



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

This month marked the very sad loss of Elisabeth Everitt, after a long spell of debilitating illness. Elisabeth was a major player in a great many ventures that made this village such a lovely place to be. She made frequent contributions to this magazine (see Our Reporter) and was universally adored. The family plan to hold a memorial service when the Covid situation clears.

Elizabeth did fall out with one person, a Gamekeeper, so she told us, but you can't win them all! With now 65 million pheasants and partridges reared every year for shooting (cf 5 million in 1970s), it is indeed now very difficult for any dog-walker to avoid conflicts with their Keepers. These birds seem to occupy every square inch of the country-side!

Many Congratulations to Ruth Scovil (see Letters), whose Socially Distanced coffee morning raised a stunning £940 for Macmillan. Apparently, charities have been having a rather hard time of things during Lockdown because they've not been able to hold their usual events, so this will be a very welcome addition to their funds.

Read Jonathan Cook (p. 12) to find out about a new local venture to improve transport links for the villages spread out along the B1102. It all sounds like a good thing, but the last we heard, when this plan says "Rationalises bus stops to enable a faster bus service through the villages" that means our buses whizzing down the by-pass and not bothering to come into the village proper at all. What? As too for poor old Lode, where, although there isn't a hill there's a ludicrously long walk. And the elderly, infirm or just plain *rational*? It might mean the buses go faster, but the people using them don't!

Take a look at this month's cover: it's the Crier's first colour cover to be produced by a Swaffham Prior artist and to be chosen by our new Cover Editor, Celia Tyler. And it's beautiful. Celia takes over from Alastair Everitt who has retired from this role, but not his others, after many years. During this time he has established the Crier's reputation for excellent artwork, much of it original works by local artists.

As we go to print, it's looking like LOCK DOWN again. Not to worry, the Swaffham Prior Volunteers are here to help as they were before. Just ring Cheryl Wilding on 0782 578 7896, or email cherylwilding@hotmail.com and someone will be there to help.

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Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Poppies At Soham*, a free-motion machine embroidery by **Deborah Richardson**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

Once again the time has come to remind anyone who considers themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant.

The majority of our applicants come from our pensioners, in particular those who have to manage on the state pension. If however you are in particular need or know of someone who may be in difficulty but are unlikely to apply on their own behalf, the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance,

Applications should be sent to me or to any Trustee and may I stress that assistance is available at all times not only at Christmas.

Mrs Pam Walters

Clerk to the Trustees

31 Tothill Rd, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JX, Tel: 01638 741035,

Dear Editors,

Crier Subscription

I posted a crossword through your letterbox the other day but unfortunately you were out so I couldn't talk to you! I used to live in the village and have enjoyed the magazine ever since when visiting my parents - Sue and Max Napier of 22 Lower End. It is a great magazine (far superior to our own village mag) and I would like to subscribe for a year please. My father died earlier this year and the house is sold now so could you let me know how I can subscribe and have it posted to me please? I'm not sure when his current subscription runs out, perhaps you could let me know please?

Mary Joyner

Eds reply: In the past we've relied on donations from those not living in the village to whom we send copies, noting that the cost of printing and postage comes to roughly £20/annum. As for many other organisations, the **Crier's** finances are under threat, not least because most of our income comes from our advertisers and many of their businesses are threatened by COVID. The rest comes from donations. As such the **Crier** Committee is discussing whether we should charge for out-of-village copies in future.

Dear Editors,

Celebration

I was too late to add my contribution to last month's Crier but I would celebrate being able to see **all** our children and grandchildren and give them all a great **big hug**! Roll on that day!

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Coffee Morning

I cannot thank you enough for your wonderful generosity as we raised the incredible amount of **£940.30p** for Macmillan! It is the most we have ever raised from coffee, cakes and raffle. There are so many to thank for their support :- those who came and braved the cold winds; those who donated when they were unable to come; all our cake makers and buyers; those who donated such special raffle/ tombola prizes; and last, but not least, my willing and very able helpers. Margaret, once more manned the cake stall; Robin ran a somewhat different raffle; our niece Yvonne persuaded many to guess the number of sprinkles on a picture of a cake **and** extract more money from players! My son Charles, having flown over from Dublin, took track and trace details which have now been shredded. Special thanks must go to our neighbours, too, who very kindly opened their gardens and their summer house so that we could spread the numbers and keep to six in each garden.

So thank you all for supporting our very different, socially distanced Macmillan Coffee Morning in our garden. I'm really looking forward to seeing you all next year on the last Friday in September and, hopefully, **inside in the warm!**

I've attached a few photos of the occasion :- Maddy receiving her tombola prize winning flowers from Robin; Margaret with the cake stall; our welcoming back door: Robin arranging the tombola tickets.

With many thanks to you all from



Ruth Scovil



Dear Editors,

Heating Swaffham Prior

I am a fan of district heating systems, having been involved closely with several large commercial/industrial such systems during my working life. I would love to see it in Swaffham Prior, but as details become clearer I am becoming less convinced that what is proposed will suit the village. The latest information for me was gained at the 'personalised design review', on Zoom, on 12th October, with William Frinault of Bouyges.

There's a lot to discuss, but I'll try to keep this short.

The proposed water flow temperature is 70deg, which is significantly less than my house (built 1978) which was designed on 82/71 flow/return. I appreciate what is said about the system running 24/7, which will raise the building mass temperature, but it will not keep pace with the heat loss during any extended cold spell. My concern over this was appreciated by William, and to solve it he suggested the Interface unit could be fitted with a step up heat exchanger. This would be electrically powered and it is the first time I've heard of this. However, this means that during an extended cold spell, my house would have to rely on additional electric heating to maintain it's internal temperature. Hmmm....not what I was expecting.

The same 70deg water would be used to heat the domestic water, and to maintain the current performance, I would need a new cylinder.

We talked briefly about upgrading radiators to suit, but didn't conclude anything - I think it is highly unlikely the deal would include new replacement radiators (and re-decoration). I think the emphasis would be on enhanced insulation, but I have nowhere to go on this, so this remains an unanswered problem. We discussed the issue regarding adding insulation to many of the village houses, and the issues involved (William has not visited Swaffham Prior). For instance my house has cavity wall insulation, and the only real way to improve it is to clad the house externally. Well, it was built with reclaimed brick for a reason, so that's not going to happen.

There were several other items discussed, mainly about technically integrating my existing system and controls, but William confirmed these details would be resolved in due course. I can accept that.

Other residents have other concerns, which don't concern me too much, because they can be resolved with detailed design. Not sure about that huge contract document we would be expected to sign though.

I believe there are many houses in the village with very similar issues to mine. Right now, I am very uneasy about what is proposed, and these are issues I have had from the start. A shame, because I am a district heating enthusiast.

If only they could raise that flow temperature.....

David Jackson
34 High Street.

Reply from Heating Swaffham Prior

Dear David,

Thank you for raising the important point about temperature flows in the Crier last month. In response, we would like to supply the village with recommended heating information from the most popular boiler manufacturers in the UK. It is likely that that most homes in the village currently have an oil boiler as built by Buderus, Grant, or Trianco, this is their guidance to heating your home.

