



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLV Number 4

April 2021



Editorial

SPAM, SPAM AND MORE SPAM — our inboxes are full of it, and no sooner does one “unsubscribe” from one unwanted correspondent, then another six appear. Never fear, Google Mail’s spam filter is here to help— or not! Last month, after finally discovering three missing correspondents hiding in the Crier’s Spam Box, the magazine itself was promptly delivered to... the Spam Box of Burwell Print. Who, having finally found and printed it, then told our Spam Box it was ready for pick up. Alas, our Spam Box disloyally did nothing. Result: many recriminations!

Good news in this issue: one of St Cyriac’s Bells (competing in size with the *Ever Given*) has finally been successfully detached from its moorings and is ready for repair. Donations needed — see page 6.

Meanwhile, we were very pleased to get a letter from Sylvie Short (author of *Two Churches Together*) who has been enjoying the history articles in recent issues, and by co-incidence, Celia Tyler has also sent the very photograph that (a) made Sylvie wonder if the “Cock” in Cock Hill originated from the Cock Horse (or just a Cock as depicted on the Pub Sign) and (b) possibly depicts Clem Wadden’s huge barn where she so very nearly “drowned” as a child? See her letter and page 16.

Although we’re probably all a bit Zoomed (or Teamed) out by now, these whizz Apps have made a massive difference to life during Lockdown. Work considerations apart, they’ve allowed many village organisations to keep meeting (Parish Council, Church, Bookclub, WI...) and for some, particularly those with child-care problems, it’s meant they can attend meetings they otherwise couldn’t. So we were rather stunned to hear that HMGov is no now longer going to permit Zoom attendance at Parish Council Meetings. Why on earth not? Meanwhile, could you be a Councillor? See our Situations Vacant! Happy Easter All,

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Easter Delight* by Ruth, Emma & Sophie Blundell



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Mothering Sunday Flowers

What a wonderful surprise on Mothering Sunday to receive a spray of spring flowers and greenery. Many thanks to the Anglesey group of churches for the really kind thought, especially in these times when we cannot see our families as we normally would.

Susan Richards.

Dear Editors,

The School Nature Garden

The school is enjoying the nature garden much more this year. Class teachers are using the area to compliment their classes like Maths. The younger children are counting leaves and twigs. We are striving to make it a plastic free zone. There is a great interest now in the outdoor “Forest” method of teaching.

Sue Wade

School garden helper



**This year, the
younger
children are
learning to
count in the
school nature
garden**

Dear Editors,

The History of the Village –

I was so pleased to see the articles about the history of the village in the Crier over the past couple of months, and delighted that my book is proving to be of some use – thank-you for your kind comments, Alastair.

It was a labour of love that took me four years to write. The research was hard work, but I was as thorough as I could be, and one of the joys was meeting, re-meeting and interviewing some lovely people – well over twenty altogether. One of the fascinating things about historical research is that the meticulous quest for accuracy sometimes throws up some surprises.

The Cock Inn – Yes, I too was completely convinced that the name refers to the horse stabled at the bottom of the hill and used to help get coaches up to the top. So...imagine my surprise when I came across an old photograph that clearly shows a large feathered cockerel on an old sign. I have reproduced it on page 142 of 'Two Churches Together.' It's not very clear unless you use a magnifying glass, but it was much easier to see on the original photo. Why the cockerel? I don't think we'll ever know – perhaps put there by a previous landlord who didn't know about the horse? But that's just speculation.

Clem Wadham – One of my memories of Clem is in the book on page 17 and refers to a time when, as children in the fifties, some friends and I got inside his huge barn, used then as a grain store, and climbed to the top. The 'sea' of grain below looked so inviting that I jumped into it and was only saved from 'drowning' by the prompt action of one of the men working in the yard who, hearing my friends' shrieks, came to the rescue with a long pole. Clem and my father (when I was delivered home) were not amused and yes, I did get walloped!

If I can be of any further help please let me know. When we are not 'locked down' I do visit the village quite frequently as Mary Cook and I are still good friends. Writing the book was such a joy and my way of giving something back to the village that sustained me throughout my childhood.

Sylvie Short

sylvietoat@tiscali.co.uk

By coincidence, we are publishing that very picture in this month's issue —see page 15. Eds

Donations!

