fen, Little Ouse, Littleport, Prickwillow, Queen Adelaide, Shippea Hill, Welney	7 - 11 Sep	Mon 14 Sep	Fri 9 Oct
Bottisham, Brinkley, Burrough Green, Burwell, Dullingham, Lode, Longmeadow, Reach, Six Mile Bottom, Stetchworth, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Westley Waterless	14 - 18 Sep	Mon 21 Sep	Fri 16 Oct
Ashley, Cheveley, Chippenham, Fordham, Great Fen, Hasse Fen, Isleham, Kennett, Kirtling, Newmarket, Saxon Street, Snailwell, Upend, Woodditton	21 - 25 Sep	Mon 28 Sep	Fri 23 Oct

Provided a non-delivery report is approved, we will deliver sacks within 10 working days from the day of your report.

eastcamb.gov.uk

01353 66 55 55

customerservices@eastcamb.gov.uk



See also <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/hrc> for details of how to dispose of waste at the recycling centres.

The Way Things Were

When I was at Primary School, my very favourite part of the day was the end when the Head Teacher would sit on a stool and read us the next episode from the prolific pen of the JK Rowling of her day, Enid Blyton [eg Famous Five, lashings of ginger beer, etc, etc]. The suspense was killing, you could hear a pin drop! Once, we had a student teacher who instead read from Gormenghast, probably because she thought it was better literature, and we did listen politely, but it wasn't the same!

We also had some smashing lessons on the radio from Good Old Auntie (BBC). There was Singing Together (traditional folk songs, like Dashing Away with the Smoothing Iron), Music and Movement, brilliant stories on the History Program, and a Nature Program, which had a Quiz at the end of term. I dreaded this bit, I've ALWAYS been rubbish at Quizzes!

Once a week, my mother came and played the piano, while we learnt traditional dances and also how to waltz, but our favourite was always the very last, Cowboys and Indians, where we'd take it in turns to leap out on each other while whooping or pretending to be the Lone Ranger (a masked Cowboy on television whose best friend was a "Red Indian" called Tonto).

We were also quite hot on Times-Tables, Spelling, Geography, Long Multiplication and even Long Division in pounds, shillings and pence, not to mention stones, pounds and ounces, with possibly a few pecks and poles thrown in as well! No calculators then.

— So there, Modern Education, put that in your pipe and smoke it!

Caroline Matheson



Picture: Tealby Primary School as it is today. One Infant class (ages 5-7) and one Junior Class (ages 7 to 12), each taught by one teacher with no support staff.

Possibly the first of a series of articles under this title? Contributions welcome ...

Community Heating Scheme

The next few pages contain information from the project team, the County Council who are backing the project, and the Parish Council.

Parish Council Position

The Crier asked the Parish Council if they wished make a statement on their position on the heating scheme. They responded that “there is no agreed response or comment on the heating scheme from the whole PC - individual councillors have their own views.”. Councillor Paul Latchford made a note of these when this was discussed and they were all asked “are you signing the scheme contract?”:

- John Covill – does not qualify
- David Greenfield – would love to join the scheme but not needed (already has air source heat pumps)
- Jude Griffiths – already has air source heat pumps
- Andrew Camps – yes
- Steve Kent-Phillips – no
- Paul Latchford – no
- Alan Durrant – no
- Sandra Gynn – undecided
- Peter Hart – undecided



Why is Cambridgeshire County Council collaborating on a community heat project with Swaffham Prior?

On 1 May 2019, Parliament approved a motion to declare a climate and environmental emergency. Michael Gove MP acknowledged that “the Government recognises the situation we face is an emergency. It is a crisis, and it is a threat that we must all unite to meet.”

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“the IPCC”) has warned all Government’s of the dire consequences of exceeding 1.5°C global warming, for our health, security and economy and of the urgent and fundamental decarbonisation of our economies.

The rise in zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19, is one symptom of our wider planetary crisis. Air pollution is causing the loss of lives every year, and there is evidence that it increases vulnerability to COVID-19.

So what is the UK doing?

The UK Climate Change Act was agreed in 2008 which commits Government to set five yearly carbon reduction budgets to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The government has set five yearly carbon reduction budgets to meet this target.

The Government has published a Clean Growth Strategy in 2018 which states “The actions and investments in this strategy will ensure the shift to clean growth and will be at the forefront of policy and economic decisions made by governments and businesses in the coming decades.”

The Clean Growth Strategy also puts forward plans to stop new homes from using oil or coal heating systems from the mid-2020s and the Clean Air Strategy, published last year, also talks about banning oil and coal heating. From 2025 no new homes will be connected to the gas grid and new homes will be heated by low carbon heating solutions, for example, air source heat pumps and ground source heat pumps.

The Committee for Climate Change (advisors to the Government) is making recommendations to Government to price carbon emissions. This could significantly impact future oil and gas prices if this is brought forward.

So, what is Cambridgeshire County Council doing?

The Council declared a Climate and Environment emergency in May 2019 and collaborated with Cambridge University young researchers on a carbon footprint for Cambridgeshire. This carbon footprint identifies 6.1million tonnes of carbon emissions in 2017 across homes, businesses, transport waste, agriculture and land use changes across Cambridgeshire. Homes and businesses emit 48% of this total and a third of this is due to heating and hot water from fossil fuels. This research identified that all homes in Cambridgeshire must switch onto low carbon heating by 2050 to meet the target reductions.