There is considerable variation in their recommended flow temperature (that is the boiler’s exit temperature to your radiators), 80°C is the highest temperature recommended, 70-75°C is typical. Hot water must be heated above 60°C (to prevent legionnaires disease) but should also be supplied at temperatures below 65°C to prevent scalding!

Swaffham Prior’s heat network will operate at temperatures of 72 - 75°C, aligning to the typical recommendations below. The Heat Supply Agreement (customer contract), provides a safety net for customers, in that it legally guarantees the minimum temperature to be supplied (in winter) as 72 °C. The system has been designed to produce temperatures of 72- 75°C to your central heating system. In summer the minimum temperature is set at 62 °C, which falls midway between the minimum temperature required to prevent legionnaires and maximum temperature to prevent scalding (over 65 °C).

I hope this information proves useful to you and all in the village,

Janet Hall

Oil Boiler Manufacturers

Company Recommendation	Central Heating	Hot Water
Buderus	Maximum setting available 80°C No recommended temperature	Over 60 °C
Firebird	Maximum 80°C Minimum 60°C No recommended temperature given	Max 65 °C, Firebird boilers have a thermo-static sensor which will automatically mix cold water above 65, to prevent scalding.
Grant	Recommends 75°C Radiator flow temperature 70°C	Up to 65°C

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

At the PC Meeting on 13th August Jude read an extract from the *Local Council Clerk's Guide*, 3rd ed, 2010, page 21:

“The minutes of the PC meetings “are intended to be a formal record of the acts and decisions of the council. They are not intended to be a record of the speeches of councillors. Accordingly minutes should *not normally* include details of the reasons for the decisions nor of the discussions which precede the making of the decisions unless a decision cannot be expressed in any other way.”



Jude goes on to record that “Paul Latchford noted that he preferred fuller minutes so that the views and votes of individual councillors were recorded for information prior to re-election.”

And I think he is quite right. In 1987 we paid our first visit to Swaffham Prior. We had a drink in the Red Lion and came across the *Crier* (Editor Cliff Curtis) which was on a table. It included a report on the PC meeting by Rick Mephram. I was impressed. It was just like a political sketch which appears in national newspapers. What a village I thought. It must be lively if it produces such a magazine with articles like this. And the village has been so well served by both before 1987 and thereafter. After Rick there has been a whole stream of reporters including Meryll Moore, Frank Readhead, Elisabeth Everitt, John Chalmers, Margaret Stanier, Sharyn Robinson, and even our star Hockey Reporter Tony Bowers. Apologies if I have missed anyone.

Now to get to the point, dear readers. I have hogged the Reporter position for too long. Since becoming “slightly” deaf it has been increasingly difficult to follow lively discussions. For my own reasons I do not Zoom the PC meetings. So I need to fill the column with chitchat like this. For example I would have liked to have heard any discussion following Paul’s view on the record of the minutes. And I also would have liked to have heard the discussion about the new Playground Notice put together by David Greenfield following his extensive research into the available suggested advice on playground safety. What *did* other councillors think about these two issues?

Now Jude cannot provide those details because her concern is the record as detailed in the work above first quoted. But just by noting those tiny details she is able to hint important facts.

And this is where the Reporter comes in. Many new people have entered the village over the last few years. Would anyone like to have a crack at being a Reporter? If so please contact me, and I will try to answer all your questions. Remember “our reporter” is not there to record the whole meeting. Jude does that brilliantly. The “reporter” has a free hand to choose what he/she likes, it is very subjective, and one can be quite self-indulgent and mock, applaud etc. In fact to give an individual take on the meeting which, with luck, will inform as well as occasionally amuse.

Meantime there could well be a planning crisis and as far as I know neither ECDC or the PC have discussed the closure last December of the £163 million Community Housing Fund. There are 253 community land trusts in England and Wales. What do ECDC and our own local Community Land Trust think? And the new proposed planning laws are going to affect this village as so much protection against unsightly development could occur.

Or you could just give the latest exciting research. Such as that the shape and texture of men's and women's hearts differ. In men, heart muscle is dominated by coarser textures whereas women's hearts have (of course!!) finer grained textures. What about the news that adults with fat legs are less likely to have high blood pressure. Or even that people with large thighs or wide hips are less likely to die early. **Does that make you all feel better?**

Let me stop this rambling to note how joyful it is to hear the robin's song. It is such a jolly happy and sociable bird and brightens up October. As do the pair of Red-legged Partridges which have visited me for the last three years. They are most gentle and cuddly bird I have ever seen. I just want to pick them up and hold. But, why are the blackbirds not singing? They appear in the garden and peck around the lawn, However for the last two years they have not sung on nearby roof tops and telephone poles. Nor are they eating the multitude of red berries available. Usually they are in there gobbling away. Perhaps our Nature reporter would provide the answer.

And lastly here is a family game you could try. Which two cabinet members would you *least* like to buy a second hand car from, and why?

Alastair Everitt

The Good Work that Lawyers Do

Mark Lewinsky wrote to our MP, Lucy Frazer, to complain about the Prime Minister's comments about 'Lefty Human Rights lawyers' and 'do-gooders' in the justice system, noting that his family has had only good experiences of them when they helped with a death by negligence claim over the last couple of years. He feels that her reply will be of wider interest and has her permission for it to be published.

The Editors

Dear Mark,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me. I would like to make clear that any violence or intimidation against lawyers is unacceptable.

As a politician, I understand what hostility towards a profession feels like. As a former lawyer I understand the significant contribution the profession makes to upholding the rule of law and protecting many in our society.

I appreciate that you feel that the language used of late goes too far.

Thank you very much once again for contacting me.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Frazer QC MP

How did Victorians and Edwardians die?

ONE OF THE MOST ENTERTAINING THINGS ABOUT FAMILY TREE RESEARCH is seeing some of the weird and wonderful things written in official documents. The “Cause of Death” section on older death certificates is a gold mine for this, particularly from periods when doctors were not as well trained as they are today.

There are some classic examples of the genre that have achieved legendary status: “Indiscreet use of laudanum”, “Frightened to death by a riotous mob”, “Extreme filthiness,” “Eating his own hair,” and the spectacular “Killed by standing too near a cow and a bull.” Funny though these may be, I have yet to actually meet one in the flesh as it were. So what follows is a short summary of some remarkable causes of death that I have seen in my work.

Some cases can only be adequately explained if we assume the doctor could not distinguish between what might cause death and what could not. One of these comes from close to home: according to his death certificate, my own great grandfather died of “Chronic gout”, which is not something with a reputation of being lethal. Mind you some gout sufferers may well have wished they were dead.

At times doctors weren’t very sure of what the cause of death was but didn’t want to admit they didn’t know so they put together vague guesses, probably hoping nobody would look too closely. While researching a family in Ireland in 1890s Dublin I stumbled upon a rich seam of these, people who had died from “Probably Phthisis”, “General Debility”, and “Infirmity.”

Clearly doctors sometimes didn’t like to be asked to do an impossible job, and their frustration shows through. In 1915 a 15 year old boy died from “Pneumonia whilst a patient at the Hospital where he was operated upon for left inguinal hernia there being no satisfactory evidence to show cause of the condition of pneumonia or of hernia.” Or they suspected foul play but couldn’t bring themselves to say it - one man’s certificate says “Violent congestion of brain from injuries to head, no evidence of how caused.”

