



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIV Number 6

June/July 2020



Editorial

Late again I'm afraid. Caroline, our Editor in Chief, is off sick - not Covid or anything else life-threatening but enough to for her not to be able to finish off this edition of the **Crier**. The rest of the **Crier** team have put together this best effort edition without her, prioritising speed over perfection so that not too much of it is out of date before it reaches you! If anyone sent us copy which we've missed and it could still be published next time, please send us an email reminding us to include it. If it's too late to publish it, sorry!

Fortunately Caroline had done a lot of prompting people for copy before she fell ill so there is no lack of excellent material from contributors old and new. Where we've not been able to be so effective is in following up regular contributors we've not heard from - apologies to them and their regular readers. We do however have at least one new and very welcome contributor, Emily Thomas, who is a vet living in the village and offers her patients' perspective on Covid.

We've not generated much copy ourselves and the advice on dealing with Covid which Caroline has been collating, and which I know a lot of people have found helpful, is an area which has very noticeably suffered because of this; though fortunately we do have Dr Manning's article on the medical aspects. There is also continuing evidence of people helping one another in the village and, as the Scovils note in their letter "Lockdown Bonuses", this has been one positive from the whole Covid business.

The heating project is a major topic this time with a number of letters questioning various aspects of the project as well as news from the project team including of funding which will enable the project to go ahead. We've not had time to pass on the concerns expressed in the letters to the project team for their comments but we will return to the topic in the next edition and in the meantime we will put anything urgent on our website at <https://www.swaffham-crier.co.uk/Archive/2019/June/extra>. Further views on the project, for and against, would be very welcome as I'm sure that a lot of us are still undecided and would welcome others' thoughts. As Steve Kent-Phillips points out, even those not intending to join the system will be affected by it being installed.

In these uncertain times, it is hard to be certain about anything but it is likely that we will publish the customary combined August/September edition in early August so please get copy to us by **Sunday 16 August (updated)**. If you need a few more days, please let us know as we may well be a bit later again!

James Matheson

Cover Picture: *Cheer Up. It Won't Last for Ever* by Heidi B.



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

The Macmillan Coffee Morning, Friday 25th September, 2020

I have only recently heard from Macmillan Coffee Morning organisers. I'm determined to try and do something, with social distancing, of course! I'm working on providing a different, but enjoyable, occasion although it may be weather dependent! I'm aiming to provide coffee and possibly a cake stall and a raffle with a difference. Macmillan have seen their income drop dramatically so I would really like to see what we can do to raise some money and help this very vital charity.

So please keep the date **Friday 25th September** free and I will hope to be able to give you more details in the next Crier.

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors

VE Day Teas

I'm sure you've had lots of letters to say thanks to Janet Willmott, for her lovely "tea bags" she filled and delivered, to all the locked down oldies, on VE Day. Very much appreciated.

Margaret Joyce.

Dear Editors,

Clapping for Carers

On the evening of Thursday 7th May we had Clap for Carers and, just as it finished, we were treated to the most beautiful rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow, played on the trumpet by Seb Parton in Lower End. It was very moving for us all and gave us hope that we will emerge from this lockdown one day. A big thank you from everyone who heard it.

Ruth and Robin Scovil

Eds note: Apologies, we accidentally missed this out from the last edition so it's slightly old news but no less worth including.

Dear Editors,

Identified Flying Object?

I was cycling 2 days ago (19 May) with my father on the track between Station Road and White Fen (towards Lode) c4.30pm. We saw an Apache Helicopter flying low over the trees slightly to the North (c400m away?). I'm sure it was an Apache because of the distinctive avionics turret over the main rotor.

Have there been any other sightings? We live on the high street and just heard a very loud helicopter (c9.50pm) which is odd. Perhaps this is related.

Regards,

James Pattinson

Dear Editors,

Lockdown Bonuses

We just wanted to say how much we've appreciated all the kindness of our neighbours and friendliness of everybody we've met on our regular daily walks. We've met new people and some we haven't seen for a long time but they have emerged, like us, from their homes for daily exercise! We've enjoyed treats of home made cakes, still warm from the oven, shared shopping deliveries and collections of goods from shops in the early days.

Now that lockdown is beginning to ease and we are getting a little braver about venturing beyond Snakehall Farm shop we are looking forward to continuing chats across the street and, in time, at a closer distance, and even in our homes!

In the meantime, thank you for all the kindness that has been shown in the village during this time. Long may it continue!

Ruth and Robin Scovil

Heating Swaffham Prior

Starting with the letters, followed by news from the project team ...

Dear Editors,

The Heating Scheme – Will you be better off?

You go into a show room and the car salesman rocks up and says:

“Hey man buy this car, it goes faster than the one you’ve got, it uses less fuel, it has great technology and is all round better than any other car you can possibly buy. Your neighbours say it’s great and are signing up for one in huge numbers, buy while you still can!”

So you ask the salesman:

“How fast does it go?” I don’t know yet we haven’t quite worked it out”

“How much fuel does it use?” “I’m not sure – but I know that it uses 100%”

“How many of my neighbours have bought one?” “Many have well...expressed an interest”

“What is the deal, how much will it cost?” – “it’s kind of free but there will be a charge, it is cheaper than oil, I know, I know the price has gone down.....Just sign here!!!!”

Having listened, you scratch your chin and say “Excellent I’ll have two of those please”. I don’t think so!

So will the Heating Scheme make you better off - what do we know?

The implementation cost is free but all houses will be surveyed to assess what additional alterations are needed to ensure that the system operates to maximum effectiveness

The cost of the survey and the additional alterations required are as yet unknown – grants are available but you will have to apply for these

The charge for the service (service charge) is as yet unknown

The cost of consumption (heating expenses) is as yet unknown
The maintenance of the heating scheme (potential increases to the service charge) is as yet unknown
The cost of replacing dual systems is as yet unknown (for example systems based on propane gas or electricity, heat, light and cook; this system heats, therefore you will need to factor in the cost of cooking and lighting on top)
The price of oil has gone down – BP has cut the predicted price of Brent Crude from \$70 per barrel to \$55 until 2050 wiping \$17.5bn of its potential assets. Surely this must invalidate the current cost saving comparison – narrowing and potentially reversing any cost saving that the Heating Scheme has over Oil. What does this do for fuel poverty?

You will be signing up to a scheme that will cost you to leave

The cost to leave is as yet unknown – it will comprise the removal of specialist equipment from your house but ... will they leave the pipework on your property in case a future owner wants to join, exposing you to future leaks?
If not how much will it cost to excavate and remove the pipes?
The contract that you are required to sign is as yet unknown.

Paul Latchford

Eds note: Paul also questions whether the project makes a carbon saving if all the carbon emissions of constructing, operating and maintaining the heating scheme are taken into account. As far as he knows, this figure has never been published.

See <https://www.swaffham-crier.co.uk/Archive/2019/June/extra>

Dear Editors

DON'T BLAME US

As the latest leaflet from the Heating Project clearly shows, the network will be installed by digging a one metre trench up the centre of the B1102 from Cage Hill to Rogers Road, Cage Hill, Greenhead Road, Adams Road, Tothill Road, Fairview Grove, Lower End, and of course the length of the High Street. In addition, there are to be major T junctions at both ends of Cage Hill in the centre of the road (yes, in the centre of the B1102). The CCC representative has confirmed this plan (the eighth version, apparently) to the Parish Council (please see the Clerk's excellent notes). It would appear that after eight goes, the best the experts can come up with is to dig up and ruin nearly every road in the village.

If you have signed up for the scheme and find yourself unable to get to work, to the school, pub or Village Hall, or even leave your driveway (should you have one) or even your housing estate, please do not complain to the Parish Council as you are directly responsible for the weeks of chaos this will cause. Likewise, if you have not signed up for the scheme, please do not complain to the Parish Council but instead go and knock on the door of someone who has.

Steve Kent-Phillips

Dear Editors

Heating Swaffham Prior

Well, Janet Hall has certainly cut me down to size. And how well she does it. I had not realised that the 166 houses had actually signed up to the project. That is very very good news indeed. I had incorrectly assumed that this number had just expressed an interest for a whole variety of reasons, including signing up. Perhaps it is my misfortune to know so many “Luddites”, or just the curious.

Janet points me to the “hard facts” in the April Newsletter, and this states that 59% of the High Street has signed up. There are 61 houses in the High Street (excluding institutions) and 59% of these means that 36 houses in the High Street have actually signed up to the scheme. All I can say is “Wow!”

No doubt I will be put right on another concern of mine. The cost of the project has recently doubled to £7million which means that over £43,000 is being spent for each house. Has the CCC calculated how much it is going to cost to convert every Cambridge village with only half the houses being converted? It should make an interesting sum. Perhaps Janet will advise.

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editors,

NO LONGER A COMMUNITY HEAT SCHEME ?

It has been confirmed that the Swaffham Prior Community Heat Scheme is to be completely run by Cambridgeshire County Council with minimal input from the CLT and no input from the CLT whatsoever over the distribution network. It has also been confirmed that any profits will go to the CCC to repay millions of loans they are taking out and none of it will be seen by the village. Given the CCC’s excellent record over the years (guided bus, park and ride, rural bus services) and vast previous experience of providing a heat scheme to a rural retrofit that has never been done in the UK, what could possibly go wrong ?

But if, by some random mischance, something does occur, how will people who have signed up heat their homes, as they will have signed up to a monopoly with no alternative supplier ?

Also, knowing how the CCC operates, what if the CCC decide one year to simply triple their prices, citing “unforeseen costs” and “budget constraints” or some such nonsense ? Surely they wouldn’t !!

Steve Kent-Phillips

Heating Swaffham Prior - June News

Thank you to everyone in the village who has provided feedback on the heating network and renewable energy centre planning application to be made for the project in July. We received a few very detailed questions on the network design, the approach to construction, and how individual homes will be connected. I hope this letter solves some of those mysteries:

Your home will not be connected to the network unless you have signed up!