Many thanks to Henry Hurrell, Mary Joyner and Sylvie Short for their very kind donations to the Crier this month. Every penny goes to the printing, production and distribution costs of the Crier.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

“There are times, I have to admit, when even the glowing flame of ----- sinks to a mere flicker.” And then comes along the wonderful sight of the school children's models of various Mr Men sitting on the Playground seats. Quite a chuckle everyone had. This was followed by an offer from Yusaku Maezawa, a Japanese billionaire, for a trip around the moon in 2023. All totally free. Something certainly not to be missed. So, all is well with the world, up to a point.



The PC Meeting was held on Thursday 11th March. Read Jude's always excellent minutes for the full details. The planning application for four new houses at Lower End was considered and objected to on six counts. This is probably the third application to develop the site, approaching it now from the third direction. It is like a military operation determined to enter a besieged city. Will it get there?

Then the installation of a Fire Alarm system in the Village Hall was discussed and it was agreed that the PC pay for the Camguard Manual system to be installed (does someone ring a handbell?). When the Village Hall was last refurbished in 1999 the Fire Service was consulted and a wise experienced fireman advised against installing one. He said that there is occasionally a false alarm, which irritates local residents, that residents are often so slow to act that the Hall has burnt down by the time anything is done, etc. How times have changed. The Village Hall Committee has also cancelled the China chair order. This is in line, I think, with Johnson's current trade policy, though that does appear to swivel. Against colleagues, he wishes to widen trade with China though at the same time sending one of our new carriers to the area to keep that jumped up nation in its place. The only snag is that we lack the range of support vessels to keep the carrier safe. It is in fact a great big



Mr Men reclining in the Children's Playground

sitting duck. And, as an ex naval man, I would not wish to be on it in a conflict.

Then the meeting came to the current big one for the Village, the new Proposed Heating Scheme. The CCC has done a great job with a superbly professionally prepared website which is very impressive, and there will be an “It’s Happening” Zoom Heating Meeting on 25th March. Not to be missed. David Greenfield, one of the initiating Trio, with an inside track, was questioned. **Inevitably he was asked the big key question** – “How many had signed up at the end of January”. He explained it was not possible to say because “no-one had been asked to sign up officially yet”. As Oprah Winfrey would exclaim “**WHHAAATT!?!?**”. What were all those previous end dates for? Is the Village just being strung along?

There was a little more clarity on the 160 people who had expressed an interest. About two years ago the possibility of including fibre in the deal was dangled. Not unreasonably the possibility of installing fibre while digging up the village was raised. A very sensible suggestion. If interested please sign up and express an interest. The result is that the CCC has no way of knowing how many of the 160 signed up/expressed an interest just for the fibre. Anyway the result is that at the end of January no-one had signed up. **The only fact we have is that the August poll by the PC indicated that only 11% would sign** -- which means between 40 and 60. On the strength of these figures the work is scheduled to begin in May – this year! And will the costs rise again? Originally £2-3 million, the estimate is now £7 million.

None of this suggests that the aims of the Trio are wrong and we must admire their attempts to deal with Climate Change, and to save the world. But we know that people can be obstinate, uncaring and wilful, and that coercion will necessary if we are to achieve Zero Carbon.

But we are lucky. In Reach lives Ross Clark, a journalist who writes for the *Times*, *Telegraph*, *Spectator* and other papers. He also writes novels. In 2020 his *The Denial* was published and this illustrates life after we had achieved Zero Carbon. It is a satire, and very very funny. The novel has been described as “a fantastic book, very funny and yet disturbing at the same time”; “quite one of the most enjoyable and fascinating books I have read in a long time”; “a bit reminiscent of Orwell and Kafka”; “in some ways it is like Tom Sharpe's *Wilt* with one funny situation inevitably leading to another”. These are a selection of comments from People who have read it.

It is essential reading for anyone interested in the Climate Crisis and especially for all environmentalists, whether wearing a halo or not. Or whether you would just like a few amusing and thought provoking hours. (See p.6 for details of Ross’s book)

End Piece:

- 1) People who use inhalers are responsible for 250,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year. This is equivalent to the annual emissions of 90,000 cars.
- 2) Next month there will be constructive news on how to achieve Carbon Zero.
- 3) A Bottle of Wine is available for the first who tells me the name of the missing person in my first sentence.

Alastair Everitt

***The Denial* by Ross Clark**

£9.99

190 Pages

Published by Lume Books

**30 Great Guildford Street, Borough,
London SE1 0HS**

Unscrewing the Bell



It's all happening - here's a picture of the last nut being unscrewed so the headstock can be taken away for rebuilding.