Sadly it was also common to read “Accidental suffocation while in bed with



David Copperfield's
Mr Barkis "going out
with the tide"

the parents” as the cause of death on an infant’s certificate.

How did some of the more outrageous deaths come about? To start with, people’s homes were dangerous places in the days before antibiotics. A 70 year old man died of “Toxaemia following cellulitis of the left leg caused by an accidental fall down the cellar steps.”



And Victorian era occupations could be very risky leading to some causes of death that are not common now.

When you think about deaths of Victorian era chimney sweeps you might be forgiven for thinking they died of falls, or becoming trapped or even burned. But believe it or not, 29% of deaths of chimney sweeps were caused by scrotal cancer as a result of continual exposure of the scrotum to coal soot.

The famous Bow Match Girls were continually exposed to fumes from the phosphorus used to make match heads, which led over time to their teeth glowing green in the dark, and this was sadly followed by a slow death from brain damage and organ failure.

One 19 year old artificial flower maker who died in 1861 had to dust the flowers she made with a green, arsenic-laced powder. Unsurprisingly, she died an awful, violent death — convulsing, vomiting and foaming at the mouth, with her fingernails and the whites of her eye having turned green, and arsenic subsequently found throughout her stomach, liver and lungs.

Making beer seems safe enough, but involves boiling the mash, which then needs to cool. Today this takes place in a safe environment. But in Ipswich in 1879, poor four year old Edith Emma Skinner died from “falling into a tub of scalding beer.”

Not all Victorian deaths were common then but rare now. Sometimes the reverse is the case. In 1896 Bridget Driscoll ensured enduring fame by being the first pedestrian to be killed in a collision with a motor car in Great Britain. At her inquest the coroner said he hoped “such a thing would never happen again.”

On a final note, if all else failed and they simply could not work out the cause of death, they could always rely on a “Visitation of God.”

In 1896 Bridget Driscoll was the first pedestrian to be killed in a collision with a motor car in Great Britain. At her inquest the coroner said he hoped “such a thing would never happen again”.

Julian Luttrell



The Prior's Flour



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Newspaper sheds cleaned and ready!

Just a quick thank you to everyone who has been bringing papers to my house for the hedgehogs. We are now going into the winter months which means I and all other rescues will be busy with over wintering hogs that can't be released till



next spring. This means we use up more newspapers in the winter than at any other time of year. So I please ask everyone who has been collecting papers to please continue to do so but instead take them down to the newspaper sheds and place in there. I have recently been working hard- cleaning them out, fixing the door and laying down plastic sheeting on the floor so they don't get damp. They are now in use again so please stack papers in there away from walls. If you're not sure where they are- they are on the high street, opposite the kids park- look left and you'll see them. If you prefer to keep bringing them to my house then please continue to do so but the sheds are there too.

Saffra Montiero



The Newspaper Sheds—stack your old papers here

Big Changes to the Future of Travel To-and-From Our Village: **Have your say!**

Read below to find out how a group has been established bringing together representatives from the villages along the B1102 from Burwell to Quy to raise awareness of transport issues that will affect you – to enable you to have a stronger voice and to lobby for improvements to our local transport infrastructure:

Whether you are a pedestrian, cyclist, bus user, car driver or horse rider, you will have noticed the way in which the roads and footpaths are changing around our area. Many of these changes offer better infrastructure, for example new cycle paths or the improved A14, some improve road safety, for example the reduced speed limits in Lode or Quy, others seem to make journey times longer and increase frustration. It doesn't take a genius to recognise that the whole region is grappling with the challenge of a growing population, new housing developments, business parks etc., and, whilst Covid has perhaps changed the pace at which congestion is increasing (at least temporarily), planners and councillors are grappling with changes that will continue to affect all our lives.

A group of us have for some years noticed how many of these changes seem to be decided by County and District Councils without our knowledge. Central Government has recently established bodies such as the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), a group made up of Cambridge City, South Cambs and Cambridgeshire County Council (note not East Cambs) with huge public & privately funded budgets (over £500million) to make decisions on infrastructure projects covering housing, transport, jobs and improving the lives of existing and new communities. It has become increasingly difficult for individuals to have their voices heard, for us all to find out about consultation processes which are designed to encourage us to share our views on projects which will affect our futures.

This summer, the GCP undertook a key consultation on traffic changes to the east of Cambridge that **will** affect us all. Only 19 people from the whole of our area (Quy to Burwell to Waterbeach) responded. Why? Because none of us knew about it! Yet, recommendations consulted on include closing the Fen Ditton A14 junction (sending more traffic via Quy), putting bus gates by the Leper Chapel on Newmarket Road (Cambridge) so that private cars do not enter into the City (or even just to B&Q), moving the Park & Ride site on Newmarket Road to before the airport and reconfiguring the Quy A14 Interchange.

We are not offering any thoughts on these matters, merely highlighting that many decisions are being consulted on and we are not offering any thoughts in return. Saying 'we didn't know' is no defence at planning application stage against these wider plans. The local authorities are conducting themselves correctly, it's just we the public, are failing to engage. These changes will mean that we will be taking public transport more, we will be cycling more and we need to make sure that we get the services we need to keep our villages the thriving communities we enjoy now.

In response, we have formed our group Local Roads for Local People. Our Vision is: “To improve the quality of the lives of those who ride, cycle, walk and live alongside the B1102 by reducing noise, improving air quality & the local environment and improving road safety”.

Our Aims are to:

- ✦ To reduce speed limits in all built up areas along the B1102 to 30mph
- ✦ To reduce the volume of traffic using the B1102 by lobbying for improvements to the A142 and A10 thus reducing the traffic that currently uses the B1102 as a ‘rat run’ to access Cambridge and severely impacts at Quy
- ✦ To unite villages along the B1102 in developing a co-ordinated local transport plan, one which:
 - ◆ Improves public transport links along the B1102 corridor to encourage more people to leave their cars and take public transport, in particular the proposed Cambridge CAM Metro and GCP Swaffhams Greenway plans
 - ◆ Improves facilities for riders, cyclists and pedestrians along the route to encourage more people out of their cars
 - ◆ Rationalises bus stops to enable a faster Stagecoach bus service through the villages
 - ◆ To install and upgrade existing bus stops together with real time data on bus timetable
 - ◆ Works with the National Trust to manage visitors to Anglesey Abbey at peak times
 - ◆ Engages with other transport developments, such as car parking at Ely station or other planning proposals
 - ◆ To engage with Parish Councils to encourage them to advocate on resident’s behalves to achieve our Aims

Swaffham Prior is represented by David Greenfield, Emma Fletcher and Jonathan Cook. The Group has made presentations to the Parish Councils including Swaffham Prior Parish Council and been well received.

Our first key activity is to raise awareness of the GCP’s “Eastern Access Consultation” which is open until the 14th December. **This consultation WILL affect you – how you access Cambridge, whether as a car driver, cyclist or bus passenger, so please Google it and offer your views on what is proposed.** Once our website is launched, we will provide a portal where you can share your views and access relevant information and updates.