The network has been designed so that all homes can join the network in the future, if you choose to do so. The network will not travel through your property, unless you have signed a contract to receive heating. Valves will be installed within the street pipe-network, to make these connections possible in the future.

When will my house be surveyed? Houses will not be surveyed until planning permission is received for the project. This should take place from October 2020; we will contact those who have expressed an interest in the scheme to make individual arrangements.

Will the pipes go through my garden as shown in the network plan? The detailed survey to be carried out from October onward will determine the final location of pipes within your garden, pavement, or street as most appropriate. The plan shown is an 'outline' design, a highly detailed version will be published when expert contractors are appointed to the project in October and carryout individual household surveys.

The project has also received some comments from residents of Mill Hill facing onto the field and energy centre. A request has been made that further consideration be given to maintaining the open-view line over fields and that the evergreen planting to be installed for the energy centre and solar array will not compromise this. The project board discussed these issues with design consultants on June 25th and are awaiting information from an acoustic survey and a landscape impact commissioned to evaluate the visual impact from a Mill Hill perspective specifically. We will continue to engage with the residents of Mill Hill and Heath Road, to ensure that the best solutions to design, construction and long-term energy centre traffic (which should be minimal) is found.

The planning application is on track for submission in early July, we hope to know in October 2020 if planning permission has been received and if the project can then progress to the next stage. The Heating Swaffham Prior Team will continue to work with Swaffham Prior Parish Council over the next few months to guide the project forward, we had a productive meeting in June highlighting some of village concerns about resilience, construction, and the carbon-saving credentials of the project. A separate note to the Parish Council responding to these items has been prepared and will be published shortly.

Finally, a note to all households who have expressed their interest in joining the network. A draft version of the contracts and tariff will be made available to all households from July and remain open for comment until September 2020. This document should answer any queries that you have about insurance, guarantees and of course, energy costs.

As always, any further queries, please send to info@heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk. We will endeavour to send individual responses ASAP, but please be aware that this is a busy period for the project team!

Latest on Funding

The Heating Swaffham Prior Project applied for grant funding from Heat Network Investment Project (HNIP) in April 2020. We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the full sum requested of £2,146,000 of which £1,791,000 to be used for the construction of the heat network and the remaining for the commercialisation of the project. The HNIP funding grant is supported by the government (via the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Department). The project has been closely monitored by a number of government departments for the last two years. Our application was also independently validated by energy experts and other government bodies who are leading in their field on both technical and financial modelling. This is fantastic news not just for Swaffham Prior but also gives confidence to the market that the model developed here can be replicated for others and will now be used as a template for other on-oil communities.

We are delighted with this news which enables the project to be delivered once planning permission is granted.

The Heating Swaffham Prior Team

Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust – Homes to Rent

It's been five years since we last advertised our eight homes to rent on Rogers Road. They are a mixture of two and three bed properties with off-road parking and gardens. Under the terms of the CLT we need to ensure that we meet the housing need in the village (and nearby villages if there is no need in Swaffham Prior) every five years.

We are now open to applications for five-year tenancies starting in **March 2021**. Existing tenants are also invited to re-apply for a property as part of this process however all new tenancies will be awarded in line with the allocations criteria.

If you are interested in applying for a home, please download the form and allocations criteria from the village website www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/CLT.html or email emmalindseyfletcher@gmail.com for the forms to be sent to you.

Applications are to be submitted **hard copy** through the letterbox at 50 High Street, Swaffham Prior (yellow house, grey door opposite the churches) by **31st August 2020**. Allocations will be completed by the end of September 2020.

Rents will be calculated in March 2021 however the maximum rents will be two bed £640/month and three bed £750/month.



Emma Fletcher

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

As I no longer witness PC meetings the following is a merger of May and June from the various pieces of information I can gather.

Firstly, the PC must be congratulated for its excellent work on the Village Hall Driveway. Worth every penny. And what a joy it is to behold. I strolled down it one day, saw the improved entrance for wheel chairs (in time we may all need one) and the tidied up car park, this last being provided by Martin Mead at no cost. A good man Martin. And to complete the pastoral scene a lovely unsheared large sheep was at the end contentedly munching away. She stopped eating, looked up at me, and appeared to smile. The least I could do was to say "Hello". She smiled again, I think.



ECDC had extended to 31st May the completion date for the bus, cycling and walking route questionnaire. I don't walk far, do not cycle, and only need a difficult irregular cross country bus, apart from Park and Ride. I think to complete the form on behalf of other peoples needs could be misleading and therefore will not complete it – apart from which I lost it. One additional useful question may be "How often and when would you use your suggestions?" I wonder how current cyclists would feel if 30% of car drivers during the rush hour suddenly began to cycle. And throw in e-scooters which will soon be approved. Meanwhile we received a CCC 12 page Ipsis Mori Questionnaire about improving local streets, roads and cycling. One is going to feel quite dizzy after completing this. There are 170 questions, with 6 possible answers for each, a number of general questions, a range of 8 age groups, and 18 (yes, eighteen) possible personal identities. What a joy someone is going to have teasing out all the various opinions which may have been expressed and which will be presented as "facts".

If one of the purposes of these questionnaires is to ease the traffic problem in Cambridge then the best solution surely would be a "Congestion Charge". And stop building new houses. For example three thousand being put up in Newmarket Road. Oh dear, who would want to be making the decisions? It is so easy to criticise. We should all follow the example of our very own Andrew Grant who cycled more than 1,000 miles in May. So, pump up those tyres, put the car keys into a drawer, and get out onto the road.

Again there was no report from Josh Schumann, not even an end of year one. The disappointing thing is that no-one appears to care, as if the CCC to which we pay most of our rates is of no concern. Does he report to anyone about CCC matters, or even on ECDC matters for those he represents. We are lucky having Charlotte Cane and John Trapp as our EDCD representatives.

The village has also just received a packet of further information on 'Heating Swaffham Prior' with the request to give all feedback by 22 June. And at the June PC meeting Sheryl French and Janet Hall gave a Project Overview to the PC. There is no doubt about the dedication and hard work of the team and they must be congratulated. But first you must read read the first 4 pages of Jude's excellent

minutes. Here you will find Paul's and Steve's many important questions which Sheryl French and Janet Hall answered with gusto, and honesty. Now it is up to the PEOPLE of Swaffham Prior. You don't have long to make a decision. Those "signed-up" households will have a "Household Contract Workshop" and also a "House Connection Workshop" during the Summer. Dally no longer and sign up firm

The toddler swing sets will be replaced and these will be replaced at a cost of £90 each. Many mothers will be relieved. Also the climbing frame and net may be reaching the end of its usable life and there will be discussions about how/if to replace it. This is not urgent but just sensible planning ahead..

An Allotment Issue has arisen because the current Garden Allotment Plot rules say that no-one may have two plots. But one person does have two plots. And there is one person waiting for a plot. The previous Allotment Saga aroused tremendous interest in the village. Will this do the same? Will it attract the same attention? Paul is investigating and will report back.

Let me end with some news which may be of interest to anyone who eats food. At one time Jonathan Safran Foer was concerned that he could not understand why people eat some animals and not others. So he spent a long time researching this, and in 2020 published a book called "Eating Animals". The *Times Literary Supplement* reviewed it and called it "One of the finest books on the subject". I am fortunate to know where you can buy copies of this 341 page book for just £7.95, with a delivery charge of £4.95. You can have extra copies for just £1 extra for delivery. So the village could club together maybe. If anyone is interested please let me know.

Alastair Everitt



There has been a reluctance by Swaffham Prior school to start this zoom chat link up. Why?

Sue Wade

I don't KNOW, but I can guess. It's probably a safeguarding issue, because zoom is notoriously insecure.

Uninvited people can get in and it's not clear how zoom use the data which they collect. I think they use Microsoft Teams for lessons anyway.

Charlotte Cane

JULIE'S SUMMER RECIPES

JAMAICAN JERKED CHICKEN

25g allspice berries
5cm cinnamon stick
1 tsp finely grated nutmeg
1 fresh chilli, seeded and finely chopped
4 spring onions, thinly chopped
1 bay leaf crumbled
Salt and freshly ground pepper
1 tbsp dark rum
6 chicken fillets

1, Make the jerked seasoning, pound all the dry spices together in a mortar or grind them in an electric grinder.

Add the chilli, spring onions, bay leaf and seasoning to the mix and continue pounding to a thick paste.

2, Stir the rum into the paste and mix well. Slash the chicken on the side 2 or 3 times and rub the jerked seasoning paste all over the chicken. Cover and leave in the fridge for a couple of hours.

3. When the chicken has marinated then cook in the oven at 200c for 30 mins.

PINEAPPLE AND MINT SALSA

1 small pineapple
1 red chilli deseeded and very finely chopped
2 spring onions, green part only finely chopped
4 tbsp chopped mint leaves
Juice of 1 lime
1 ½ tsp caster sugar

1, Peel the pineapple, remove the core and cut into small chunks.

2, Mix with all the other ingredients and leave in the fridge for a hour or so for the flavours to meld.

MANGO FOOL

6 mangoes
125g sugar
Juice of ½ lime
150ml water
1 egg
150ml milk
125ml double cream

1. Peel the mangoes and cut into small pieces, place in a saucepan with the sugar, lime juice and water. Simmer over a low heat until soft.

2. Push the mango through a sieve, and then beat the puree until smooth. Cover and set aside to cool.
3. In a separate bowl, break the egg and beat lightly, heat the milk in a pan to scalding point and then beat in the egg. Return to a very low heat until custard thickens, making sure not to boil.
4. Leave the custard to cool, stir in the mango puree and the cream, Do not blend thoroughly as the fool should look streaky. Pour into glasses and chill before serving.

Pets and Pandemics!

As the country eases out of lockdown, veterinary practices are also adjusting to the new normal. Our pets are more important than ever to us, and we vets are doing our utmost to keep them healthy whilst keeping our clients, and ourselves, safe.