We still need to raise the best part of **£1,000**, so get in touch with John Chalmers on 01638 742004 or johnc.ipe@gmail.com to find out how you can help.

Village Hall AGM 2021

This year's Annual General Meeting of Swaffham Prior Village Hall Management Committee will be held on Zoom.



Find out what the Management Committee has been up to during lockdown.

If you would like to know more about the running of the Hall, or have suggestions for improvements, join us for this open meeting.

The meeting will be held on Thursday 15th April at 8.00pm.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5523971583?pwd=RldWSjkwY1daUm9ISDhzV0V0MFpBUT09>

The passcode is: 2B9bsE

I realise that such a long link isn't very helpful when printed in the Crier, but if you go to our website, there is a clickable link to get you into the meeting:

Either Google us, or go to www.SwaffhamPriorVillageHall.co.uk

ELECTIONS 6TH MAY 2021

Electors will go to the polls on 6 May 2021 to elect new Councillors to the County Council, elect the Combined Authority Mayor and to elect the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Elections will be run under strict covid-19 guidance, which includes the current government messages.

PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

ONE WAY SYSTEM IN OPERATION

PLEASE SANITISE HANDS ON ENTERING AND EXITING THE POLLING STATION

FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES IN THE POLLING STATION

YOU MAY USE YOUR OWN PEN OR PENCIL IF PREFERRED

IF YOU HAVE CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE POLLING STATION

Following our polling station risk assessments, we will also have a range of other measures in place, such as the number of people permitted in the polling station at any one time. Please be aware that you may have to queue to go into the polling station. Staff will indicate when it is OK to enter.

The polling station staff will be behind individual screens and will be wearing a face mask. If you have difficulty hearing or you are a lip reader, please indicate this to the staff on arrival.

You will be given three ballot papers, one for each of the elections taking place, and you just need to follow the instructions at the top of each ballot paper.

Once you have cast your vote, please leave the polling station promptly using the exit route indicated, to allow other electors access.



Do you live in Swaffham Prior?

Do you have a suggestion to make, an issue to raise, questions to ask or a brilliant idea to float about the village?

If so, we want you at **your Annual Village Assembly** on Wednesday 26th May, 7pm – an open question event on all things Swaffham Prior (location to be confirmed).

Any questions or information wanted can be communicated to the Clerk before the meeting, to make sure that as full an answer as possible is available on the day.

Jude Griffiths –

Clerk to the Parish Council.

swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com

JULIE'S SPRING TIME RECIPES

Spring Lamb Stew

1 tbsp olive oil	2 sprigs of thyme
1 kg lamb neck, cut into pieces	4 carrots, cut into chunks
2 garlic cloves, crushed	100g fresh or frozen peas
1 onion, finely chopped	100g green beans
1 bay leaf	Salt and pepper

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pan and brown the meat, garlic and onion, add the bay leaf, thyme and carrots, and enough water to cover the meat.

2. Bring to a simmer and remove any scum that rises to the top. Once all the scum is removed, cover the pan. Cook for 2 hours, or until tender.

3. 10 minutes before serving add the peas and beans to the lamb. Cook until the vegetables are tender.

4. Finally season with salt and pepper and serve straight away. Serves 4-6 people.

Rhubarb & custard cake

400g rhubarb, trimmed & cut into cubes	4 large eggs
50g sugar	1 tsp vanilla extract
250g butter, softened	250g golden caster sugar
150g ready made custard	Icing sugar for dusting
250g self raising flour	
½ tsp baking powder	

Put rhubarb onto a baking tray, sprinkle with sugar, cover with foil and roast until soft. When cooked drain off the juices before it cools.

Line a 23cm loose bottomed cake tin. Heat the oven to 180C.

Reserve 3 tbsp of the custard in a bowl. Beat the rest of the custard together with the butter, flour, baking powder, eggs, vanilla extract and sugar until creamy and smooth.

Spoon one third of the mixture into the tin, then some rhubarb and continue to layer ending up with rhubarb on top. With the remaining custard dot over the top.

Bake for 40 mins until risen and golden, then cover with foil and bake for a further 15 mins. Test with a skewer and it is ready when the skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool and remove from the tin, then dust with icing sugar to finish.

Spring Thoughts in a Plague Year

Spring Thoughts in Time of Plague

There's been no lockdown in the snowdrop world.
Oblivious to our horrors, they appeared
At their appointed hour and unfurled
Their shy, white whispering of winter's end
In pristine ignorance of all our fears;
A welcome shoot of usual-ness to mend
A monstrous year.