In May 2020 the Council approved its Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan and committed to deliver net-zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050. To deliver its early targets, it has set up an Environment Fund of £16million, pledging to take all Council's offices that it owns and occupies off fossil fuels by 2025, reduce carbon emissions of its £450million spend on services it delivers to Cambridgeshire communities and to support oil dependent communities to find low carbon energy solutions. It also signed a pledge with UK100 to support the delivery of 100% clean energy for its communities by 2050.

Cambridgeshire County Council's leader Steve Count, is leading a new network called the Countryside Climate Network to support rural communities with the challenges of climate change and decarbonisation. 21 other Local Authorities have joined this network to share best practice. Our work with oil based communities is of significant interest and an example for other areas.

What is Swaffham Prior doing to tackle this climate and environment emergency?

The Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust approached Cambridgeshire County Council to collaborate on a community heating project – we are now 2.5 years into this collaboration. Their challenge was to decarbonise village heating and hot water, take the village off oil and manage future fuel costs.

The project as proposed will deliver this. It is using tried and tested technology which is used across the world in all temperatures from Australia to Scandinavia– the technology is not new, it can deliver net-zero heating solution for the village. What is

new for all of us in the UK, is undertaking a project for a whole village like this and its fantastic to collaborate with a forward thinking community land trust to help make this happen.

Your village has paid higher prices for heating your home since the 1970's when the village decided not to connect to the gas network. Don't let history repeat itself.

The community heat project will save you costs in the long run and importantly for Cambridgeshire County Council, it will provide greater price security for residents for heating and prevent more people falling into future fuel poverty.

It's a village decision

This is a critical moment for the village to show its commitment to the project.

In November 2020 Cambridgeshire County Council will review evidence of your commitment and whether to invest approximately £5.2million. It is a big commitment for Cambridgeshire County Council and we need you to tell us you want this.

If you commit, we will be asking you to sign a contract with the Council for heat supply in November and December 2020 and we will start construction on site to build the energy centre and heat network starting in January 2021. If we don't hear from you – and we need at least 166 homes initially to make this scheme viable - the project is at risk of not going ahead.

Every individual counts

If you don't tell us, the project may not happen. Make your voice heard.

Your home will have to change from oil at some point – why not now.

No upfront cost to join ahead of construction. This means you save money.

Cost certainty – the Heat Supply Agreement offers great consumer protections. The price of heat is capped by the price of oil. Price caps are not common.

ALL the information you need can be found here:

<https://heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/>

<https://www.mlei.co.uk/climateenvironment/climate-change-and-environment-strategy>

Please email me before 8th October 2020 at mlei@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to confirm your intention to sign-up, therefore registering for a household survey. (Or Janet at info@heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk Phone: 07367 786293 or Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust directors).

Sheryl French

Programme Director, Climate Change and Energy Investment

Heating Swaffham Prior

Net Zero: Now or Never this November

From this November, all households in Swaffham Prior will have to make a final decision, are we joining the district heating network, or not?

In July, the Heat Supply Agreement for the Heating Swaffham Prior project was launched, and information posted to all households within the area that will be ser-



vided by the heating network. (If you have not received this information, please get in touch). We are in the process of publishing a number of resources to support your review of the proposed contracts, including four films and Frequently Asked Questions online.

The Heat Supply Agreement finalises many aspects of the project that have been in development for the last two years. To make sure that this document meets the needs of as many households as possible, a six-week consultation period has been launched. Now is the time to have your say on the project, and to decide whether you will be joining the network by signing the final contract in November – December 2020. We are asking all households to let us know whether they plan to sign the contract by October 2020, to arrange individual household surveys.

The Heat Supply Agreement is the legal contract that sets out Cambridgeshire County Council's responsibilities as the heat supplier and what your responsibilities will be if you decide to join the network and become a customer. The document includes information on the charges for connecting to the scheme (which are waived for people who sign this contract in November or December 2020), the tariffs charge for heating (a unit charge per kwh and standing charge, per day), and charges involved in the cancellation of the contract. Also outlined, is the Council's responsibility to supply heat, and various performance standards which they must meet.

Project Charges

Charge Type	Amount	What the charge covers
Connection Charge	TBC	Note the connection charge is waived for households that sign the Heat Supply Agreement in November 2020. Removal of oil tank Removal of oil boiler Installation of pipes connecting network Installation of Heat Interface Unit (HIU)
Standing Charge	82p/day	Ongoing maintenance of the HIU, network and energy centre Any repair required (not due to damage/tampering)
Unit Charge	5.17p / kWh	Cost for heating, paid per unit of heating used
Cancellation Charge	Up to £2,000	There is a stepped cancellation charge, payable if you decide to leave the scheme within a 40 year period. The maximum charge is £2,000 at day 1, and steps down incrementally. The network will have valves in place making the disconnection of individual households and removal of the HIU straightforward, to leave the 'wet system' intact.