Despite some scare stories in the press, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons confirms that there is currently no evidence of COVID-19 circulating in pets in the UK and nothing to suggest that pets might transmit the disease to humans. However, pets could act as fomite (carrier) of the virus on their fur for short periods in the same way that other surfaces can carry the virus from one place to another. Therefore, in line with the general advice on COVID-19, you should wash your hands regularly including before and after you come into contact with animals and pets. If you are ill with COVID-19, you should limit close contact with your pet.

If you are concerned about your pet, or they are due routine healthcare, please call your veterinary practice for advice. Wherever possible, advice will be given over the telephone and in some cases, we may even be able to prescribe medication without seeing your pet. If your pet needs to be seen, please bear with us while we try to adhere to social distancing guidelines. You may be asked to wait outside while your pet is examined separately. As pet owners ourselves, we understand just how

stressful this can be, but please rest assured that vets and vet nurses are doing everything in their power to ensure that your pet's visit is as comfortable and stress-free as it can be. Please check your own veterinary practice's website or call them for more information on how they are working within government guidelines.

As we move into hotter weather, keep an eye out for some of the summer hazards your pet may encounter. Heat stroke is common in dogs and can be lethal. Dogs should never be left unattended in cars, but heat stroke can also occur after strenuous exercise on a hot day, particularly in short-nosed breeds like French Bulldogs. Dogs seem to be as attracted to shiny things as magpies are, particularly if they have food on



them: fish-hooks and barbecue skewers are two summer examples of things they eat that they shouldn't. Cats have an increased risk of exposure to poisons at this time of year including lilies (any part of the plant including pollen), antifreeze in engine coolant, and insecticides. Please phone your vet if you have any concerns.

Finally, a quick warning about an unexpected lockdown related health hazard. Some of my colleagues have reported an increase in patients with lacerations from home grooming. Cats and dogs have much looser skin than humans, and it's surprisingly easy to cause serious lacerations by trimming their fur with scissors. If you can leave them with lockdown hair (like us poor humans!) or invest in a pair of quiet clippers, this might be safer.

Despite the doom and gloom above, most pets will be at their happiest and healthiest during the summer and I very much hope you are all able to enjoy basking in the lovely weather with them!

Emily Thomas

Shout out for Newspaper for the Hogs



Baby hog called Sweet Pea

Baby hog season is currently in full swing and I find myself getting through a fair few newspapers each day to use as bedding for some of the hogs in my care. I use about 5 papers per day per hog for fresh bedding. If you have any unwanted newspapers or get a daily paper and could collect until you had a pile to bring us- it would be very much appreciated by the hogs. Please leave any papers outside the front door of number 32 green head road. Also any donations of cat food during the next few months would be super as growing hogs eat a lot. This needs to be jelly based or terrine style meat based food, not in gravy or fish based please.

Saffra Monteiro

BON MOT NUMBER 108

“Natural ability without education has more often attained to glory and virtue than education without natural ability.”

Cicero (106 – 43BC)

#openwindows2020

Let art lead the way! This July, over 140 artists are taking part in Cambridge Open Windows.

Every weekend in July, local artists will be displaying their work in their windows and gardens across Cambridgeshire. This is a creative response to the restrictions of Lockdown and social distancing which mean the well-loved annual Cambridge Open Studios summer event will not go ahead this year.

Look out for Art near you!

Every weekend, Artists in Swaffham Prior will be displaying work for you to enjoy as you walk or cycle past. (For a start, take a look along Mill Hill and along the Two Churches public footpath behind High Street) Artists in surrounding villages (including Lode & Bottisham) are also taking part.

Check out the website, watch the video & download the maps.

[#COSart2020](#) [#neighbourhoodwalks](#) [#art](#) [#doingitdifferently](#)
www.camopenstudios.co.uk/open-windows

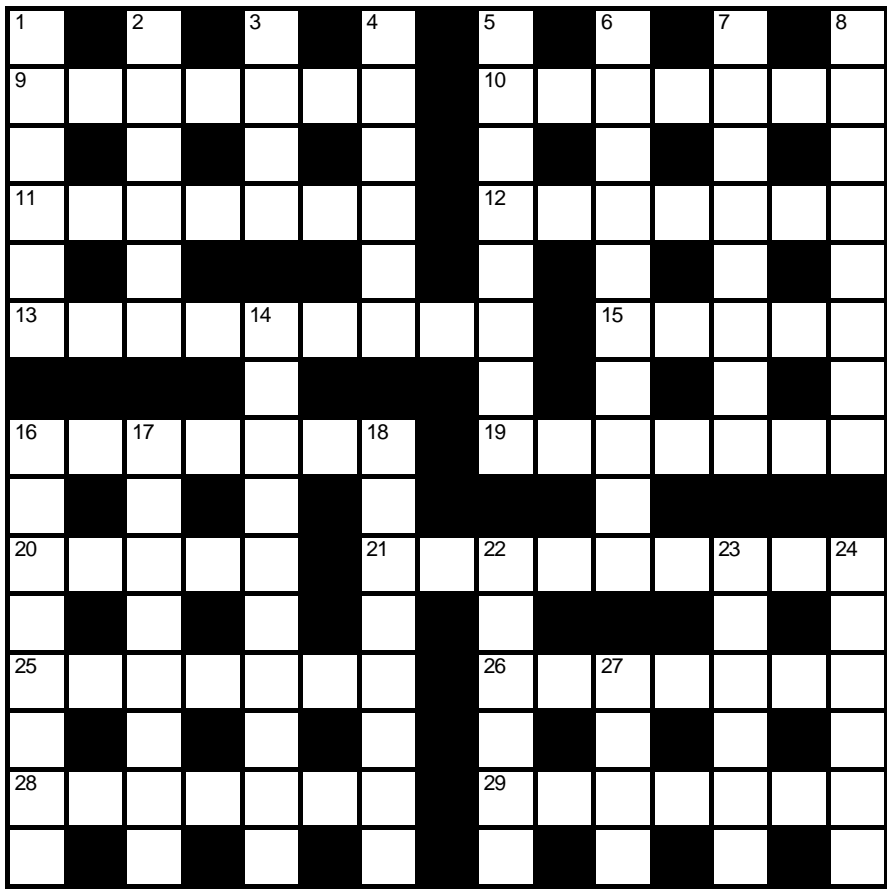
Celia Tyler



Crossword Number 176

Compiled by **BYWELL**

'*' clues have no definition but answers are thematic. Send your answers to the editors by 1 August 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

- 9 Re-ordering for poet, so I say 'deuterium' (7)
- 10 Soldiers not drinking? That's Roundhead showing more signs of wear (7)
- 11 Message with black and silver letters (7)
- 12 Free composition of Elgar after adults-only Tango (2,5)
- 13 To be practical, next revolution must include exercise with random number generator (9)
- 15 Fabric is new only after recycling (5)
- 16 White musical recordings made on trailers (7)
- 19 Revision of process remains (7)
- 20 In January, UN oddly disregarded this island (5)
- 21 Cheesy play based on Edam and moral turpitude (9)
- 25 No cacti disturbed or heard here in France (7)
- 26 * Representing all of A. A. Milne's characters (7)
- 28 Brushes off minerals after a gin cocktail (7)
- 29 Cannot make a child step round the queen (7)

Down

- 1 * Succumb for lack of this? (6)
- 2 So pigs can fly and chew the fat (6)
- 3 See 17
- 4 Result of mosquitoes flying in Golden Guernsey? (6)
- 5 * Hollander's central appearance in 'Room at the Top' (8)

- 6 * Violin case for a heavyweight and a lightweight (10)
- 7 Teacher without principle runs things badly (8)
- 8 * Another composition for Andersen (8)
- 14 * To be first person born in pieces of cloth (10)
- 16 Fluid: main fluid of the ear (8)
- 17/3 * Like some Czechs on the radio to be a failure (8,4)
- 18 Lack of feeling, snubs men by mistake (8)
- 22 To go between parties held by Delia is exhilarating (6)
- 23 Ancient disco is oddly acid (6)
- 24 * On the edge of a navy suit (6)
- 27 Wean off all over again (4)

Solution to crossword no. 175

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

We congratulate Martyn & Debbie Clark, the winners of last month's competition, who will receive their prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Sue Jackson, Robert Nunn and Sue Richards.

The Presence at the Pub

Emma: then we've got the spirit...

Dean: so we'd only just moved in -

Emma: the first thing we found, was a knife in the bar. A steak knife, behind the bar, in the middle of the floor. No-one goes in there at night. Whatsoever.

D: where I would normally stand and serve, the knife was on the floor. It's normally underneath tea towels, on a shelf. Below the till I have a stack of tea towels. I keep a steak knife under there because I have to go down to the cellar to open boxes and things, so I use that. No-one would see it underneath the tea towels.

E: then the next night was a smashed wine glass in the middle of the floor, same place, right in the middle.

D: behind the bar again. I didn't think anything of it, I just think, the fridge is next to the wine glasses, it might have been vibrating, and it might have slowly come off.

E: but then I started finding pebbles. In weird places, in weird corners. I'm hoo-vering, and I pick them up.

D: and you kept questioning me, didn't you?

E: I kept saying to him, why do you keep leaving pebbles around, in random places. I keep picking them up, and later they're there again. He says oh no, it's not me, it's not me. I even found one in the fridge the other day!

D: I was with you then.

E: no, there was another one. I put my hand in and I showed him. All the same sort of size, little pebbles.

D: and then we sat down to eat last night, and there was a pebble, in the snug side, on a chair. So just said, put that with your collection!

E: I've also heard whispers when I'm in the kitchen on my own at night, someone whispering. I've also taken a picture:

D: And the mirror fell off.

E: From the wall in the entrance as you go in at the back. Near the bar. It's been on the wall for years probably.

D: the glass didn't break, the frame did, and it fell onto a tiled floor!

E: I took pictures, because I found a whisky glass in the fridge. I thought someone was having a sneaky glass of whisky...not telling me about it! And I checked them before I was going to send it, and then I looked back, and it was all smoky. And then I took it again and it was fine.