For the avoidance of doubt, our group is not a campaign group against change. It is a group to facilitate consultation so that your views are heard and we can all positively influence the important infrastructure changes that will affect our lives now and in the future.

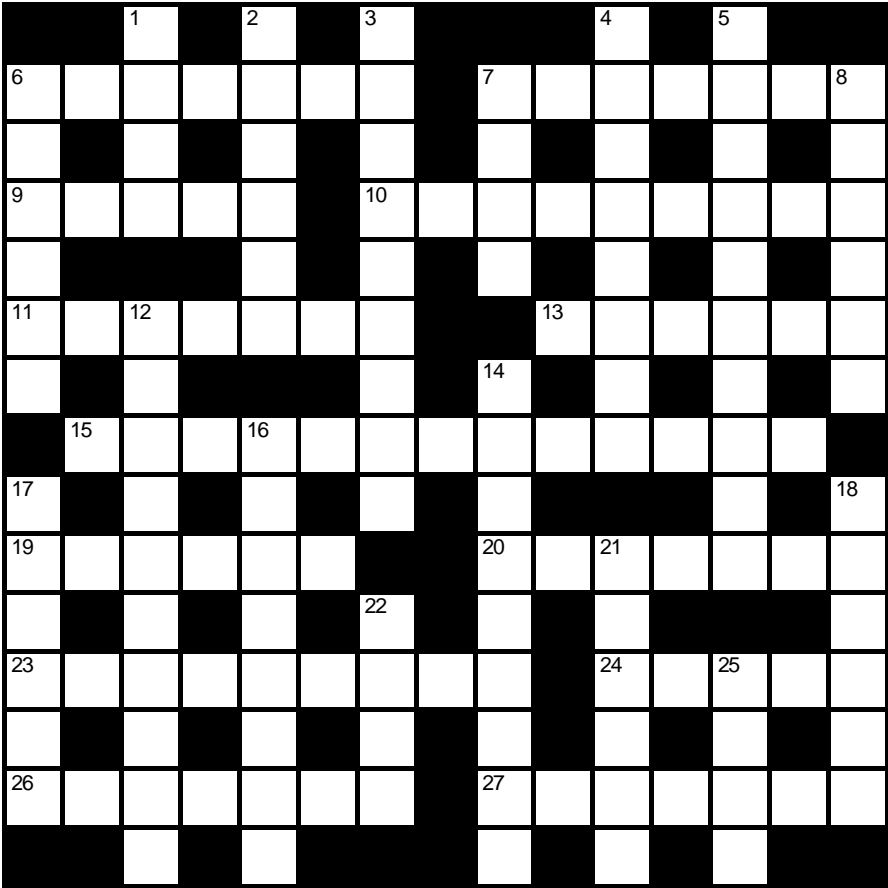
We will continue to use The *Crier* and other Parish Magazines to share information, also Facebook for those who are connected to social media.

Jonathan Cook

Crossword Number 179

Compiled by OUNCE

"No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,/ No comfortable feel in any member -/ No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,/ No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds -/ November!"- Thomas Hood. Clues marked* share a similarity that is not included in the cryptic part of the clue. Send your answers to the editors by 18th November 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

- 6 * Nero, middle-sized, confused but not nought (3-4)
- 7 It's not the main highway opponents make wider (7)
- 9 Beast joins queen. Cringe! (5)
- 10 "Taps" we hear when Hugo tilts fiddle (6-3)
- 11 Kinky copper he's eaten one French harem guards? (7)
- 13 Imaginary line back to Channel Islands harbour (6)
- 15 Feint if Bergen ruins perk (6,7)
- 19 Sad theologian, out late making exclamations of pleasure (6)
- 20 * 100 plus nothing? Impossible! (2,3,2)
- 23 Wild anemone race for McEwan novel (9)
- 24 I'd air broken arm bones (5)
- 26 Flipping fish guardian's charge returns downwind (7)
- 27 * Endless table with unknown quantity remarkably (7)

Down

- 1 Sounds like 12D starts to bite (4)
- 2 Loud Eric swallows redstart containing metal (6)
- 3 * Baseless, without a rewrite for example, counts (9)
- 4 * Note: Romeo is in tune for music after dark (8)
- 5 A piston rod crumples due to surface assimilation (10)

- 6 * Journalist follows cold, keen beginner ready to shoot (6)
- 7 Annoys listening devices (4)
- 8 * Glaze after Middle Eastern poster perhaps (6)
- 12 * Wreck the ark or land (5,5)
- 14 Reassembling tinier gun somehow (9)
- 16 * Very short measure returns late substance (e.g. not 2D) (3-5)
- 17 * Dance an extra? (2,4)
- 18 * Initially this is for you. Let someone know (6)
- 21 Dog consumed minister (6)
- 22 Fodder subject to fixed charge (4)
- 25 Financial obligation of French bachelor team leader (4)

Solution to crossword no. 178

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

We congratulate Julian Luttrell, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Sue Jackson, the Joyner family, Robert Nunn, Dainan O'Dowd, Sue & Keith Richards and Trish Whitehead.

Julie's Recipes

Winter Warming Recipes

Slow Cooker Irish beef stew

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 3 tbsp plain flour
- 900g beef stewing steak, cut into cubes
- 400g carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 onion, cut into large chunks
- 6 large potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks
- 2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 500ml beef stock
- 170g tomato puree
- 1 tbsp cold water
- 1 tbsp cornflour

Heat the oil in a large frying pan, toss the beef cubes with flour to coat, then fry in the hot oil until browned. Place the carrots, onion potatoes and garlic into the slow cooker. Place the meat on top, mix together the beef stock and the tomato puree and pour into the slow cooker along with the beer.

Cover and cook on high for 6 hours, during the last hour, dissolve the cornflour in cold water and stir into the stew. Simmer on high to allow to thicken and then it is ready to serve. (Serves 8)

Jam Roly Poly

- 175g S R flour
- Pinch of salt
- 75g shredded suet
- 3-4 tbsp hot water
- 6 tbsp raspberry jam
- 2 tbsp milk
- 1 tbsp of butter for greasing

Put the flour and salt into a bowl and mix together well. Add the suet, then stir in enough water to make into a light dough. Shape into a ball and knead gently on a floured work surface until smooth. Roll out into a rectangle about 11 x 9 inches.

Spread the jam over the dough, leaving a border of ½ inch all round. Brush the border with milk. Then roll it up.

Lightly grease a large piece of foil with the butter, then place the roll in the centre and gently wrap around it allowing enough room for expansion. Seal tightly. Transfer to steamer and steam for about 1 ½ hours until cooked, topping up the water in the steamer when necessary.

Turn out the roly poly when ready onto a platter and serve with hot custard.

The Reading Group Reads.....