Event Calendar

Please register to online meetings by email; info@heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk, online; www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/meetings or phone (075 2594 3420). An option to dial into meetings is also available.

Monday 17 August	8-9:30pm	Project planning application update (online meeting)
Thursday 27 August	8-9pm	Legal Q&A session (online meeting)
Friday 4 September	Midnight	Heat Supply Agreement comment deadline

Household Connection Programme

July-August 2020	Comment on draft Heat Supply Agreement (HSA)
September/October 2020	Publication of final Heat Supply Agreement
8 October 2020	Residents confirm intention to sign up and register for a household survey.
October 2020 onwards	Contractor surveys of individual homes will: Establish what works will be required (removal of oil tank, boiler, installation of the HIU, and location of pipes connecting your home to the network)
November/December 2020	Signature of final HSA required Confirmation of project (dependent on final numbers signing the contract)
March 2021 onwards	First homes will be connected to the network
April 2022	Final household connections to be made



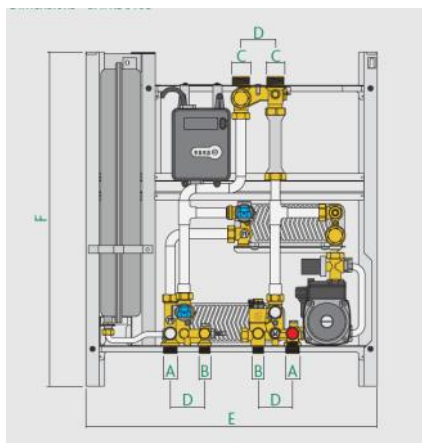
Heating Swaffham Prior What is a Heat Interface Unit?

There have been quite a few questions about Heat Interface Units in the village, what they do, how big they are, who will install them...and where in your home!? **A Heat Interface will be on display in the Red Lion pub during August, pay it a visit to learn more!**

Technology

Casing measurements may vary, but this potential unit is as follows: E. 55cm F. 63cm, Depth 26.5cm, Weight 19kg

A heat interface unit is a similar size to a boiler (often smaller) and is enclosed by similar metal casing. Inside, the technology of a heat interface unit is very simple.



There is essentially one entry-pipe connected to the heat network, containing the liquid heated at the energy centre and one exit-pipe. The heat from the entry-pipe is transferred to the liquid running through radiators and hot water heating system via a plate heat exchanger. The two liquids never come into direct contact. The liquid within the radiators circulates as normal, and the hot liquid from the energy centre also constantly circulates to the Heat Interface Unit.

Installation

Residents that have confirmed their intention to sign-up to the scheme by October, will then be registered for a household survey. These individual household surveys will be carried out by contractors who will lay network pipes and install the HIU within your property. Most suppliers offer a range of HIU solutions, and appropriate units will be selected following the survey. There are a number of factors that to be considered by the contractors to determine the HIU location:

Factor	Consideration
The current boiler location	Can the HIU replace the current boiler in this location? Or another identified
Suitability of the wall construction	For fixing a HIU and entry/exit pipe installation Conservation Officers will also be involved in this process
Potential HIU location in relation to its network connection	Minimising disruption within the home Establishing a good and efficient connection to the network externally

The works required to install and connect your home can only be carried out if you agree to what is proposed, so contractors will be required to work with you to make sure that it is agreeable. A formal process has been put in place within the Heat Supply Agreement (Appendix 1) to list the works required, the time frame for these to be

delivered, and verify your consent for these to be carried out. (The HSA is available to view at www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/HSA).

Maintenance

Like a boiler, the Heat Interface Unit will require an annual service to ensure its ongoing efficiency and safety. This service, and general maintenance of the boiler required is a cost covered by the daily standing charge of 82p/day. The HIU remains the property of Cambridgeshire County Council and they are responsible for the servicing and general maintenance of the HIU for those signed up to the scheme. Trained and approved contractors will be appointed through the council's competitive process, and customer support made available by the Council also.

To be continued? Yes, if there are more questions and comments for the next edition before we all need to make our decisions around the time it comes out. Eds.

Beavers, Cubs & Scouts Latest

The Scout Association has approved a return to Scouting! All our three sections will be resuming meetings at some point in September. We intend for all these meetings to be held OUTDOORS, either at our Field or in front of the Hut.

Our aim is to get our Youth Members back together with the emphasis of having fun and Parents will soon be receiving details of our return to Scouting & the measures we are taking regarding our Covid 19 practices.

The Leader Team have not been idle during Lockdown with Beavers & Cubs getting together via Zoom. This did not happen with our Scouts as their meetings are centred on outdoor activities and due to home schooling appeared be getting "Zoomed Overload"!

The Hut

Work has resumed on the Hut, with family/"bubbles" of 2/3 people working at any one time, primarily continuing the relining of the inside walls & the removal of the toilets & kitchen. When removing the toilets, it was found that some of the old studwork had rotted so the decision was made to completely remove internal walls of the toilets & the kitchen and replace with new.

The new walls will hopefully be up by the end of August so that the new toilets etc can be fitted in September. The toilets are having a complete refit with new lino floors & wall coverings. The kitchen will be refitted over the winter.