D: it was out of the dishwasher! I took it out and put it in the fridge, and I fancied a whisky later on, I just put it there to cool the glass down, Emma took a picture of it to send to her friend who's a landlady in Newmarket to say look, he's hiding his whisky, I found it!



E: And I've heard footsteps, people walking in the hallway upstairs in the middle of the night. Someone did say there's something here..

D: yes, one afternoon I had a guy come in, when we were open, and he said, have you seen the presence, or met the presence? And I started laughing, and I said, no, but I think Emma has. and he said, there is one here. And I was like nah, okay whatever.

E: and you said to him about the pebbles, and he said oh yes, that will be it. Dean: And he said if you want to get rid of it, I know a person who can do that. I said nah, it's all right.

E: Seems quite friendly, keeps playing jokes on us I think. No way the kids could do that. You can hardly get them out of their bedrooms. When it first started happening they weren't actually here, the smashed glass and everything, before we got shut, that first week.

D: It's funny how you see things and find things and I don't...you find pebbles in the kitchen and things...

E: but I've found pebbles upstairs as well. I kept some of them. The first few I discarded. Someone we dropped a veg box to...said their great grandparents used to run this pub...someone did pass away in the pub...there's definitely someone there though. well I think so!

D: at least we've got one customer! (Laughs...)



**Strawberry Teas
- delivered to your
door!**

Sunday 19 July

Orders, delivery details and payment
in advance please

£5.50 adult/£3 children

Kate: 01638 743983
Dee: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

In aid of St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Our popular Strawberry Teas
cannot go ahead as usual this
year, but in conjunction with
the Pop-up Teashop, we are
delighted to offer a delivery
service to bring summery
delights to your door.
Please book without delay -
numbers limited!

Robin Mathieson on his father

Robin Mathieson, resident of this village, had a very distinguished father Robert Mathieson DSO who died in the liberation of Sicily, tragically before Robin was old enough to have memories of him. Extracts of some of his letters home were however published at the time in The Falkirk Herald. Part of one of those letters is transcribed below. The rest and a second letter will follow in the next issue!
Mark Lewinski

Robin writes: My father fought in two major battles in North Africa. The first was the second battle of El Alamein in November 1942 which is the subject of his



Plate 9. Lieut-Col. R. Mathieson, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D.

letters printed in the Falkirk Herald; and the second was the decisive battle of Wadi Akarat in Tunisia in April 1943 which finally drove Rommel out of North Africa. After the El Alamein battle Churchill made his famous speech about the end of the beginning.

He joined the Territorial Army in 1922. The peacetime TA was a bit of fun then. One night training per week, camaraderie, a camp once a year with more proper training, dances with the wives, lots of socialising, dinners and so forth. Then when Hitler came to power it suddenly got serious and the whole ethos changed. It suddenly became very serious from 1935 onwards.

The 7th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders were part of the 51st Highland Division and in turn were an important cog in Montgomery's 8th Army. My father was second in command of the 7th Argylls in both of these actions and was awarded both the military OBE and also the DSO. The citation for the latter also appeared in the Falkirk Herald. His Commanding Officer was Lt Colonel (later Brigadier) Lorne Campbell who was awarded the VC for his part. I have letters from him to my mother after my father's death.

My father was promoted to take command of the Regiment before the move to Sicily. Sadly it was short lived as he was killed in Gerbini at the start of the campaign. The Times of August 1943 had an obituary which read "By the death in action in Sicily of Lieutenant Colonel Roy Mathieson of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the division will be poorer for the loss of a kind and gallant gentleman. As a boy at Edinburgh Academy and subsequently as a businessman, Territorial Officer, tennis player and golfer, Roy made hosts of friends and no enemies. Commissioned in the Argylls in 1922, he was a major at the beginning of the present war and was promoted just 2 months ago. He was one of the most popular officers his battalion ever had."

My mother, was greeted by a friend who had a husband in the same regiment "Annie, so sorry to hear about Roy." She had heard nothing about it and in spite of

trying to find out whether it was true or not did not get confirmation until the dreaded telegram arrived. One of my first memories without fully understanding as I was two months short of four years old, was the day that telegram arrived.

My family suffered greatly in the war. My father's younger brother was captured at St Valery and spent the next 5 years in German prison camps. He was 13 years younger than my father so lost a really important part of his youth. Their cousin and my father's best friend Bob got fingers of his right hand shot off, and another cousin Harley was killed in Germany in the last months of the war. Bob returned to civilian life minus fingers but still managed a handicap of 5 at golf!

(Transcriber's note: Robin very modestly did not mention that the war in North Africa and the invasion of Sicily was very much a Scottish affair, and the Scots have maintained a considerable reputation for military fighting prowess to the present day.)

The Falkirk Herald

December 10, 1942

WITH THE ARGYLLS IN EGYPT

When Enemy Headquarters Was Taken

COUNTY MAN TELLS OF EXPERIENCES

In view of the important part played by the local Territorial Battalion of the A. & S. H.* in the recent fighting in the Middle East, we are privileged to give below extracts from three letters which have reached Falkirk this week and which illustrate the exploits of this small but famous section of the no less famous "51st".

The letters were written by Major Roy Mathieson T.D. to his wife at 9 Heugh Street, Falkirk. Major Mathieson, who is second in command at the Battalion, is the elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Mathieson, Arnotview, Falkirk. The letters are as follows:-

"3rd November 1942 (first letter) :- I'm afraid that I have been neglecting you this past week or so, but there's been a very important reason for this, as no doubt you've discovered from the papers!

Well, this month has been the hardest I have ever put in my whole life. The battle started a week past on Friday night, and for three or four weeks before that we were practising our night attack. So you see the British Army certainly didn't go into this unprepared.

...Just been rudely interrupted. A drove of Stukas just came over and dropped their bombs on some transport just behind us. This letter, I'm afraid, has become rather covered with dust. This is only the second raid we've had today, as our Air Force is definitely on top (thank goodness!).

(to be continued ...)

The Cummings Affair

My report covering May was just going to be sent to the *Crier* when Johnson announced his support and retention of Dominic Cummings. There was an immediate flurry of emails from the Village and elsewhere, all of whom had been stunned by the news. On the next day Cummings gave his press review in the private garden of the Prime Minister. And this left a lot of questions unanswered. The *Crier* was put on hold to gather opinion.

At the time I had been reading Dorothy L. Sayers, that wonderful detective writer from the Fens, and had just finished *Clouds of Witness*. Certainly the Cummings Affair has left a lot of questions up in the clouds, and I wondered how Lord Peter Wimsey, Bunter and Inspector Charles Parker would set about solving them. Perhaps as in the following discussion.

Wimsey: “Is it really possible you would test your ‘weird’ and troublesome eyesight by driving thirty miles to a beauty spot? And taking you wife and child with you. Not knowing whether you were safe to drive.” **Bunter:** Well, my Lord, it was Mary’s birthday.” **Wimsey:** “You mean it was a birthday treat to take her to this beauty spot before returning to London?” **Parker:** “Now look here Wimsey you can’t prove that and it could be pure chance. You must control your imagination. Let’s have facts.” **Wimsey:** “I agree, but I am puzzled. If he fled London to protect his son why did he put the child at risk by shutting him up for five hours with two people suspected of or suffering from Coronavirus?” **Parker:** “I must agree with you. That does sound very odd and high risk”. **Wimsey:** “So what was the real reason for his fleeing London?”. **Bunter:** “I am interested in his car. It appears to be able to travel over 600 miles without requiring a refill.” **Parker:** “That is a very good point. It is quite astonishing not to remember whether you stopped at a petrol station or not. And speaking as one man to another it is equally remarkable that everyone was able to have two five hour drives without needing a public convenience.” **Bunter:** “Do you think Mary could drive?” **Parker:** “Another good question. She was a single highly successful career women from a privileged background who only married in her mid-thirties. Maybe Cummings is one of those men who will not be driven by anyone else. Maybe she has lost her licence”. **Wimsey:** Any chance of you finding that out?” **Parker:** “Now Wimsey, stop that. You know how important it is to stay within the rules.”

To be continued.

Wimsey is on the case.



Alastair Everitt

Meanwhile the Editor sought our local MP’s views and got the following reply

.Dear Caroline,

Thank you for contacting me regarding Dominic Cummings. I appreciate you taking the time to contact to me.

I know that the measures that the Government have implemented to tackle coronavirus have made ordinary life extremely difficult for many individuals, and huge sacrifices have been made in order to be able to follow them. Some people have lost their loved ones, and others have been unable to see their family for some time.

As you will be aware Mr Cummings gave a detailed account of his actions, and answered questions from the press. Having listened to his statement [last](#) Monday, it seems that his actions were motivated by a desire to protect and safeguard his son and his family in difficult and uncertain circumstances. I appreciate that many people are disappointed with his actions. I should say that some constituents have written to me to say that they understand his actions and wish for him to stay in his role as an advisor to the Prime Minister.

Over the past few months, I have seen our country and our communities come together through generous acts of volunteering and kindness. This has been especially true in our area. I know that the Swaffham Prior Volunteer Group has been a great example of this community spirit. I would like to highlight the efforts of Cheryl Wilding for coordinating the group and Margaret Joyce who I understand has been keeping in close contact with residents of the village during these challenging times.

I know that there is a lot of concern and anger at the actions of Mr Cummings, but I hope that this united community spirit will continue, as officials across the country implement measures that will keep us all safer as we tackle this virus together. As a government, we need to focus our attention on fighting the virus, getting the economy back on track and supporting the vulnerable. We have come a long way in this journey and our full attention needs to be on the next stage.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy
Lucy Frazer QC MP

BON MOT NUMBER 108

“The British are amongst the worst idlers in the world;
we retire early and our productivity is poor.
Whereas Indian children aspire to be doctors or
business men, the British are more interested
in football and pop music.”

Priti Patel (1972 –)



Covid-19 - A local GP's perspective

Q: What is the state of the pandemic locally? In Addenbrooke's during the peak of the pandemic in the second week of April there were just over 30 patients on critical care and around 140 patients on the wards with Coronavirus (representing patients from everywhere not just Burwell).