The daffodils have rocked up with their loud
My Grandpa knew that Wordsworth flash mob
dance
In narcissist, attention-seeking crowds
Marauding over meadow, lawn and verge
To mock our miry wallow in mischance
And misery, our moody pallor purged
With every golden glance.

Our species-solipsism makes us rash.
We should have sought the wisdom of the elm;
Learned of pandemics from the twig-crowned ash;
Heard what the chestnuts, brown in June, could teach
Of stubborn fortitude when overwhelmed.
Then we might understand at last that each



East Anglian Air Ambulance

When one of our Doctors became our Patient !

Dr. Patricia Miles was out walking her dog when she was involved in a life-threatening collision. Minutes later, in the 'golden hour', she was being saved by her colleagues in EAAA and flown to Addenbrookes.



Spectacular Double Rainbow at Air Ambulances Cambridge Base last month

One year on from her accident, Dr Mills, who also works as an Intensive Care Consultant at West Suffolk Hospital, has shared her story to show that anyone can need the help of East Anglian Air Ambulance at any time. Now Patricia is even more committed to helping others in their time of need through the charity-funded service that saved her. Dr Mills has been amazing at sharing her story across various media outlets including BBC Breakfast. Did anyone spot her interview ?

Crew Equipment Update

During the course of last year EAAA upgraded its-point-of-care portable ultrasound device to provide improved image quality and extra features. One of these features enables expert crew members to remotely review all images within 24 hours, providing enhanced feedback ultimately improving patient outcomes. Since acquiring this innovative device, 76 scans have been expertly reviewed by crews within under three months. Valuable kit ! Now **The Money Bit !**

Since our last raffle, the EAAA team has done everything possible to keep flying and helping our colleagues in hospitals. The past twelve months have been unprecedented and, as a charity, we are now seeing the long term effects of the pandemic on our fundraising. Entering our Raffle is one of the many easy ways of supporting the work done by EAAA. Please enter NOW for your chance to win £3,000 and thereby help us to continue saving lives.

News from the Frontline

There have been lots of changes to how our crews work on the front line and to keeping our patients and crews safe,

At the end of February our Deputy Medical Director, Doctor Pam, finished her last shift with EAAA and hung up her flying suit. Whilst she will remain with the Charity helping with the operation, our crews on board the helicopters will miss her deeply. Pam is loved by many in the community for her dedication to clinical excellence and for her compassion to patients. Thank you Pam.

Together – we save lives.

Michael White

On the Wildside:

The Happy Pecking of a Woodpecker

I really love birds and enjoy watching them around our garden, but I do have my favorites. The wood pecker is one of them! And because we have so many trees in our wonderful village, it means that a wood pecker is never far away. They are such memorable birds and extremely beautiful to look at with their speckled wings and red flourishes. And of course the most distinctive aspect of a woodpecker is the sound it makes as it hammers its beak into the trunks of trees - personally that to me is the sound of a forest and is extremely peaceful and reassuring.



Woodpeckers chisel into trees to find food or excavate nest holes, and also drum for contact and territorial advertisement. They have anatomical adaptations to manage the physical stresses from the hammering action. They are found worldwide and members of this family are chiefly known for their characteristic behavior. They mostly forage for insect prey on the trunks and branches of trees, and often communicate by drumming with their beak, producing a reverberatory sound that can be heard at some distance. Some species vary their diet with fruits, birds' eggs, small animals, tree sap and human scraps. They mostly nest and roost in holes that they excavate in tree trunks, and their abandoned holes are of importance to other cavity-nesting birds. They sometimes come into conflict with humans when they make holes in buildings or feed on fruit crops, but perform a useful service by their removal of insect pests on trees. Wood peckers have also ended up with some rather funky nicknames around the world including: "half-shirt," "jelly coat," "shirt-tail bird," "flag bird," and the "flying checker-board."

The average life span of a wild woodpecker can be from 4-12 years, depending on the species. In general, larger woodpeckers typically have longer life-spans, and may live up to 20-30 years in ideal conditions. Woodpeckers lay clutches of eggs each year that both the male and female will take care of and incubate and each clutch is around 3-10 eggs however only two or three are likely to make it to adulthood. Sadly in England, woodpecker numbers are declining yearly and dived by more than a quarter since the early 1970s. Reasons include: habitat loss (forests are vital and with more and more trees being cut down, this makes it even harder for our woodpeckers; climate change of course; and falling biodiversity also play a vital role in the problems for these birds and many other bird species too. You can help support our woodpeckers by leaving mature trees on your land untouched- never fell a tree unless you have to, they support such a wealth of life, not just birds and we need

our trees in the fight against climate change. Also leave dead trees and snags around the garden to **help** provide natural feeding, nesting, and drumming sites for them. Let's hope that the happy pecking of a wood pecker continues for years and years to come.