Martin Mead kindly sent a team over to remove debris/moss/soil from the surface of the driveway & car park, so thank you Martin. We have power in the Hut and hope to get the water reconnected soon.

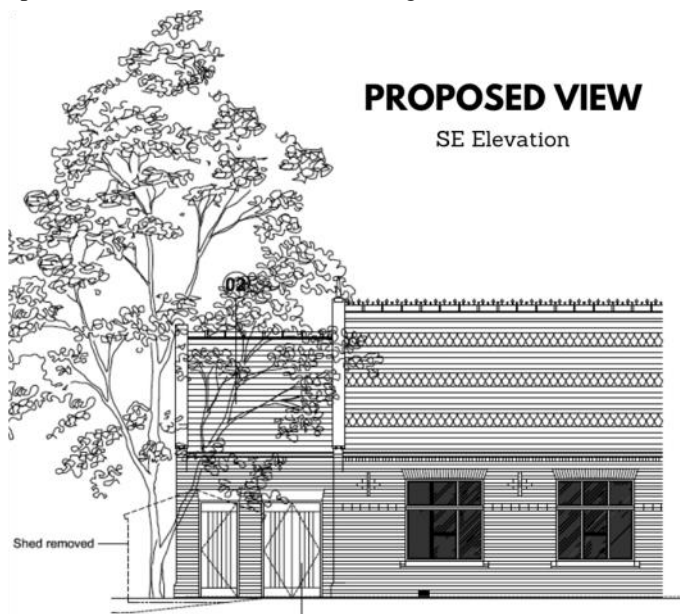
Yours In Scouting,

Tim Doe
Group Scout Leader
(1st Swaffham Prior Scout Group)

Village Hall Update

After a good many years discussing how to make the Hall more accessible to a larger number of users, the Management Committee have had plans drawn up, and have planning permission for building work. We now have a grant which will cover a large part of the cost, allowing the work to proceed. The builder is currently sourcing matching bricks and lintels to ensure that the extension is in keeping with the rest of the Hall.

We expect work to start in mid- to late-August.



As you can see from the architect's drawing, the wooden shed has been removed and is being replaced by a brick extension. This will have space for gardening equipment, using the new doors at the front of the Hall, as well as a separate storage area for tables and chairs, which can be reached from both Main and Small Halls.

The work is expected to take a couple of months to complete, and we hope to reopen in the latter part of November: the coronavirus lockdown seemed a good opportunity to get the work completed without having to cancel any events.

Why is the work necessary?

Currently, the Small Hall can only be accessed through the Main Hall or by going round the back and in through the fire door, and this means that we cannot hire the Main and Small Halls separately.

By building a new storage area for tables and chairs, we can use the current storage area as the access route to the Small Hall (see plan, below).



In combination with the new partition that was installed last year, and a set of new chairs (partly funded by the Parish Council), we hope that the refurbished Hall will continue to be at the centre of Village activities in a post-COVID world.

I would like to thank Alan Durrant for the many hours of work he has put into getting us to this stage.

Mike Carrington

(for Swaffham Prior Village Hall Management Committee - August 2020)

News from Bottisham Medical Practice

Patients' Participation Group

Keep on caring: Message from our local NHS. By taking care of ourselves and each other, fatalities and infection rates in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have continued to fall. However, while lockdown restrictions are gradually being lifted – everyone needs to take action to help us all return to a more normal life

The Keep Caring campaign outlines the simple things we can all do that have a big impact -

- Caring is keeping your distance - inside or outside
- Caring is being responsible – staying isolated if you think you've got symptoms, or been close to someone who has
- Caring is covering your face – even with no symptoms you might still spread the virus
- Caring is washing your hands - regularly when you enter or leave a new place

Please support the campaign by sharing these messages, but most importantly by continuing to follow the rules. This way we can control the virus and save lives.

Dispensary: Please note the dispensary is open all day 8.30am to 12 noon and 2pm to 6pm.

The afternoons are busier than the mornings so you may find the service to be quicker if you go earlier in the day. Where possible please register online so that you can order repeat prescriptions which will speed up turnaround time.

Face Masks: Patients now need to bring their own face masks to wear when they come into the surgery as there will no longer be a supply available for patients when they attend due to ongoing supply issues.

Climb: National Health Data Consent Survey

How do you think health data should be shared and used?

Health data is information collected in the course of health care provided by the NHS or HSC. It is used to provide care, and sometimes also for research to improve care for others. However, there are ways of controlling how health data is used.

The University of Cambridge CLIMB team are interested in peoples' views on consent and information sharing between NHS services. If you are interested in taking part in their anonymous survey then please follow this link <https://www.climbproject.org.uk> The survey is voluntary and takes 15-20 minutes but you can take a break. When asked where did you hear about this survey don't forget to tick 'from a GP' and put Bottisham Medical Practice for our surgery.

New Website: The Practice has a new website. We encourage patients who have general queries and have online access to use the new "Contact Us" button on the website in order to speed up dealing with queries.

Cervical Screening: If you receive a letter offering this service please do book an appointment to have this done.