When I last did an update on 8th June there were 3 patients on critical care and 29 patients on the general wards. As of 6th July there were no patients on critical care and 15 patients on the general wards. Also as of Monday 6th July Addenbrooke's will now allow a 'designated visitor' to visit patients on non-Covid wards. These visits need to be booked with the ward.

So there seems to be low levels of circulating virus around at the present time. Of course we are all hoping that lock down release will not reverse this and that we do not get local spikes like Leicester and Bedford.

Change to shielding guidance for those at the highest risk of coronavirus:

For updated guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19#what-has-changed>

Please note the additional relaxations that have just started on 6th July and those are due to start on 1st August assume that there are no further spikes in cases.

Change to guidance for going outside: As of Monday 4th July 2020 As we are all no doubt aware, many aspects of lock down were relaxed on 4th July see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

Q: What about wearing masks in public places? The government made it a legal requirement (15th June) for everyone travelling on public transport to use a face covering (exemptions apply). Wearing a face covering in shops and supermarkets in **England is similarly to become mandatory** from 24th July. Those who fail to comply with the new rules will face a fine of up to £100. The move will bring England into line with Scotland and other major European nations like Spain, Italy and Germany. We are asking everyone who visits the surgery to wear a face covering (which is consistent with current Public Health England guidance). Providing your own face-covering will really help our stock-levels; naturally, if you do not have a suitable covering, we will provide you with one.

Q: What is happening with Covid-19 antibody testing? Currently antibody testing is not available but we expect it to be within the next couple of weeks. Our instructions from the local NHS 'system' is that if people are having a blood test

anyway, and they wish to know their antibody status, then we can request it as an additional test. We should not be requesting 'stand-alone' tests.

I have no doubt that many people would be interested to know their antibody levels. Please note that at the moment we really don't know what the implications are of a positive antibody level. Of course it would feel better to have antibodies than not. We do not know what protection the presence of antibodies confers and how long it may last for. It may be that the knowledge of your antibody status benefits future research for the NHS rather than you as an individual!

We will let everyone know once Addenbrooke's can perform the test but would be grateful if people could consider the above before requesting a test from us.

Q: Are any routine services now available in the NHS? Most routine outpatient departments in the local NHS system opened to referrals on 1st July. We have got a long waiting list of people that we are now planning to refer. I am afraid that there is likely to be a long delay before many routine face to face assessments and procedures are likely to happen.

We are now carrying out routine smears and most procedures. There is a bit of a backlog of contraceptive procedures (coils and implants) which is going to take a month or two to catch up on. **The Extended Access service** is available for appointments should you wish to book an evening or weekend appointment at one of their hubs, they are able to offer GP telephone & video consultations, wound care, blood tests & cervical smear appointments, if you would like to arrange an appointment at one of the hubs, please contact reception or request an appointment via askmyGP.

Q: How are cancer referrals going? I have put this in again because we are still down on where we should be. For anyone overdue a smear in the last 3 months, we should be calling you up soon. The bowel cancer screening programme has just restarted. Please respond to this if you get a kit. Breast cancer screening will be starting soon too.

Cancer referrals are still down (but less so than before). If you are worried please contact us.

See <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer/symptoms/> for details.

Q: What about flu jabs this year? Good question! We will definitely be doing them but likely to be in a more orderly pre-booked fashion than normal. National guidance is coming out soon and we will of course let you know when we have got a plan in place.

New defibrillator Many of you might have noticed the new defibrillator cabinet outside to the left of the front door of the surgery. Installation of the defibrillator took place on Monday, 13th July 2020. Please see our separate Facebook posting. Can I take this opportunity to thank the very generous donors who made this possible? Having a defibrillator outside the surgery is a great asset for Burwell.

Dr Alex Manning,
Partner

Burwell Surgery July 2020

Just biding our time..

Not all now, has changed
Some parts stayed the same..
The street and the house
The daughter, the spouse

We're just staying in
(It's wearing quite thin!)
Not much going out
Around and about..

This virus you know
So small, I'll be blowed!
Yet, chaos it's caused
The country's 'on pause..'

We're doing just fine
Here, biding our time..
A bit of a haze
With mingling of days..

Not all's getting done..
Enjoying the sun
The garden, the walks
The long 'catch up' talks

The booze and the pies
Some beautiful skies!
Behind on the chores
(I find it just bores..)

Not much to excite
To challenge or fight
But no living hell..
So long as we're well

There's always tomorrow..
The housework can follow!
Less 'bustle and strife'
In this, alter-life

There are pangs of yearning
Intense and quite churning
Luck has it, they wane
Else, we'd go insane!

Tho' wouldn't it be nice
Such 'sugar and spice'
To feel free to hug
With no chance of bugs?

To meet and to sing
Just 'doing our thing'
As always we did
Before we all hid

Hope one day we will..
Some 'helluva thrill'
That great day would be
For you and for me!

But those on the chart
(And held in my heart)
Therein lies the rub
With this vicious bug..

A terrible toll..
Some young, mainly old
How many, all told?
Once vibrant, now cold..

The stories, the tears
The missing, lost years
The anguish, the strain
The heartbreak, the pain..

Once over and passed
Will new habits last?
These lessons we learned
Whilst pandemic burned..

Things now, we value
People we hallow
The heroes we salute
This 'lack of dispute'

Shall recall, we this
When hug we and kiss?
Resuming our lives..
Assuming we survive

And when we emerge
What then will we find?
I don't really know
Just biding our time..

Karen Redman

(previously at 7 High Street)



Opening our Snakehall Farm Gates - Differently - during Covid

It is fair to say we are really, really, really missing our Co-workers at Snakehall Farm. All were asked to shield, based on their varying health needs back in March, and since then we have been speaking to them on our daily Co-worker calls, delivering Prospects Parcels to their doors and last month we created a health walk trail around our Snakehall Farm site. With a special parking zone, hand sanitiser and activity spotter sheets our registered Co-workers (accompanied by family and/or carers) can walk uninterrupted and safely around their farm. Here is Co-worker Toby spotting the new squash planted by the farm team during lockdown. It has proved such a success some have visited multiple times and now social bubbles are allowed we have hosted some of the visiting care home groups too. We have extended the health-walks into July as we are still unclear just when we will be allowed to resume supported placements at Snakehall Farm, on our Garden Team and at Unwrapped. If you are a Co-worker or supporting a Co-worker and wish to book a slot please email Maz.baker@prospectstrust.org.uk for the Eventbrite Link.

Prospects Trust Unwrapped is blooming with new ideas & stock

With the high street taking tentative steps towards a new trading normal we are pleased to say Unwrapped has continued to keep customer's larders well stocked throughout lockdown and beyond! We are still providing our home delivery service and orders can be placed online but even more excitingly our shop is OPEN and ready to refill from the door. We are offering a refill service not self-serve and operating to strict Covid-Secure measures to keep customers and staff safe. Why not pop along and say hi to the team, grab a take away coffee or treat and stock up with your essentials including liquids and all the seasonal organic produce harvested fresh from Snakehall Farm?

Aviva Crowdfunder is Unwrapping our new plans:

In our May edition we reported that our Aviva Crowdfunder had been extended but we were falling short of our £3,000 target. With Crowdfunding if you don't hit your target you don't secure your investment so we are delighted to report - YOU DID IT! WE DID IT! We have secured our £3,000 target and there is still time to pledge your support here: <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/refill-not-landfill>. Tom and Team at Unwrapped have some grand plans to "unwrap" the frontage of the shop and this investment is vital in the redevelopment of our very new venture.

School News

Learning Has Never Stopped!

This has been the most unusual teaching and learning experience ever for pupils, parents and teachers alike! We joined together with Swaffham Bulbeck school at the start of the lockdown and teachers have been in daily to work with children of Key Worker and Vulnerable pupils. At the same time, we have tried to reach out to our families at home in a number of innovative ways with fortnightly learning packs, multiple daily updates on our school virtual learning platform including recorded assemblies, sing-alongs, story-time and recorded Loom lesson videos as well as individual phone calls and postcards and even home deliveries. Can you believe Mrs Anderton has made over 500 posts on Class Dojo since March? Just last week, across the school (not just Mrs A), there were 317 videos and photos shared and 169 personal messages sent! We've also been trying to keep spirits up by creating video montages of our community for VE Day and to show off all our funky dance moves!

Now that more than half of our children are back at school, we have tried to connect with the rest of the families at home using Zoom but find that less than 50% of our home learners take part as, understandably, there are so many obstacles to live participation for many people. Parents are working heroically at home to keep their children on track with their learning. I read on a social media post, 'It takes a community to raise a child and a whole vineyard to home-school them' – I am sure some would agree! We all find it much more challenging to teach our own children than a class of 30 and all our parents deserve a medal for their efforts.

This week is Science week! Despite the 'unprecedented' circumstances, we have tried to create an exciting pack that everyone can access whether at home or school called "Making the Everyday, Exciting!" The pack is filled with daily challenges using everyday items, a competition and a virtual science fair. Yesterday children enjoyed a biscuit dunking investigation and today has been 'bubble trouble' and you might have seen children out and about on the village on our tree hunt through the churchyard and on Cooper's Green. We are so pleased that so many children are enjoying taking part.

As usual our wonderful parent scientists have also stepped up to the mark to share their expertise with our pupils. Dr. Fretwell set up his moth trap on the school field and the children learnt all about the local moths. Mr Barker has talked about Hedgehogs. Mrs Haine is sharing her knowledge of vision and visual illusions and Mrs Heaney is teaching aerodynamics while Dr. Lee is talking about orchids. We are so privileged to have such expertise and goodwill in our community.



Helen Bartley
Head teacher

The Reading Group Reads....

Stamboul Train by Graham Greene

We did much better on Zoom this time, discussing this book, written by Graham Greene in the 1930s. There was a marked difference of opinion about its merits. Some thought the characters stereotypical, but a minority thought them fascinating. We meet them all travelling on the Orient Express, from Ostend, via Cologne, Vienna and Belgrade to Istanbul. All for very different reasons.