Where the Crawdads Sing

by Delia Owens

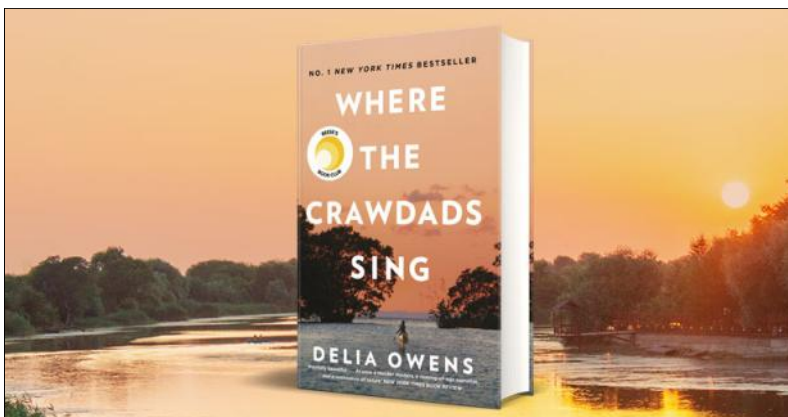
Delia Owens is a respected American wildlife scientist, who has published several best-selling nonfiction books, about her experiences in both America and Africa. This is her first novel and it draws heavily on her specialist knowledge, evoking a compelling landscape of the swamps of North Carolina.

Her main character is Kya who is abandoned by her family and grows up in intense loneliness. She survives and learns behaviour from her observations of the natural world around her. Local people avoid her, calling her the 'marsh girl', but she is supported to some extent, by other 'outcasts', the black shop keeper and his wife. Kya is highly intelligent, and an accomplished drawer of the wildlife she sees around her. Having shunned school and evaded the authorities, she is taught to read by a teenage boy who manages to befriend her, and she eventually becomes a respected publisher of natural history books. There is also another young man in her life whose intentions are not so benevolent. The story is told in a time-jump sequence in the 50' and 60's, so we find out what happens, before we discover how it happened: a young man dies in unexplained circumstances.

It is a beautifully written book, holding one's attention the whole way through. It is also a thriller, a murder mystery which keeps one wondering, right to the end. We all enjoyed the book, though some were more critical than others, but that makes for good discussion, doesn't it? We strongly recommend it to you. November's book is "**The Beekeeper of Aleppo**" by Christie Lefteri and December's is the much loved "**The Citadel**" by AJ Cronin, both of which would make good Christmas presents, as would the very first book with which we started the Swaffham Prior Book Club, **A Gathering Light** by Jennifer Donnelly (which was actually written as a Young Adult book though we didn't find that out until later!)

Happy reading.

Brenda Wilson





Heating Swaffham Prior - Moving your expression of interest toward connection...

Last year, you may have been one of 166 homes that expressed an interest in joining the village heat network. If so, now is the time to think about how your home will connect by booking a design-survey with the project engineers, Bouygues.

The design-survey will confirm the suitability of your home for connection and guarantee your place on the network. Any household that books a survey now will not have to pay the £1,000 connection cost if you decide to join the network in 2021.

There is no obligation at this stage for you to commit to joining the network.

There is less than two months left to design your place on the village's heat network, as surveys will only be offered until early December. Following the design survey, you will receive a bespoke offer pack for your house and legal contract ready for signature in the new year.

Book a survey now: www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/designnow/ or 0207 048 0450 (9am-5pm, M-F)

For more information

Speak with an engineer working on the project about how your home could connect to the network – www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/designnow

Review FAQs asked by you and other residents over the last year on the legal, financial and technical aspects of the project – www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/faqs

Take a look at the Heat Supply Agreement and changes made in response to the consultation held over the summer – www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/hsa/

Send any questions you have about the project to info@heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk **or phone 075 2594 3420 (M-F, 12 – 7pm)**

Some things to think about...

What is the future of oil?

What is the future of our environment?

How will rural villages reliant on oil, like Swaffham Prior, thrive in the future?

How will you heat your home?

Last year, you may have been one of 166 homes that expressed an interest in joining the village heat network. If so, now is the time to think about how your home will connect by booking a design-survey with the project engineers, Bouygues.

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Snakehall Farm's Gates swing OPEN once again

Thank you to all of our lockdown donors, supporters, volunteers, trustees and of course our super Staff team who have all dug extra deep to help The Prospects Trust survive the first ever total farm lockdown in it's 30+ year history.



It has been the most different growing season we have ever seen. We have made lots of new friends; from over 30 regular volunteers who joined our Farm Fit Boot Camp sowing, weeding, digging throughout lockdown to our now very loyal farm shop customers at Prospects Trust Unwrapped in Ely. We even spied our first socially-distancing-queue at our organic "veg shed" farm shop at Snakehall Farm.

Organic veg has never been so popular and we are pleased we kept our local communities well supplied with seasonal supplies, direct to the door in some cases. Our Survive to Thrive appeal raised an magnificent sum in donations, further bolstered by grants from The Eric Drummond Mercer Charitable Trust and Reach Community Solar, all directed at reopening our social care provision safely and responsibly. We are so thrilled to have over 60 Co-workers back with us in their supportive placements at Snakehall Farm, on our Garden Team and at Prospects Trust Unwrapped. The funds have enabled us to provide essential PPE, new "zones" for our Co-worker groups and signage to help everyone keep their "Tilly Tractor Distance".

Its a very different place at the moment but as you all know we thrive on "different" and it is a joy to see our Co-workers back in our fields, behind our till or lawnmowers. Thank you to all who continue to support our socially enterprising charity that never fails to rise to a challenge. <https://prospectstrust.org.uk/>

The Way Things Were

Wash Day

I was born during World War II, and my earliest memory of washing equipment, is of a blueish metal barrel and a posher, (a wooden stick, not quite broom-handle size, with a kind of upturned metal basin on the end) with which you pummelled the clothes in the hot water in the metal tub. This was in the space behind the back door, between the kitchen stove and the sink. When the clothes had been pummelled enough, they were guided manually through a mangle on the side of the sink. The mangle was two rollers covered with a rubber solution, placed one above the other and turned by a handle, to squeeze the water out of the wet washing. I don't know how the mangle was fixed to the sink because it wasn't there permanently. Nor do I remember how the water in the tub was heated - I have a vague memory of a gas ring underneath but I can't be sure of that. Some time later the tub was relegated to the coal store outside and became a pretend boat to my little brother and I. We then had a modern washing machine, an electric tub with a paddle in the middle which swished the washing back and forth to remove the dirt and had an electric mangle attached. Years later I met the aunt of one of my secondary school friends whose arm was permanently deformed after becoming trapped in the clothes between the rollers of her electric mangle up to the elbow. NB You can see a washtub and posher in Burwell Museum and see how they used soap before there was washing powder.

Brenda Wilson



COVID Permitting, you can see all this washing equipment at Burwell Museum. I remember getting my fingers trapped in our mangle but unlike for Brenda's unfortunate Aunt, it was a manual one, I just stopped turning and took care not to do it again!

Ed

Would you like to write an article for The Way Things Were? Email the editors at editors@swaffham-crier.co.uk.

Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Autumn is well and truly here, with the usual mix of weather and seasonal nature and wildlife changes. We're starting to see the return of migrant birds to the fen, and when the annual re-wetting of parts of the wider reserve begins this month, we'll see an increase in numbers of wildfowl on Burwell and Baker's Fens as well as the mere area of Adventurers' Fen. Keep an eye out for winter thrushes such as redwing and fieldfare feasting on berries, and wigeon and whooper swans enjoying the open water.