Social Prescriber: The Practice's Social Prescriber, Chloe, is at the surgery every Wednesday to provide support to all patients. Chloe has been working hard through COVID to ensure patients have had the support they need through the last few months. Chloe can assist with such things as money management and accessing benefits, mental wellbeing, physical health, social networking and loneliness, lifestyle advice, transport issues, weight management and carer support. You can self-refer to the Social Prescribing service and further information on how to do this can be found on the website. Alternatively, you can contact reception who will help you make your referral.

Appointments: The Practice are continuing to operate by initial phone and video consultation with patients being invited into the practice where face to face consultations are appropriate. The surgery is planning on continuing to operate in this way for the time being. Patients have provided positive feedback regarding the phone and video consultations about how convenient it is and the fact they can speak with a GP the same day. Changes to the service have meant that the practice are doing an additional 125 consultations per week.

Flu Clinics: Saturday flu clinics are planned for the 17th and 24th October. The Practice is also planning to do lunchtime clinics between 12 and 2pm throughout the winter. Those eligible for a flu vaccination has been expanded this year due to the current pandemic and are awaiting confirmation around this. All those eligible will receive a letter from the practice. The Practice is encouraging all eligible patients to have the flu vaccination.

Carers: Are you caring for someone? Does the practice know? If not make sure you contact the practice to let them know in order that they can provide you with the help and support you need.

Next Patient Group Meeting: The Chair is currently exploring ways of doing virtual meetings and hope to update soon.

Bottisham Patients' Participation Group

Gotta be a Jackdaw!

It's been a bit crazy lately on the hedgehog front but let's not forget about all the other wonderful wildlife that we are lucky enough to have in our area. So, it felt like a good time to talk about one of my favourite birds- the witty jackdaw. They are often confused with rooks or crows but although they are part of the crow family, they are very different birds, in both looks and personality. They can be seen as pests often ripping open rubbish bags and pecking stones out of place but look past that and they are awesome little characters that are highly intelligent. Jackdaws have even been recorded using tools and carrying out complex tasks in order to reach food, they are also extremely loyal birds to their partners and jackdaws rescued by humans will often come back to visit their human rescuers for many years after. They are distinctly different from crows with their grey chalky like feathers and pale grey or even blue eyes and are often seen by the sides of the roads doing what I always think, looks like their own version of the ministry of funny walks. Their life span is around 5 years and on average they have a clutch of 5 to 6 eggs once a year between nesting pairs.



Thankfully these days very few people are superstitious but back in the middle ages, any bird with black feathers was often seen as the bringer of evil or the sign of a curse or even a warning to an expectant mother that their child may be lost before birth. Certain cultures also believed that jackdaws were shape shifters and could transform from bird to human whenever it took their fancy. While others believed a jackdaw on the roof was said to predict a new arrival, alternatively, a jackdaw settling on the roof of a house or flying down a chimney is an omen of death, and coming across one was also considered a bad omen. A jackdaw standing on the vanes of a cathedral tower is said to foretell rain though so keep your eyes peeled the next time we get a dry spell. Of course it's all nonsense and these birds are actually just handsome little creatures that roam our countryside. But it wasn't all bad- The jackdaw was considered sacred in [Welsh folklore](#) as they nested in church steeples – it was shunned by the Devil because of its choice of residence. And in the Nineteenth century in [the Fens](#) they thought that seeing a jackdaw on the way to a wedding was a good omen for a bride.

The jackdaw is also a very skilled flyer- in fact they can manoeuvre more tightly than any of the crow family as well as tumble and glide. Jackdaws like magpies are also renowned for having rather a penchant for shiny objects, the reason why is not known but it certainly adds to their charm. Breeding pairs stay together for life and there have been recorders of jackdaws for many years that grieve for dead partners for so long that they even cease to eat and go into a state of depression- for me this only shows even more, just how intelligent and gentle they really are. They like to travel in flocks and prefer the company of others rather than be in solitude as their larger crow cousins often prefer. Jackdaws prefer to nest within the walls of an old barn or the structure of a house over a nest in a tree and it has been recorded by archaeologists, that they found evidence that jackdaws used to nest in the crevices beneath the [lintels](#) of [Stonehenge](#).

You see the mischievous jackdaw is in fact something very special and so the next time you see one strutting their stuff on your lawn or hopping about by the road, just take a moment to enjoy them rather than carrying on without noticing. We can all learn so much from nature and it's important we know and love all of our species and don't forget any of them. And for me it's gotta be a jackdaw!

Saffra Monteiro

Comet Neowise



I hadn't heard of Comet Neowise but saw it mentioned by a friend on FaceBook. Decided to try and capture an image even though my only astrophotography before had been trying to take pictures of the moon. This particular evening I decided was to be the night and eventually found the comet. Looked at it with binoculars, then set up the camera on a tripod and spent the next hour or two refining the image. It's certainly not the best picture I've seen nor was there a monument or landmark to in-

clude in the image, but it's definitely Comet Neowise.

For the technically minded, it was taken with a Fuji XH-1 camera, Fuji 100-400mm telephoto lens at 150mm, 8 second exposure at f5, with ISO set to 25600. No post processing except for slight darkening and cropping to a square for FaceBook.