Coral Musker, a dancer in variety, going to replace a sick member of Dunn's Babes, in Istanbul. She's malnourished, has a heart murmur, is bewildered and is travelling third class. Carlton Myatt, a wealthy Jewish business man, who's firm deals in currants (he always has a packet on him), going to see what's really happening to the finances in his Istanbul office. He's travelling first class and seems to calmly accept frequent anti semitism. Dr Czinner, a Serb, bound for Belgrade, an intellectual, communist revolutionary, travelling on a forged passport, in the name of Richard John, an English school teacher. Not a happy man. Mabel Warren, a middle aged, pretty fearsome, determined journalist, on the hunt for a good story to send back to her paper in London. She's with her partner, Janet Pardoe, a younger attractive woman. Quin Savory, an aspiring author, on the trip in the hopes of getting some ideas for his next book. Joseph Grunlich, a thief (very proud of never having been caught) and a murderer, who is really on the train by default, escaping the law.

A lot can happen in a few days and not everyone arrives at their destination. Coral does not. She falls in love with Myatt and they're tentatively planning a life together and a celebratory party on the train, but she's arrested, quite innocent, but implicated by Czinner. She spends a horrendous night in a freezing barn, with this dying man. She never gives up hope of Myatt rescuing her, but dies of a heart attack, in the back of a taxi, having been found by Mabel. Mabel doesn't either. She says she adores Janet, but is secretly lusting after Coral. She finally gets the story of a life time, having been the perfect sleuth and worked out the real identity of Richard John- Dr Czinner, who she knows has a history of subversion. She has her handbag stolen by Grunlich at Vienna station, misses the train but is subsequently on hand, to get the scoop of Dr Czinner death and find Coral. Neither does Dr Czinner. He finds out on the train, that the coup, which he was planning had been foiled- his fellow conspirators having staged the coup too early and he's terrified he'll be caught. He's arrested and shot whilst trying to escape.

Grunlich arrives. Having murdered a man in cold blood, stolen Mabel's handbag, complete with train ticket at the station and got on the train. He's later arrested on the train, for carrying a gun, but is astonishingly rescued by Myatt, who has hired a taxi, in the hopes of finding Coral. There he is in Istanbul, as smug as ever. Not a nice man.

Both Janet Pardoe and Quin Savory arrive, making plans to stay together. But Myatt has different ideas. Myatt of course arrives, having had a brief affair with Coral, as a result of having felt sorry for her and bought her a first class ticket. When she goes missing, he sets off on a fruitless, frantic taxi ride(the train having stopped because of a fault) to try and find her. He's very philosophical and having lost Coral and found that all is not well in his Istanbul office, decides that being on his own is not a good thing, sets his cap at Janet in the hopes of settling down.

Some justice, some injustice, an action packed story and a very good read.

Margaret Joyce

A short note on Nature in Swaffham Prior

For Science week the School will be doing a range of activities including moth Trapping with Dr Peter Fretwell and a hedgehog mapping exercise by myself. This latter is inspired by the blossoming of nature in the village during lockdown, an example of which is the large numbers of hedgehogs that have managed not to be killed on the roads due to the almost entire lack of traffic (wasn't it bliss!).

The readers of the Crier can also help by entering their hedgehog records of sightings, squashed hedgehogs (still a few being killed) and also importantly - where are the hedgehog 'highways' through the village. Where are the routes between gardens, under fences, through holes in walls and pushing through hedges?

The map is really easy to use at: <https://bighedgehogmap.org/> and records can be added directly onto it. Our village has a paltry 6 records and i know from conversations that there are more hedgehogs in gardens than that!

If that looks too complicated - tell a pupil at the school and they can pass the records on.

Mike Barker

Lock down for us-Freedom for Nature??



For many of us, the last few months have been long, hard and stressful. But for wild-life it seems, the lock down and closure of many aspects of our day to day life, has provided an opportunity to Mother Nature and all her inhabitants. I'm sure most of us who have taken the time to observe the wildlife around our homes, will agree

that there has been a huge increase in the amount of it! Certainly I and many hedgehog advocates have seen an increase in hedgehog numbers in our gardens. We most likely assume this is due to a lower amount of traffic on our roads and therefore less hogs being killed on them but the true reason is not clear. We have seen on the news, that all over the world, wildlife has been slowly moving back into places where normally only humans would tread- this is both amazing to see but also tainted with sadness, because we can only assume that when all lockdowns around the world cease, that nature will be forced back into the tiny corners it was surviving in with humans regaining priority.

I have from a young age, always believed that all of nature's creatures are equal and as such that humans are not the one true rulers and do not have the right to judge on how other creatures we share this earth with, should be forced to live or for many,

become extinct. I feel this is a vital message that all people, both children and adults, should be encouraged to follow. I have spoken to many locals who have told me for the first time ever, they have truly stopped and watched the wildlife in their gardens or listened to bird song- this re-connection to nature many people are currently experiencing is wonderful but I do fear that for many, when they return to their working lives, that this will all be forgotten. I urge these people to please continue supporting our wildlife and remain aware of just how blessed we are to have it and how much worse off we would be without it. It deserves as much respect as you or I to each other. While many species seem to have bounced back during these weird times, the hand of man on them is never far away- one night recently I had 6 hogs in my garden- three of which had signs of having had very lucky escapes from man- one had some spikes cut by a strimmer, but had avoided any worse. Another had blackened spikes on its back from a close shave with a bonfire perhaps and another had a piece of plastic caught on its back leg which I freed it from. This should act as a constant reminder that we can always do more for nature and if we can help, should help. These can be as smaller actions like putting out a shallow dish of water for animals to drink from, especially in this warm weather. Or making sure you don't use any harmful poisons in your garden or on your plants- please don't forget the animals when you return to your life because for us, it might be lock down but for nature, its freedom.

Saffra Monteiro

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

There is no news from the Group as we have been unable to meet due to the Covid crisis. However we hope you are keeping safe and well as lockdown eases.

On line Appointments: The Practice is releasing more online phone consultation appointments for patients to book into if you have access to online services and these now include on the day appointments.

Appointments: Continuing to operate by phone and video link, only calling patients in who need to be seen face to face after they have been triaged by phone or video.

Dispensary: Still require a 5 day turnaround for repeat prescriptions.

Reminder that when attending Surgery: All patients who enter the practice need to be wearing some form of face covering. Either a cloth mask or scarf which covers the mouth and nose.

Next Patient Group Meeting: Currently on hold.

Bottisham Patients' Participation Group



Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

Whilst unable to meet and join in fellowship members have continued to keep in touch with each other via telephone and electronically. Monthly newsletters from Ely diocese, and Mary Summer House keep us updated as to what is happening within the diocese and globally.

Mothers' Union's response to Covid 19 continues worldwide and here we wish to share with you some of the news in the June e-Newsletter from Mary Summer House. The national situation changes week by week and day by day. Within Britain and Ireland, members are not only producing much needed equipment for front line workers and carers, they are crafting soothing items for those who cannot be with their loved ones. You can read about our membership in action across all of the island of Ireland <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/mothers-union-members-provide-support-across-ireland>

Meanwhile, the fight against the disease is taking on different dimensions across the world. The challenges facing members in international contexts are as diverse as they are difficult. You can read more about how Mother's Union in Tanzania (pictured) are facing unique challenges.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/mothers-union-faces-unique-challenges-tanzania>



We continue to produce resources to support people for as long as we find ourselves in this difficult period. New resource additions include indoor member's reflections and a resource for looking after your mental health during Covid 19 written by mental health counsellor Raymond Farrell. It is our aim to combat feelings of loneliness that may arise and help everyone stay upbeat during these challenging times. Feel free to download and use our wealth of resources at <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources-support-us-challenging-times>



I have knitted some of the prayer squares (pattern in the resources) and given them to those whom are vulnerable to reassure they are in our thoughts and prayers during these uncertain and anxious times. They are an ideal size to pop in an envelope and send in the post.

Stay safe, and well

Ann Langran

My Garden

Never have I spent so much time sitting in it; staking up plants BEFORE they fell over; pulling up weeds; deadheading roses; nurturing seedlings; watching birds feed their young and most of the time I have no idea what day it is. Thanks to Covid 19. Now it's teas and coffees on the lawn with visitors and no house tidying required before they arrive.

ANON.



Bank Holiday, Bournemouth Beach 2020

Above the tide line on the dry edge of
 The bladder-wrack and weed and kelp's thin band,
 Unseasonal Mediterranean light
 Bleaches tiny bones and crusts of beasts
 And wood and drowned and foundered flotsam flecks
 Whose function failed in waters far away.
 Higher up, the British bodies baste
 From pallid into tones of pink and red
 While balls and babies bounce, dogs bark and dash
 And delve and toddlers totter and tumble
 In the beguiling glare's holiday heat.
 Pan out now, higher, higher yet and let
 Your lens transform into a microscope.
 Behold, below, a perfect petri dish.
 Bacilli group, regroup, form and reform
 In clumps, a dark infection on the earth;
 Themselves pandemic and repository,
 Victims and propagators, both, of all
 Plagues, present, past and yet to come.

Wulsin

Donations!

Many thanks to John Chalmers for his very kind and generous donation to the *Crier*.

Swaffham Prior Volunteer Group

The Swaffham Prior Volunteer Group has been much less busy recently. I think this is because all persons requesting help have been matched with volunteers. If anyone does need something, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us. We are still a strong group of volunteers ready to help wherever needed. Thank you to all of those who helped recently in delivering the ECDC magazines, this was done so quickly and efficiently, like a well-oiled machine.

Over the last few weeks, I have been able to get involved with our district and county councils at a planning level and keeping up with information on the ever changing "lockdown" relief programs. We have been working on how to identify and reach out to vulnerable persons in the village, or those who are not so tech-savvy with information from the internet at their fingertips. The county council have been working to reach these persons individually. This is also important when we think about the Test, Track and Trace scheme that has been set-up. Further information on this will be available over the coming weeks when the county council have their procedures in place for a local effort, but the scheme is currently up and running nationally. Those in the shielding groups should also expect some contact about what this means for them as the rules are changing. There are several FAQs on the East Cambs website for those that may need some further information on Shielding.