Saffra Monteiro

EASTER waste collections 2021

USUAL	REVISED	
Monday 29 March	Saturday 27 March	2 DAYS EARLY!
Tuesday 30 March	Monday 29 March	1 DAY EARLY!
Wednesday 31 March	Tuesday 30 March	1 DAY EARLY!
Thursday 1 April	Wednesday 31 March	1 DAY EARLY!
Friday 2 April	Thursday 1 April	1 DAY EARLY!
Monday 5 April	Tuesday 6 April	1 DAY LATE!
Tuesday 6 April	Wednesday 7 April	1 DAY LATE!
Wednesday 7 April	Thursday 8 April	1 DAY LATE!
Thursday 8 April	Friday 9 April	1 DAY LATE!
Friday 9 April	Saturday 10 April	1 DAY LATE!

Here are a few **EGG-CELLENT TIPS** to help you to reduce waste and to recycle more this Easter:

It's recyclable!

Egg-shaped plastic packaging, cardboard and foil wrapping can be recycled in your blue bin. Save up foil to make an apple sized ball – it helps it find its way through recycling process.

Why not make your own Easter eggs?

Ever thought about investing in some reusable moulds? You can have fun and reduce waste at the same time.

Food is not rubbish.

The average household throws away £700 of food a year. Check www.lovetofoodhatelwaste.com for useful tips and recipes. Use your green bin for the unavoidable food waste.

Please make sure your wheeled bins and black sacks are out for collection by 7am on the day of collection but not before 6pm the night before.

eastcamb.gov.uk 01353 66 55 55

customerservices@eastcamb.gov.uk

East Cambs recycles

@EastCambsStreetScene

@eastcambsgov

@MikeLRecycle

RANDOM INTERESTING FACT

Did you know that 90% of UK headstones are made of granite imported from either China or India, with a massive carbon footprint of approximately 2390 tonnes of CO2 per year? And that if UK only granite were used instead, it would be a carbon reduction of 500%?

Jude Griffiths



Red2Green supports adults with Learning Disabilities or Autism through our Options activities or our Aspirations learning programme. We have two sites, Park End in Swaffham Bulbeck and the Community Café and Garden at Lode Road in Bottisham.

During April we are celebrating Autism Awareness Month. We are publishing many stories about autism on our social media channels, and are breaking down some of the myths. You can follow this at www.facebook.com/red2greeninfo

Community Café and Garden

Our Bottisham site has become a hive of activity, we have been recycling old pallet wood and making planters, ornaments, bird boxes galore! We are nurturing our summer plants and will have a wide variety for you ready soon!

We have been selling plants, veg, compost and our handmade goodies which even include dog biscuits of all sorts of flavours. There is an honesty table out in the entrance to the sensory garden and if you order through our website we can provide delivery to the surrounding villages.

We are continuing to keep the community café closed for the foreseeable future, as we need to keep our learners safe. This won't be forever, and we are looking forward to the day that we can safely reopen.

We will have many offers available for you in April, with the week beginning 5 April being Community Garden Week, and 27 April is National Gardening Week. Why not spruce up your garden ready for the summer with our homemade planters?

Go to www.red2green.org to order online or visit us whilst out for a walk.

Cogs2Computers

Cogs2Computers has been flowing along nicely despite the current lockdown and unfortunate situation we have found ourselves in with reduced numbers of cli-

ents and learners in.

Throughout January and February, we have focused on the Then and Now project which looked at the developments in technology from the year someone was born and a comparison to what is available now. Clients and learners (and staff) have really enjoyed this personal aspect of the project and journey. We have found out about developments in gaming history, the first laptop, IBM's Deep Blue computer beating a chess grand master and how animation from Pixar has brought us some of our favourite films along with many more. There has been some amazing work produced by clients participating at home. George, one of our learners, made an amazing YouTube video about Pixar.

Going forward We are now working on our International Women's month project in conjunction with the official day of the 8th March. This month will look at the amazing contributions women have made to the development of technology and celebrate their achievements. There are many activities planned, including watching the film Hidden Figures which focuses on the NASA space race in the 1960's, and the struggles of black women and their vital contribution to this. We also have quizzes, art and sensory projects. We have invited an influential woman from the local Cambridge technology community to speak to us and our project partner, Swaffham Bulbeck Primary school about their journey and where they are now.