Waiting for Comet Neowise to appear I took a picture of the Moon, a long standing friend of the Earth. For the technically minded, this was taken with a Fuji XH-1 camera, Fuji 100-400mm telephoto lens handheld at 400mm, 1/100 second exposure at f10, with ISO set to 400. No post processing except for slight darkening and cropping to a square for FaceBook.



David Boughey

The Swaffhams' WI

Sadly we're not meeting, but keeping in touch by phone, email, WI magazines and village grapevine! The committee are managing, weather permitting, to have garden, socially distanced meetings to discuss mostly, what we can't do!

WI protocols allow us to meet, but the constraints are such that we decided to wait till we could at least resume some of the fun! None of us could quite envisage a meeting, wearing masks, sitting 2 metres away from each other, no wine, tea, coffee or cake, sanitising and not singing - we actually don't sing, but wondered if that might include laughing.

Optimistically we're hoping we might be allowed a Christmas shindig - but who knows?

Margaret Joyce



Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

On Mary Sumner day (9th August) we usually celebrate our founder and all she has achieved through our movement. Unfortunately due to the Covid 19 pandemic celebrations could not take place as they normally do. However, we contemplate on how Mary worked to found The Mothers' Union and what she achieved in her lifetime.

Born in 1828 near Manchester, Mary Heywood moved to Hertfordshire with her family in 1832. Whilst concluding her education in Rome she met George Sumner, youngest son of the then Bishop of Winchester. They fell in love and were married 1848, 18 months after his ordination. In 1851, together with their two baby girls, they moved to Old Alresford, which is 9 miles north-east of Winchester. Later the family was added to with the birth of a boy, Heywood.



Witnessing the responsibilities of their eldest daughter's motherhood spurred Mary Sumner to form a group of mothers drawn from all the social classes of Old Alresford. The group first met at the Rectory in the summer of 1876. On that occasion they were addressed by George Sumner on the subject of giving religious teaching and leadership in the home. After the formation and early growth of Mothers Union, George was appointed first Archdeacon of Winchester, then Bishop of Guildford, then a suffrage post within the Diocese of Winchester. From 1885 they lived in The Close at Winchester.

For the first nine years, the Mothers' Union remained a parochial organization, a format copied in a few places around the country. However, Mary addressed the women's meeting of the 1885 national Church Congress and focused on the two

ideas central to her Mothers' Union group: being a good example to children, and keeping prayer central to the life of the family.

That speech led to Mothers' Union being commended by the Bishop of Winchester, Harold Browne, as a pattern to be developed across the Diocese. From there it spread rapidly in Britain and across the Commonwealth. Within a year it was operating in four continents and by the turn of the century it had 169,000 members. Mary Sumner was unanimously elected president of this international organisation in 1896 and remained actively involved in the organisation until her death in 1921.

The Mary Sumner Prayer

Perfect for all seasons and situations:

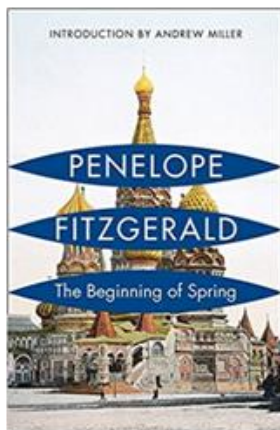
All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen.

We look forward to the day when we can meet together in fellowship again.

Ann Langran

The Reading Group Reads ...

The Beginning of Spring by Penelope Fitzgerald



The novel takes place in Russia in 1913. Frank Reid, an English businessman living in Moscow, wakes up to find that his wife and two daughters have disappeared. Not long after, his daughters are returned to him while his wife continues her journey back to her pre-marital home in Norbury, London. Frank needs to find good care for his daughters while he continues to manage his business and household. This set of circumstances is the vehicle for the novel which is really a charming insight into family, relationships and life in Moscow for a modestly well to-do family. The Reading Group enjoyed the passages that amazed and entertained. For me, the enjoyment was in the very 'Russian-ness' (in the early 20th century) of the vignettes. This is the second Penelope Fitzgerald we have

read. The other was *The Gate of Angels*. We recommend this author!

For our September meeting we are reading *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. Recently we have read the following:

Mr Mac and Me by Esther Freud

Moon Tiger by Penelope Lively

Stamboul Train by Graham Greene

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

Ann Hollingsworth

At an Extraordinary Council Meeting at the end of July, the Council considered an outline business case for building a crematorium, woodland burial centre and pet crematorium at Mepal to replace the Mepal Outdoor Centre. It was agreed to pursue this project even though the location is fifteen minutes away from an existing crematorium, and it would mean the loss of the Mepal Outdoor Centre. This proposal was opposed by John; Charlotte cannot take part as she has to declare a pecuniary interest, relating to her employer. A Mepal resident has started a petition to keep the Mepal Outdoor Centre



<https://www.change.org/p/ecdc-mepal-outdoor-centre-to-remain-a-leisure-centre> .

John is aware that many young people in Bottisham ward have enjoyed the activities at Mepal Outdoor Centre and feels the District has a need for an outdoor adventure activity centre. The next proposal will come to the Finance and Assets Committee for detailed consideration.