At a district level, number of support requests are being trended throughout all of our local villages, to ensure we have the right number of support volunteers to those needing help. Here in Swaffham Prior the number of volunteers far outweighs those in need of help, which is a great position to be in!

There are many schemes which are also being rolled out across our area. The Police are offering online support videos to explain safeguarding. You can contact them directly on the local website or via Facebook. The Care network is looking for persons to be part of a letter exchange with elderly residents in our local areas over the next 6 months with the hope of a tea party sometime in the future when it is safe to do so. Healthwatch are rolling out Health & Social Care surveys in the hope of reaching person who may have "slipped through the net". Our local Social Prescriber is working with the GP surgeries to support those in need both financially and struggling socially, rolling out mental health support across our area. If you know of someone in need or would like some further information please do get in contact with these schemes direct, or please contact myself.

Finally, I am looking at making the Swaffham Prior Volunteer Group a permanent feature in our village even when we move more towards the new normal, with help from some local funding groups like "The Good Neighbour Scheme". There will be opportunities in the future for "pop-up" volunteers to get involved. Just let me know if you would like to be a part of this. This one is definitely not one I think I could manage on my own.

Stay safe everyone,

Cheryl Wilding,
07825787896 cherylwilding@hotmail.com

From our District Councillors Charlotte Cane & John Trapp

As we attended the District Council's Annual Meeting by Zoom video conference, we realised that we had been your District Councillors for a full year. The year started as we had expected – getting to know people locally, getting the Parish Council meetings and village magazine deadlines into our diaries, setting up our Councillor 'surgeries' and 'Meet your Councillor' dates, visiting the summer village fairs/fetes/feasts and attending the District Council and Committee meetings. Thank you to all of you for helping us to become part of your village life.

We were just starting to feel familiar with our role and responsibilities when everything changed. The impact of Covid-19 has brought the most rapid change many of us will have experienced in our lives. For too many it has ended their lives or taken loved ones from them, and they have our sympathy. Unfortunately, as politicians, we must acknowledge that the official response has too often been inadequate, and some senior people have not complied with the regulations which the rest of us have followed. But what we have seen across our villages, and indeed elsewhere, has been truly inspiring. Parish Councils and voluntary groups making sure everyone's needs are met – from dog walking to shopping. Our local pubs and shops supporting the community with deliveries, takeaways, pop-up-shops, delivering hot food to people who are housebound. Perhaps the most imaginative response we heard of was a musician who would sing a requested song to people who were housebound. As we come out of lockdown, we need to remember that there will still be people who need help, perhaps because they are shielding or vulnerable, or because they are hurting from their loss, or because they have suffered financially. I hope we can keep our great community spirit going to help our neighbours in the best way for them.



The District Council's Annual meeting can still be seen on YouTube at - www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/council-21052020. Cllr Lis Every was re-elected as Chair of Council, with Cllr Alan Sharp elected as Vice Chair. Cllr Anna Bailey remains as Leader of the Council, with Cllr Josh Schumann as her deputy. Cllr Lorna Dupre is Leader of the Lib Dem Group, with Charlotte as her Deputy. John is on Planning and on Finance & Assets and Charlotte is on Finance & Assets and the Bus Services Review Working Party.

Annual Council agreed to set up a Working Party to help East Cambs recover from COVID-19. Its aim is to work with business, Parish Councils and community groups as well as the County Council etc to ensure our local economy recovers and that we enhance the good things which have come from this crisis – notably the community help groups and the increase in cycling and walking as opposed to car journeys which have led to cleaner air. Charlotte proposed the motion to set up this working group and summarised its purpose as to help drive an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable recovery for East Cambs. The working group will be contacting Parish Councils, Community Groups, businesses, and organisations throughout the district, and we would like to hear from individuals, so please get in touch with us if you have any ideas which you think this group should take forward.

We are holding our surgeries and ‘Meet your Councillors’ by Zoom. The next one is Tuesday 21 July – the surgery will start at 6.00pm, please phone John on 01223 812120 or Charlotte on 07976 607512. ‘Meet your Councillors’ will start at 7.00pm, please contact john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk for the link if you want to join.

Charlotte went walking at dusk a few days ago and saw several bats flying, which is not unusual this time of year. She learnt more about these beautiful creatures at - <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/blog/megan-owen/introduction-uk-bats>

John and Charlotte still cannot have face-to-face meetings or visit people. But we are always happy to be contacted by phone or email – john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk 01223 812120 – charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk 07976 607512. Contact us about anything – we may not always have the answer or be able to help you ourselves, but we will do our best to find someone who does know and can help. Charlotte also has a Facebook Page – you can visit the page at - fb.me/charlottecanelibdem and send messages to her at m.me/charlottecanelibdem.

Notes from the Parish Council meeting Held on Thursday 11th June 2020.

Mr John Covill chaired a online meeting through Zoom at which there were present eight Parish Councillors and one member of the public.

To hear the Swaffham Prior Parish Council Pre-planning Project Overview for the Heating Scheme, presented by Sheryl French and Janet Hall

Sheryl French, Programme Director for Mobilising Action on Climate Change and Local Energy Investment at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), introduced herself and Janet Hall, Community Engagement consultant for the Swaffham Prior Heating Scheme. A pre-planning project overview document had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting.

Ms French’s presentation set out the background of the Government commitment to net 0 carbon by 2050 and the declaration of a climate crisis by CCC in 2019. She gave examples of some of the current and future investments by CCC to reduce the carbon footprint of the area. CCC is involved in the Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust (SPCLT) heating scheme because CCC own the land needed to build the scheme, the support of CCC is needed to apply for some of the funding and CCC has powers to generate, distribute and sell heat to the community.

Financing and set up of the scheme.

The heating scheme will consist of ground source and air source heat pumps, a small solar farm and energy storage centre at Goodwin Farm. The heat network will run from here to the village, taking heat to participants in the scheme. They are currently applying to the Government for funding; additionally, the customers will pay for their heat, it is anticipated that it will attract payments for carbon offsetting and payment will be made for fibre optics sharing trenches. CCC have set up a pipe company to run the network. The development budget of £7 million will be through securing grants and applying for government loans.

Janet reported on current and future work regarding the Heating Scheme.

Planning application will be submitted to CCC in the first week of July and reviewed by ECDC.

A public consultation leaflet should arrive at every house in the village in the next 2 days.

Legal teams are working on the contracts.

Air quality monitors will be placed on lampposts in and around the village in the first week of July and will monitor air quality before and after the start of the heating scheme.

The aim is to appoint contracts in October 2020, start construction in November 2020 and the scheme to be commissioned in March 2021.

There will be a consultation period before the final signing of consumer agreements.

There are a number of surveys taking place.

The solar array and air source heat pump will be 100% renewable. The solar array will cover approximately 1 hectare and produce 0.75 kilowatts of energy – comparable to the array at Reach.

The Energy Centre design is not yet finalised and needs to include natural screening to minimise the visual impact to the Dyke. The layout includes room for coaches turning to enable educational visits to the centre.

The network design aims to make sure that every home could be connected to the scheme in the future. It is being designed with three principles in mind - achievability (taking into account local topography), supporting biodiversity and minimising disruption by using paths and roads where possible.

Regarding household connection, the legal consumer and connection contracts are being developed. Works for the pipelines are hoped to start in October 2020. Internal access to the households will be needed for to install the heat interface unit, which is expected to be taking place in February and March 2021.

Regarding the construction phase, JH wanted to engage with and liaise with the community, ensuring that local training and economic opportunities are supported.

The next steps are:

To develop the network in a way to minimise disruption

Maintain communication with the village throughout construction

Appoint appropriate contractors for the different stages of construction

Produce a clear consumer contract

Promote household improvements e.g. insulation.

Discuss the potential impact on sign up and use of the scheme from the drop in oil prices.

The Chair invited questions, which elicited the following information:

The scheme would not become compulsory in the future at any stage (construction, operation, maintenance or future development) for existing residents, but the aim was for all new build-ings to join it.

There was no foreseeable reason that there would be, at any stage in the future (construction, operation, maintenance or future development), a common additional charge per Swaffham Prior household to finance the scheme, regardless of whether they had joined.

A household could leave the scheme once it had joined, as the contract was not on the house itself. There would be a cost of leaving connected to the cost of connection (removal of oil tank, installation of heat interface units) that was not set yet, but would decrease over time.

There would be a service charge in addition to charges for consumption.

If no-one/not enough people joined the scheme, it would not go ahead although CCC still consider the investment worthwhile as so much has been learnt; however, Ms French had met villagers who seemed keen, even if no-one could yet sign up.

Carbon savings had been calculated using the operational carbon emission only —figures had not been calculated for the capital carbon costs of development, building, operation and main-tenance of the scheme, plus the proposed educational visits by coach. Cllr Latchford noted that fuller carbon emission calculations would have been more informative. Ms French said that these figures had not been assessed yet as the whole scheme was new and that CCC

would have to think how to do this in the future.

If the scheme does not happen in Swaffham Prior, it will be built elsewhere.

Between £50-100,000.00 of ECDC CIL money had been applied for and how much? Ms French said yes, estimating it to be between £50,000 and £100,000.

The solar array will not be able to supply enough power alone all year round, especially in the winter months and at these times, power would have to be drawn from the Grid and that the scheme would not therefore be 100% renewable, although there were options to buy renewable energy from suppliers.

There are no definitely known consequences if the net 0 target of 2050 were not met.

It was acknowledged that the digging of a 1m trench in every road in the village to install the network would be highly disruptive; in deadend roads like Greenhead Road and Fairview Grove access for residents and emergency services would be severely compromised and on the B1102, where SID monitored 1000 cars per hour twice a day, the disruption to surrounding villages would also be severe. There will be consultations to find the best routes, managing and mitigating the disruption as much as possible. The aim was to only have single lane closure of roads; Cllr Kent-Phillips questioned if this was possible due to road width.