Pull on some wellies if you're coming over for a walk in the wider reserve as some of the paths are a little wet and sticky in places. You'll be rewarded with the sight of golden reed heads as autumn fen foliage softens to mustard yellows and tawny browns. Stop off at MOTHER... and enjoy its tranquillity and views of the fen landscape.

If welly walks are not your thing, the Boardwalk and Woodland Walk offer year-round all-weather surfaces that are accessible for all. The Roger Clarke and Boardwalk hides are open for wildlife watching or just a peaceful space to pause in this part of the reserve too. We're still asking visitors to pre-book to keep everyone safe and maintain social distancing. To avoid disappointment, we recommend booking in advance, particularly at busier times such as weekends and bank holidays. However, where space is available on weekdays, booking may not always be necessary. Call us on 01353 720274 and if we have space, we will book you in. Tickets are released every Friday for the following week, and booking details can be found here <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve>

The Docky Hut Café is now serving warming soups and one pot meals, gingerbread lattes and other seasonal treats. You don't have to be visiting for a walk or cycle to call in, the café is open daily from 10am to 4pm, so you can just pop in for coffee if you're passing.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels as we will soon be announcing our festive plans. There will be a Christmas trail for families on the Boardwalk and we're turning the Woodland Walk into a natural winter wonderland. More on this very soon!



Whooper swans on Burwell Fen by Richard Nicoll

News from Bottisham Medical Practice

Patients' Participation Group

Meeting: We held our first meeting via Zoom on 7 October, having suspended meetings at the start of lockdown. Notes of this will be available on the Practice website.

Equipment: We are pleased to be able to report that the Doppler Machine is on order and that a nursing trolley has been purchased with funds provided by our generous patients.

Social Prescriber: Chloe Burgess is the practice's new social prescriber and now working at the Practice one day a week. Patients can self-refer to her and there is an item on the website which gives details of this. Her role is to help patients who have social needs to find the appropriate help. She will also work with Nurse Carol on diabetes support.

Appointments: The Practice will continue to operate the telephone and video consultations, with patients being invited in for face to face appointments where clinically necessary. The waiting room is now open with 4 patients being able to sit in the waiting area at one time. Please remember your face masks when attending the practice.

Dispensary: The practice have been working hard over the last few months to improve the dispensary service. In the coming weeks details will be put in patients repeat medication bags as to how they can sign up for the new delivery service. The practice hopes this will reduce the turnaround time for repeat medication and also the queues as we head into winter.

Next meeting: To be arranged and will be held virtually via Zoom.

Bottisham Patient's Participation Group.

Out on the Wildside:

Continued from last month ...

Despite often being painted as the villain in so many stories, I want you to embrace spiders rather than scream at them. Firstly, they are really very harmless to us, all three species mentioned last month are not venomous. Second, they are brilliant little helpers at eating unwanted flies and biting bugs in our home like mosquitos. And they are a vital part of the food chain for many of our favourite

Incy Wincy Spiders



garden creatures including frogs and hedgehogs. Plus how can you not admit that spiders webs are really very beautiful? Also spiders in the countryside help to control the amount of pests that would otherwise eat all our food crops. If that won't win you over then what about a little guilt- the life of a house spider is actually really very sad- most of them only live for one year! Sometimes two if they're lucky. The spiders you see dashing across your floor from summer into autumn aren't trying to suck your blood- honest! They are actually mostly just lonely males looking for females to mate with before they die. So maybe next time just stop and think before you crush it with your slipper- they have a simple mission after which they will perish. Do we really have a right to kill them just for them being in our homes? My bedroom is a spider haven, I never kill them and I must have many under my bed but it doesn't bother me one bit as I know they have their part to play in our wonderful world of nature. If I really have to (if only not to be squashed by someone else in the house) then I will relocate the spider outside. You can do this really easily with a cup and a piece of paper which you slid under them. Please don't use a brush- you will crush their soft bodies as spiders skeletons are on the outside. Just move or let them scurry off. And that's my bid for spiders- so when you see all the spiders hanging in people's windows this Halloween, just remember they are really not as bad as they look and they don't deserve to be treated like the baddie.

Saffra Monteiro



Mothers' Union

What is 16 Days of Activism?

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign. It takes place each year from **25 November** (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until **10 December** (International Human Rights Day).

Throughout the campaign, Mothers' Union joins with around 6,000 organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in the campaign, to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies. There is often a theme for the campaign but as of the production of this pack (September 2020) this has not been announced.

As part of the campaign this year we will be holding our first Global Day which is centred around the disturbing figure that "1 in 3 women worldwide have

experienced domestic or sexual abuse” and that Mothers’ Union, as a leading women’s organisation, believe this to be unacceptable.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign is an extension of the day-to-day grassroots work of Mothers’ Union. We work alongside communities to help end gender-based violence and to support those affected by it, every day of the year.

We pray for all to follow Christ’s example of treating children, women and men with equality and respect.

We pray for all who live
in fear of violence and despair that life will ever change.
Bring to an end their suffering,
restore their sense of worth.

We pray for those who perpetrate abuse with no sense
of guilt or shame.

Bring to justice their actions,
change their inner hearts.

We pray against regimes
that endorse violence.

Shatter their influence,
initiate peace.

Loving Lord,
we pray for a better world
where love, justice and peace
may flourish.

Amen

It was with great sadness we received the news that Susan Baker passed away on 23rd September. She was branch leader in Burwell, and our Diocesan President over 12 years 2012-2018.. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Ann Langran

Red2Green

News October 2020

We have now been open for two months and are getting into new routines. A lot of our learners have returned on reduced days, and we are slowly introducing more learners back in. Throughout lockdown Red2Green kept in touch with our learners through new online systems and by telephone. Like everyone we have had to get used to technology and get through teething problems! Our learners have struggled without us, and we were very grateful when we could reopen to the highest priority learners. Opening in a COVID-19 secure manner has been expensive, and we have been grateful for all the help and donations that we have received. If you are able to

raise funds for us, then please get in touch. If you would like to donate you can do so at <https://justgiving.com/campaign/Red2GreenCovidSecure>

Red2Green Community Café and Garden

Having been forced to close the Red2Green Cafe for the duration of the pandemic, we have been really grateful for the support of the local people in buying plants from us. We soon sold out of summer bedding. We are still selling plants and have an honesty box and plant display on the edge of our Bottisham site from 9:30 to 4 p.m, Monday to Friday. We have a variety of winter bedding available and this can be ordered for collection, or for a £3 charge we will deliver within 5 miles of Bottisham. You can support a local charity and get your plants through us at www.red2green.org

The Red2Green Community Cafe is still closed. Whilst other cafes have been able to open, we need the space for our learners to be able to socially distance and we are keeping our learners away from the general public.

We are looking forward to when we will be able to reopen, but this will be when we can do so safely.

Cogs2Computers

Our Cogs2Computers project was suspended when we closed our services. We are really happy to be back with it, despite some changes being made to the project as COVID-19 has had a bit of an impact on how we can deliver this.

We are currently learning all about the Antikythera Mechanism which has been described as the first analogue computer and originating in ancient Greece. The mechanism was used to predict astronomical positions and eclipses for calendars – decades in advance!