At the recent Finance & Assets Committee, on which both of us are members, the consideration of the Draft Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2019/20 was deferred until the September meeting of Committee. This statement is a legal requirement in which the Council confirms that it has been operating properly throughout the year and the draft statement gave this confirmation. However, there were several errors and omissions in it as well as significant concerns about whether financial procedures had been followed. The committee therefore agreed with Charlotte's proposal that the statement be deferred to allow the errors and omissions to be addressed.

At the same meeting, the Draft Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy 2020-2023 was deferred until the September meeting of Committee, to allow for issues raised in the meeting to be addressed. Cllr Whelan as well as John and Charlotte felt the draft brought to Committee was not ready to go out to consultation, not least because it did not have a clear purpose which covered all protected characteristics and it contained little about inclusion.

At the same meeting, the motion that Black Lives Matter was passed and incorporated into Council policy. Unfortunately, having referred this motion from full Council to the Committee, it was amended to remove any statement that Black Lives Matter. This weakened the motion which had been seconded by Charlotte, but we supported the amended motion despite this because it still contained commitments which will reduce discrimination.

The East Cambs District Council Reception remains closed, but you can now pre-book face to face appointments for Customer Services and the Housing and Com-

munity Advice Service. You can request an appointment by calling 01353 665555, or by emailing customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk

Some people have been asking when the mobile library service will start again. Unfortunately, the County Council have decided it is difficult to run this in a Covid-19 safe way. However, they do have a Library@home service and the eligibility for that has been extended. So people missing the mobile library service should call customer services on 0345 045 5225 and ask for the library at home service, or email volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. The County will seek to reintroduce mobile services as they can do so safely.

Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting

Held on Thursday 9th July 2020 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

(These notes are an abridged version of the official minutes. The full record can be seen on the Village Web Site or on the Village Notice Board.)

Present: Mr John Covill (Chair) (JC), Mr Andrew Camps (AC), Mr Alan Durrant(AD), Mr David Greenfield (DG), Mrs Sandra Gynn (SG), Mr Peter Hart (PH), Mr Paul Latchford (PL) and Mr Steve Kent-Phillips (SKP).

In attendance: Mrs Jude Griffiths (Clerk), Cllr Charlotte Cane (ECDC) (CC), and 3 members of the public.

38/20-21 Apologies for absence: None.

39/20-21 Declarations of Interest: SG declared a personal interest in 50/20-21.

40/20-21 Public participation for items on the agenda: David Isted stated that he was speaking for the family of George Frost, who is buried in the Swaffham Prior Cemetery. Mr Isted alleged that Mr Frost's gravestone had been damaged during the PC's recent safety test, carried out by the Clerk and AD. Mr Isted wanted the safety tests to be carried out by someone with a relevant City and Guilds qualification, with a formal risk assessment and visual assessment completed prior to the test. He pointed out that more modern graves can be left untested and that a maximum of 25kg pressure should be applied to a memorial stone.

41/20-21 Approval the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 11th June 2020

42/20-21 Reports:

a) CCC representative: None received.

b) ECDC representative - Cllr Charlotte Cane (CC) reporting. A report was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Key points: £150,000.00 was approved from CiL funding for road improvements. At the next ECDC meeting of 16th July there will be a financial update from East Cambridgeshire Trading Company (ECTC) which has warned it may not be able to repay its £1million loan to ECDC when due, asked for a 2 year extension and reduced interest rate. At present it is 18 months behind on building plans due to COVID.

43/20-21 Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only): None.

44/20-21 Correspondence for consideration/circulation: a) Email from S French responding to questions raised during the presentation re the Heating Scheme. b) Email from P and S Northrop raising concerns about the proposed Heating Scheme layout. c) Email from C Turner regarding overgrown footpaths and damage to electrical box (see

49/20-21 and 51/20-21).

45/20-21 Consideration of planning applications received: 1) 20/00556/FUL 8 Tothill Road, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0JX Proposed extension and alteration to existing bungalow.

46/20-21 Accounts for payment

47/20-21 To review the use of BACs for payments by the PC: Approved

48/20-21 To discuss the Speed Indicator Device (SID) repairs. SKP reported that when the SID was on the High Street near the play area, the plastic over the camera lens was scratched; while it was deployed on the B1102 complaints were received that it was not working. SID to be checked over and if repairs cost less than £100.00 to go ahead and with anti-scratch plastic quoted for.

49/20-21 To discuss the claim of damage to an electrical box by CGM. DG shared pictures of the damaged electrical box and outlined the contents of the email received by the Clerk regarding alleged damage to the electrical box by CGM during grass-cutting. DG had inspected the box and reported back to the PC by email. DG noted that the damage was not recent, as shown by the ivy growing through the box and that it was unlikely that the vegetation on the bank had been cut for a very long time. DG also questioned if the box was within the curtilage of the house. DG thought it unlikely that CGM had caused the damage. PL asked if any proof had been provided that the damage was due to CGM? The PC agreed that a letter should be written to find out.