20 out of 22 respondents to a recent survey thought the proposed network 'OK to really good'. Anyone who is unhappy with the proposed network can contact CCC. Ms French said that the village had approached CCC regarding the scheme, a survey of residents indicated interest in the reduction of oil dependence, there had been lots of events, pop-ups and communication with the village and there has been support for the scheme.

The latest consultation was in the post and the previous one had been available to collect from the bus stop, pub and outside 50 High Street.

The 2 day installation of the heat interface was scheduled to take place in the winter, disrupting people's heating at a cold time of year.

Concerns were expressed that ground source heat pumps will become outdated technology soon and that tying consumers into the service charges for it will be expensive. Ms French said that not everyone has the funds or understanding to buy into the latest green technologies and that the scheme will have had its first life cycle by the time new technologies become available.

There will be chemical additions to the water pumped around the network; the effect of these if for example, a pipe burst, have been included in the risk assessments and assessed as low risk.

There would a government grant scheme for air source heat pumps in 2022, available to parishioners unable to join the scheme.

The gas back up would only be needed in the case of the ground source heat pump breaking down.

Reports

East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) representative – Cllr Charlotte Cane reporting—see elsewhere in the Crier.

Cllr Cane noted that ECDC were looking at widening the cycle path between Burwell and Swaffham Prior to 3m and installing solar lights to it, as well as traffic calming in Swaffham Prior and Burwell. Cllr Cane asked to hear the views of the PC regarding this. Cllr Greenfield summarized the viewpoint as there would be support for reducing or slowing traffic on the B1102, but not at the cost of standing traffic. Regarding cycling, the PC noted its opposition to the closing of the slip road at the Swaffham Bulbeck end of the village to motorized traffic, stating that it would make turning into the village more dangerous for motorized traffic as it would potentially have to become stationary on the B1102 before turning down into the village and also cause problems for long vehicles turning down Station Road.

Additionally, the PC discussed concerns that cyclists using the highway and/or leaving the cycleway to use the highway could potentially increase the danger to both cyclists and other road users. Cllr Cane suggested the PC write to the committee with these concerns.

Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)
The playground remains closed due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Correspondence for consideration/circulation:

Emails from J Cook and R Ainscough re speeding on the B1102 requested the PC revisit the issue of speeding through the village and also noted that the hedgerow on the east side of the B1102 next to the driveway for the Smock Mill was becoming overgrown and obscuring the view of oncoming traffic from the drive. It was suggested that the hedge had been cut back recently – the clerk to check.

Cllr Kent-Phillips said that he had put SID up to monitor the traffic speed, but the lens in front of the camera had been scratched and now required repairing.

Consideration of planning applications received:

20/00432/FUL 26 High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB25 0LD

Conversion of an outbuilding barn into a dwelling with a porch extension and associated works.

Cllr Greenfield noted that comments made previously by the PC had not been taken into account in this application—concern regarding the nearby presence of a 16th century inglenook fireplace and potential damage to mature tree roots along the edge of the property. It was agreed that the clerk should respond to the application reiterating these issues and expressing the PC's extreme concern that their earlier comments appeared to have been ignored.

To set a date for the Annual Village Assembly

This was agreed - Tuesday 24th November 2020 in the Village Hall.

To discuss the restoration and repair needed to graves in the cemetery

Cllr Durrant reported that several headstones in the cemetery had fallen over and that some looked as if they may fall soon. He suggested that the stones be subjected to a safety check and if any are unsafe, the owners contacted to repair or the PC undertake the repairs themselves as outlined in sections 63 and 64 of the cemetery regulations. It was agreed that this would be done.

To review the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The revised versions were adopted—see website for further details.

If anyone would like any further information on any of the above items, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk. Due to the unusually long meeting, not all business is covered in these notes—for more detail please see the latest minutes.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9th July 2020 starting at 7.30pm via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

Jude Griffiths – Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel 745 106. Email swaffhamprior-clerk@gmail.com

FREECYCLE



Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

The freecycle.org website advises practicing extreme care when participating in Freecycle. "Post only essentials, avoid contact by leaving items out, and disinfect items when leaving or picking up".

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail (junthompson44@gmail.com) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow).

Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues.

Offers

An UNFINISHED Danish cross-stitch embroidery of a blackbird and a fieldfare eating an apple in the snow. Kit is complete and measures 35 X 45 cm.

Ann, 01223 811620

Kneeling chair (photo attached). Susan Tel: 01223 811584 (Viewing welcomed)

Beige bedroom carpet, good condition, was fitted but could be cut to 2.86m x 2.94m. Susan Tel: 01223 811584 Viewing welcomed

Fibreboards with cork veneered surface used as wall pin boards, suitable for office/workroom/child's bedroom, two of each size: 60cm x 100cm, 60cm x 130cm, 60cm x 216cm (can be cut to size) Susan Tel: 01223 811584 Viewing welcomed

Wanted

Cricket bats, gloves, pads, balls etc suitable for U13 and U15 age groups. We wish to take to Sri Lanka for a local cricket club in the summer. Mary-Louisa [01223 813922](tel:01223813922)

Buckets or similar (e.g. plastic 10L paint cans); condition of top or base is immaterial, provided the sides are in fairly good order. Please leave outside 104, Commercial End. John, 01223 812120

Dear Friends,

The first exciting thing to share is that with changes in Government guidelines most of our church buildings are now open again for private prayer. You would be very welcome to drop in on your walks around the village. Sit and enjoy the peace of the building, bring those you love to God in prayer, share your hopes and concerns with the God who is closer to us than the air we breathe. Lode, Bottisham and Swaffham Prior are open each day, Quy is open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons 2-5pm.

The only church not open at present is Swaffham Bulbeck because we are anticipating major work to install the long-awaited toilet in the next few weeks (bats permitting!).



Although the church buildings have been closed for worship over the past 12 weeks the church family has still been gathering for worship on-line. Church members, along with other wonderful volunteers, have continued to offer practical help and support in the villages. The church has sought new ways to support those who are grieving and has adapted the way funerals have taken place to make them the very best they can be for families. We have continued to work with the couples who should have been celebrating their marriages in our churches. As part of our reflection on what we have learnt over the past weeks and what we have missed, I asked everyone on the electoral roll some questions about worship and the church. The questions were linked to Pentecost the festival of the coming of the Holy Spirit which we keep as the birthday of the Christian church. The following are some of our reflections.

Whilst most people who could access the Zoom services were grateful for the technology which gave us the opportunity to see and talk to each other and enabled us to worship together, there were some constant themes which surfaced. Many people said they found it more difficult to worship in this way. Christians can worship God anywhere and at any time. There is no need for a special building, we can pray and worship at home, in the garden or the countryside, on the bus or at work. However, many people find that sacred spaces whether a building or a holy outdoor space, help them to connect with our transcendent God and help us to sense the numinous. Those spaces, often very beautiful and hallowed by many generations, give a sense of continuity and have helped people to feel the otherness of God who is close yet is not like us. Churches were built, often by past generations, to glorify God and that communicates itself to those who come to spend time in them today. It is that feeling which draws many visitors to cathedrals and other sacred sites across the world.

When we worship at home we are often surrounded by the ordinary, by the things that have piled up around us that need to be done, homes are full of everyday “stuff”. Home may also be a place of varied emotions and it could be full of sounds with the television or music playing in the next room. So, what have we learnt? Well, perhaps we have learnt to value once again the buildings that are part of our heritage. To appreciate their beauty and tranquillity and to value the illusive sense of holiness they often convey. We have also learnt that it is important to be able to connect in a similar way at home or wherever we find ourselves. Lockdown has taught us an important lesson about working towards that same sense of connection and sacredness amongst the ordinary places of our lives. That requires practice, sometimes it needs concentrated effort to ignore the things that are clamouring for our attention or the noises beyond. Lockdown has helped us to understand that whilst for many of the regular congregation our buildings are a great help, their otherness and dislocation from ordinary everyday life can be a barrier to those who are unused to them. People searching for a way to connect with God and those wanting to explore their own spiritual nature often find

the strangeness of church off-putting whereas on-line they have been able to access worship from the security of what they know and feel comfortable with. Even to participate whilst not being seen. Lockdown has enabled us to recognise God's grace at work even through difficult times. We have learnt some new skills, re-evaluated some ancient truths and faced some current challenges and in all these things God has revealed more of himself and his involvement in our lives.

The second great insight from our new ways of worshipping is that not only is place important, but people are too. Yes, we have been able to see each other, we have been able to chat over coffee but we have not been able to gather in person or see each other face to face. There is something very significant about being together in the flesh. We should not be surprised at this since God made us to be embodied and at the heart of the Christian faith is the Incarnation, God taking flesh in Jesus and being with us physically. It's difficult to explain why seeing each other is not sufficient but many church-goers remarked on how they had missed being with other people, sharing the physicality of holy communion, singing together, the immediacy of how our bodies are involved in communication and the importance of touch. Communicating on Zoom is tiring and not completely satisfactory. We cannot easily gauge moods or read emotions expressed through another's body language and instead we have to gaze at their faces for clues. Going forward this too should inform our worship and our outreach. Whilst it is very good to help people to feel welcome at worship from the comfort and security of their own home there is no substitute for the immediacy of being part of a loving and caring community which is focusing its collective mind and heart upon the physical expression of worship. In the Christian tradition that physical expression is found in the lifting of hands in praise or in kneeling to pray or receive the sacrament. It might also be found in the action of making the sign of the cross. All these things remind us that we are an embodied community and our faith is expressed physically in worship and practically in service of others.

There were many other things which came out of the congregational responses and it has been good to stop and reflect together. Going forward our worship may not be as it was for some while. In fact, it may never get back to precisely what we were used to. However, we thank God for all that he has shown us and challenged us with during this time. We are looking forward to building, with his grace and help, worship which will sustain his people so that we may serve Him in the world. We thank God for showing us new ways of reaching out to include others as we worship Him.

May God bless you.

Sue

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 Weds 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