Our Steering Committee will be meeting (virtually, of course) on the 22nd October at 10:30 am, where we will be discussing our new way of going forward with the project and planning some exciting virtual events which will bring everyone together for fun and learning. Watch this space!

The Great British Clean Up

Aspirations took part in the "Great British September Clean" for Keep Britain Tidy. Our learners devised their own safety checks, ensured they had the correct equipment and then searched everywhere for rubbish. The first week they went to the Denny in Swaffham Bulbeck and the graveyard. The following week they did the road to Bottisham. They collected a big bag of plastic bottles, tins cans and general waste both weeks. This activity and photos have been uploaded to the Great British September Clean-up page.

Liz Taylor

The District Council adopted the Custom and Self Build and Natural Environment Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD), which developers now must follow. We were impressed by how many individuals and Parish Councils responded with support and ideas to strengthen the measures further, particularly for the Natural Environment SPD. Unfortunately, SPDs can only strengthen and expand on policies already in the Local Plan. This meant that many of the suggestions, which Councillors also supported, could not be included as they could not be linked with policies in our current Local Plan. But they have all been recorded and will be brought forward again for consideration when we develop a new Local Plan. As the current plan dates back to 2015, John and Charlotte are keen that we should start work on drafting a new Local Plan which properly addresses the climate emergency and our need for affordable housing. Meanwhile, the Council is now consulting on a Climate Change SPD to ensure our Planning Policies reduce climate impact. We hope that many people will comment on this SPD by the closing date of 23 November – you can read the draft document on-line or request a copy from the Council.



We are also consulting on our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which seeks to ensure that we fully include everyone in service provision, job opportunities and other aspects of the District Council's activities. This is an important document and we are keen for many people to comment, so that we develop a policy which builds a community in which all can take part and all can take pride. The deadline for comments is the end of November.

To comment on any consultation, go to the Council's website - <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/> and click on the button for 'consultation' which will take you through to the document and details of how to comment.

Members of the Bus Working Party finally received feedback from the bus services consultation. This will be discussed by all members at a seminar at the end of October before Finance & Assets Committee decide on the Council's request to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority for improved bus services in East Cambs. John and Charlotte are pressing for the results of the walking and cycling surveys, which have still not been reported to members even though the consultation closed at the end of May. We were pleased to note that many people locally had responded to the bus survey with ideas for improvements to buses to Ely, Newmarket and Cambridge, including considering wider destinations such as Addenbrookes and Cambridge North.

We will be holding our next Councillors' Surgery by Zoom on 17 November from 6.00pm. The meeting code is: 631 542 4066 and the passcode is: 938720. If

you prefer to follow a link, it will be on Charlotte's Facebook page - fb.me/charlottecanelibdem. The Surgery will be followed by 'Meet your Councillors' from 7.00pm on the same Zoom link. If you join for the surgery, you will be held in the waiting room if there is already someone in the meeting with us, so that any discussions during the surgery remain confidential.

FREecycle



Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

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

Navy blue Sofa bed loose cover (IKEA Lycksele, 2 seater). Lucy/Nick 01223 811192

Cream leather sofa & armchair (modern style, some wear but overall look is very good). Jane or Alan 01223 812154

RHS 'The Garden' magazine 2015 to 2018 complete; 2 Studio Lighting Stands extending from 3ft. 6ins. to 8ft. high; 2 Studio Lighting Stands 3ft. 6ins. high with lampholders and shades; Bench Vice 6ins. wide, opens to 5ins. deep.; Drawing Board mounting 'Anglepoise' type Lamp with 2 Fluorescent tubes 18 ins. long approx. Martin 01223 811703

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](https://www.freecycle.org/people/user.php?username=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.

BON MOT NUMBER 111

**"I have lived Life to the Full.
Even if fortune turns more unkind,
it will never take away from me
what the past has given."**

Petronius (c27-66AD)

Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Present: Mr John Covill (Chair) (JC), Mr Alan Durrant (AD), Mr David Greenfield (DG), Mrs Sandra Gynn (SG), Mr Peter Hart (PH), Mr Paul Latchford (PL) and Mr Steve Kent-Phillips (SKP). Cllr Charlotte Cane (CC) and 3 members of the public were in attendance.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 10th September were approved

Reports

a) CCC representative – none received

b) ECDC representative - Cllr Charlotte Cane (CC) reporting. A report had been circulated prior to the meeting noting that: the Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document and the Natural Environment Supplementary Planning Document were adopted; the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy 2020-2023 proposal will be sent out for consultation with residents and PCs; East Cambs Trading Company accounts were noted and the Business Plan accepted with misgivings from CC, e.g. over £0.5M deficit; the Medium Term Financial Strategy report showed the need for substantial savings which may affect services; and an update from the Housing and Community Team on the impact of COVID19 (CC found this useful – to date they are coping well but are concerned for the future) .

CC noted that at the last meeting, a question had been asked regarding the speed limit for the cycle path. There is no speed limit but some websites suggest that cyclists travelling at 15mph or more should use the road.

The bus workgroup had received nearly 1500 responses; the main requests for this area were to reintroduce the Sunday services and later evening services and to introduce a route to Cambridge North.

There were questions from the PC about the ECTC losses, the increased frequency of black rubbish collection on the fen, and bus use which is now at 120% of pre-COVID levels.

Matters arising from previous minutes

PL had not yet received a map of the Heath Road allotment plots from AC yet.

Correspondence for consideration/circulation:

a) Email from Sunnica regarding energy farm - noted

b) Email including briefing pack from Network Rail regarding round 1 consultation on Network Rail Ely Area Capacity Enhancement programme – noted.

c) Letter from Dr and Mrs Fretwell regarding proposed community wood – see below.

Consideration of planning applications received:

1) 26 High Street Swaffham Prior - Conversion of an outbuilding barn into a dwelling with a porch extension and associated works. SG noted that the provision of parking in the grounds should end the need to park in the street.

2) Creation of an energy centre to serve Swaffham Prior on land at Goodwin Farm, 1 Heath Road – approved.

3) Ingleside, 64 High Street, Swaffham Prior – single storey rear and side extension, single storey porch and re-render - approved.

Accounts for payment

These included: Clerk's salary and taxes, grass cutting, removal of cemetery trees, insurance renewal, and ECDC precept.

Proposed Community Wood

Mrs L Fretwell had outlined a proposal to plant woodland and dig a pond on an area of land rented from Cambridge County Council by Snakehall Farm. The wood is to be freely

accessible to all, including wheelchair accessible and funding is available from both government grants and the Woodland Trust. The wood and pond would be maintained by Snakehall Farm with help from volunteers. No financial commitment was being asked of the PC. She asked for a letter of support for the project from the Parish Council.

Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact of people driving to and parking near the wood and the lack of a footpath from the edge of the village to the proposed wood site. It was agreed that the Clerk write a letter of support from the PC regarding the proposed wood and pond, but with the areas of concern stated.

Rewilding the Verges

DG reported back regarding the rewilding of the verges that had taken place this summer. Of the three areas rewilded; the bypass was the most successful, looking tidy and containing thriving and interesting plants; Greenhead Road bank looks untidy and unmanaged so the village rewilding group intends to plant and seed it in the autumn to improve its appearance; and the bank on Cage Hill under the Croft – the rewilding group are looking at weeding, planting and seeding this area in the autumn. Cambridge County Council had been in contact regarding possible help rewilding verges.