50/20-21 To discuss the carrying out of the safety check on graves in the cemetery: SG stated that there had not been suitable public notification prior to the carrying out of the safety or 'wobble' test of the cemetery memorial stones and that she did not consider those who had carried out the task to be suitably qualified. SG asserted that the failure of the seal between the cement plinth and the marble stone on the grave for which she co-owned the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial was due to excessive pressure used which she believed would not have happened if the testers had had e.g. a relevant City and Guilds qualification. SG stated the stonemasons that erected the stone in question had listed four reasons why the seal may fail, of which SG believed force to be the right one and that an independent stonemason she had invited to look at the stone also blamed force. AD quoted the Institute of Cemetery and Crematoria Management guidance for Management of Memorials (August 2019) that cement joints when properly fixed should withstand up to 25kg of pressure and if they fail, would be the responsibility of the memorial mason. AD also noted that modern graves 'can' be left untested, not 'must' in the Ministry of Justice guidance. AD stated that less than 25kg of pressure was applied to each memorial stone. PL noted that gravestones are a sensitive area and the process of testing therefore needs careful consideration.

The PC discussed the lack of clear information as to what qualifications were needed for the tester to be suitably qualified. SG asked the Clerk for details of the cemetery training attended - the Clerk confirmed that it had taken place in a classroom, not a cemetery and that the Clerk had felt able to carry out the tests competently following the training. The Clerk noted that during the testing, no problem had been noted with the Frost gravestone. It was agreed that the regulations needed changing to incorporate more sensitivity towards the memorials and their owners, for example by pre-publicising tests so that owners are aware and can attend if they so desire.

51/20-21 To decide the PC's response to vegetation overgrowing paths through the village: PH reported that after the complaint from Mr Turner regarding the footpath

running from Mill Hill to Cage Hill, he had walked along the footpath and the top third was pretty clear, the middle needed some brambles removing and the bottom third was narrow but passable. The Clerk asked how wide a path was wanted and PH replied that ideally two people should be able to walk side by side, but that not many country paths enabled this. PH also noted that the footpath behind the school was very overgrown and that this was an annual problem and as such the PC should have a general policy to deal with it. AC noted overgrown hedges opposite the Beeches. DG suggested putting a friendly reminder in the Crier for people to trim back overgrown vegetation.

52/20-21 Clerk's Report: a) The safety tests in the cemetery had been carried out as requested; b) ETS had carried out the tree removal as agreed; c) The Clerk asked if the playground was to be reopened in light of the new government relaxing of restrictions. Documents pertaining to what was required to be in place for the safe reopening of playgrounds had been circulated by email prior to the meeting. DG had carried out a risk assessment on the playground and recommended not reopening. PL asked the legal position of the PC regarding the playground. DG said the PC was responsible for preventing transmission of COVID 19. The requirements for safe reopening (such as cleaning regimes, numbers using equipment limited, bans on food and drink, booking systems) were discussed and the decision was reached that the playground should remain closed at present; d) Wicken PC had supplied their email guaranteeing that they would maintain the gate at the edge of Upware and had been sent an email of support; e) The village hall had been booked for the Annual Village Assembly; f) Mr Stocks had been contacted to say that he could remove the ash tree overhanging his garden and the tree had now gone; g) The fly-tipping had been reported as requested and had now been collected.

53/20-21 Parish Councillors' Reports:

- a) SKP made the PC aware that an email had been received from the Newmarket Clerk noting travellers were parked up in Newmarket.
- b) SG noted a white horsebox had been parked up overnight in the Village Hall car park, although it had caused no damage or problems.
- c) AC noted that the proposed 3m wide cycle track between Swaffham Prior and Burwell would have to go on verges that are not wide enough. SKP commented that these were proposals for discussion only.

The meeting ended at 9:25pm.

54/20-21 Open Question Time: Michael Limb commented that the shower tray dumped in the drainage ditch beside the Burwell Tigers' field gate had been removed, but that the ditch was now very overgrown and may need clearing of vegetation. He also noted that hedge trimming may have to wait until the end of nesting season.

Business concluded at 9:27pm.

Overgrown Paths

Can householders whose properties are next to footpaths and roads please make sure that hedges and vegetation are trimmed back so as not to obstruct walkers or lines of sight. Thanks in advance from the Parish Council.

Clerk to the Swaffham Prior Parish Council

Dates for Your Diary September 2020

Wed	2	Book Club [39], 8pm
Fri	4	Deadline for comments on the Heat Supply Agreement [30]
Thu	10	PC Meeting, 8pm
Thu	17	Flu Clinic, Bottisham Surgery [35]
Sun	20	Crier Copy Deadline
Thu	24	Flu Clinic, Bottisham Surgery [35]
Fri	25	Macmillan Coffee Morning, 10.30am - 12 noon, The Oaks, Manor Farm Court [2, 10]
Sat	26	Harvest Supper at Home [14]
October		
Thu	8	Deadline for signing up for house survey for heating project [28]

*Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article.
Unless noted otherwise, meetings are on-line.*

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

The date and place are when and where the club meets in normal, non-COVID times. Except where otherwise noted in the Diary above, most clubs are not yet meeting again.

IT WAS THE *CRIER* WOT DONE IT

“Public Health England - Otherwise known as a Useless, Bloated, Self-Serving Quango.” *Crier* May 2020

“PUBLIC Health England will be scrapped and replaced with a new body following the Covid crisis, Matt Hancock announced” The Sun 18 Aug 2020