Cemetery

The quote received from ETS for tree work had been circulated prior to the meeting. The PC agreed to wait for a quote from a second company to arrive, for comparison. The full description of a proposed grave marker had been circulated prior to the meeting - approved.

Remembrance Wreath

SKP proposed to order a wreath and to round the payment up to £50 as a donation; seconded SG, passed unanimously.

Local Transport Plans

DG explained that a Local Transport group had formed, chaired by Jonathan Cook, with the aim of improving the B1102 for all who use it and live beside it and to keep all involved parties (e.g. PCs and village residents) fully informed of proposals, decisions, progress etc. This was in the light of the recent consultation on traffic changes by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, to which only 19 people from Swaffham Prior had responded.

The Greenway schedule proposed narrowing the sliproad (and widening of the footpath) at the Swaffham Bulbeck end of the village. Other ideas examined briefly included a proposed bus gate on Newmarket Road, the possible moving of the Newmarket Road Park and Ride and the lack of proposed stops in villages of the Cam Metro. CC noted that ECDC does not fully engage in this process and so a group keeping watch on what is occurring will be useful.

Clerk's Report

- a) The issue of the grave had been resolved: the family are now maintaining the correct grave.
- b) There had been a number of reports that the grave marker of Edwin Muir had fallen down – the Clerk had checked on it, it was still standing and a visual survey revealed no increase in lean or signs of movement.
- c) Other local Clerks had been canvassed for how they carried out checks for grave marker stability. Most either checked themselves or had groundsmen that carried out the checks; some but not all had ICCM training. Various options were discussed.
- d) The Clerk had contacted Burwell Tigers regarding maintenance of the football field – they have been in touch with the Hurrells and everything is in hand. She had been in contact with Mr Cazenove regarding the trees overhanging Station Road and he is having them looked at where they are close to the power lines.
- e) An occupied grave recorded in the grave space and burial records is not marked on the most recent map. Ways of producing a more accurate map will be investigated.

f) The Annual Village Assembly would go ahead via Zoom due to restrictions on gatherings due to COVID 19, with reports being circulated beforehand and the Zoom meeting being for any questions.

Parish Councillors' Reports

- a) DG asked if the PC wished to request that a right of way be established between the towpath and the path to the Little Chapel in the Fen. After discussion it was decided not to.
- b) PH noted that a road-edge post on the left hand side of the B1102 had been knocked over – SKP to report.
- c) AD noted that part of the hut in the playground had come off – SKP to get repaired.
- d) AD questioned whether the fence on a property on Cage Hill had been amended as agreed in the planning application. It was noted that it is the ECDC planning enforcement officer's job to check and enforce this, not a Parish Council power.
- e) SG noted a parishioner had complained about flooding from a blocked drain in front of the Village Hall and that this was a regular problem due to pine needles from the Village Hall trees and hay spilt from lorries – SKP to report the blocked drain.
- f) SG noted that the wooden edge on the left hand side of the main cemetery path was broken – SKP to look into. SG also reported that the cemetery bins were still being used incorrectly to dispose of dog excrement, which was deeply unpleasant to sort out.
- g) AC had reported to SG his intention to mark out new grave plots, which would require the bins to be moved. AC also suggested that the Clerk write to the landowners of the ditch on Lower End, requesting that it be cleaned out before the winter.

Open Question Time

In response to his question at the last meeting, the clerk informed Mr Limb that there had been no direct communication from Cllr Schumann.

***"The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it"***

John 1.5



These words resonate so strongly with me as I reflect on 2020. I don't like to be a draining doom-and-gloom-type person, but I am committed to authenticity, honesty, vulnerability, and the truth is, for many, 2020 has been a very dark year.

Maybe your darkness has been rooted in relationship breakdown, job loss, loneliness, illness, bereavement, empty-nest syndrome, financial difficulties, [insert other situation] - all very difficult things to go through, only accentuated due to the nature of life with Covid-19.

For me, 2020 has been a very dark year, with struggles and battles not rooted in the pandemic, but certainly compounded by it. I have struggled with symptoms of depression and anxiety and on doctor's advice took some time away from 'work' to seek to get to a more healthy place.

I have been struck throughout this year by how the depth of the darkness enables the light, however small, to shine much brighter.

A single candle flame, in a bright room during the day will have minimal impact on the environment; as evening approaches, the light's influence on the surroundings will be more noticeable; in the depth of the night, that single flame will be sufficient to lighten the whole room.

I want to encourage you, **the light is shining in your darkness.**

For me, this looked like: my incredible wife who was beside me, loving me, praying for me, supporting me, covering my shortcomings throughout my darkest times; my fantastic GP who genuinely cares, is wise, encouraging and challenging where appropriate; my children, who bring me joy by their love for me, their joyfulness, their simplicity, their need for a drink, a biscuit, a bit longer on their devices; the beauty of my surroundings, and the deep joy and brightness experienced when walking Barney (our 9 month old labradoodle) for miles everyday, in all weathers, through the amazing countryside around me; the gift of good friends who were close enough to let me know they care, without being too intrusive and demanding of me.

Each of these light-shining-people, I believe, carry and reflect light from a particular source; the same source being talked about in John Chapter 1.5 - the loving, creative, joyous, gracious, generous, hopeful, kind, gentle, good, patient - LIGHT of God, seen in creation, ***“let there be light”*** (Genesis 1.3) and experienced in the person of Jesus Christ whose coming Christians will celebrate next month, ***“the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.”*** (John 1.9)

Sometimes I need to be reminded to open my eyes, look around, and see the light around me rather than keeping my eyes closed, looking down and dwelling in the darkness. When I look around I see the beauty, I see the light shining in and through the world and in and through others - the light of God.

You are very welcome to join us for worship via zoom at 10.30 each Sunday morning: Meeting ID: 785 882 4660 Password: Renew. We are just a group of ordinary people trying to follow Jesus and live right, encouraging each other on the way. Please also consider joining us for our online Alpha Course starting in January if you'd like to explore the Christian faith.

Thank you for reading, I pray you will know the love of God deep within your being.

Revd. Alan Brand

Online ALPHA Courses from RENEW

RENEW Church is very excited to be hosting a new online Alpha course (www.al-pha.org) starting January 2021. Everyone has questions. We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. You don't even have to commit to the whole course initially, why not join in an introductory session and take it from there? You are so very welcome, starting: **Wednesday 13th January, 8pm, via zoom. What is Alpha?** Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. **No pressure. No follow up. No charge.** Run over twelve weeks, each session looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. Check out our website www.renewchurch.org.uk or contact Alan Brand for more information and to sign up. We look forward to exploring the Christian faith with you.

Dates for Your Diary November 2020

Wed	4	Book Club [17]
Thu	12	PC Meeting, On-line on Zoom, 7:30pm [28]
Tue	17	District Councillors' Surgery, On-line, 6:00pm [26]
Fri	20	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	24	Annual Village Assembly, On-line, 7:30pm [28]
Dec	14	GCP Roads consultation ends [12]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

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