Community Engagement

We are still looking for people who would be happy to spend 5 minutes talking to one of our support workers for the project about their use of technology throughout the pandemic and how it has changed for them, any improvements in their skills and connecting them to the outside world. We are especially interested in talking to people over 50 years young and those who are new to keeping in touch via technology. This would be recorded and used in our project summary and social media. It's really nothing to worry about and we can help you with any concerns and setting you up. If this isn't for you but you know someone who would like to be involved please do contact us at info@red2green.org

Harvey's and Granary Barns at Park End

At our barns in Swaffham Bulbeck we have continued to support those learners who really need us. We have been completing arts and crafts activities, going for walks, playing games, cooking and enjoying the Cogs2Computers activities. One Aspirations group is completing a health and fitness 12-week challenge with lots of walking and learning to cook healthy meals from scratch.

Ways you can support us

Red2Green provides a vital service for those that we support and their families. The COVID-19 restrictions have made it tougher, and we are so grateful to everyone who supports us, however small.

Buy your plants and gifts from us, and tell your friends!

Do your online shopping through AmazonSmile and the giving machine, setting your chosen charity to 'Turning the Red Lights Green'

Donate at www.justgiving.com/red2green

Liz Taylor

Swaffham Prior Village Photo Albums

The Cock

A photograph by Thomas Cooper, around 1900

The Cock was one of two pubs at the bottom of Cage Hill. It stood opposite The Rose & Crown featured in last month's photograph. Not long after Thomas Cooper photographed this view along High Street, the building on the left behind the painted cockerel pub sign was demolished in order to make way for the full two storey building that stands on this corner today. It still displays its date, nicely picked out in the brickwork on the gable end. It remained The Cock pub until 1970 and afterwards, like The Rose & Crown across the road, was converted to a house.

Celia Tyler

0780 4508335

April 2021

References:

Cambridgeshire Collection, Local Studies Library - free public access

Two Churches Together, a History of Swaffham Prior by Sylvie Short, 2013



Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Spring at the Fen is always such a rewarding time. The ranger team have an informal competition, for who records the earliest dates for returning summer migrants, whether swallows or swifts, reed or sedge warblers; others like to notice their first butterflies, damselflies or keep track of which of the willows and hedgerow shrubs are in flower. I love



spotting cuckooflowers and ragged robin in the field at the back of the Visitor Centre, and suddenly noticing that the flag irises are out in profusion further round the walks. Seeing a yellow brimstone fly past my window is a moment to savour in a day. And this year, especially, we are looking forward to sharing spring with our visitors again, enjoying the birdsong and early flowers together.

Our plan for reopening the Sedge Fen, the Visitor Centre and shop, is following the government roadmap out of lockdown; rather than put dates down here, please continue to refer to the website for the latest information at any stage. This is particularly the case as we will keep a booking requirement for managing numbers of people on the Sedge Fen walks. The café is already open for takeaways, and will move towards outdoor and then indoor seating as restrictions ease; our cycle hire is open, but operating in a more limited safe way, so booking is advisable. Later in the season, we will be looking to get our boat trips up and running again, and our hides and Fen Cottage safely open.

With the koniks and cattle out on the wider reserve, while foals and calves in these natural family groups can – and do – arrive at all times of the year, spring is still the busiest time for new arrivals. Our ranger team, out every day keeping an eye on all the grazing animals, is on high alert, to check on mothers and young, complete the necessary ear-tagging and compliance requirements. When you visit our wider reserve areas, please help us by ensuring you keep to paths, with dogs under close control, and admire the animals from a distance.

Look out for news of our Footprints Community Engagement Project, with planned events and activities across the Vision area. This 3-year project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, was put on pause last March, but we are ready to start it up again now, and will be on the lookout for volunteers, and your involvement too for different types of activity, from astronomy to Bioblitzes.

Isabelle Sedgwick

Keep up to date www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Keep in touch 01353 720274; email wickenfen@nationaltrust.org.uk;

facebook, Instagram and twitter @wickenfenNT

Picture Glynis Pierson

School News

2nd March



Another Roller Coaster of a Term

It is just over a year since the first lockdown when schools closed their doors for the majority of pupils. Overnight, education changed as we all moved online and began to grapple with technology and ways of communicating that we had never heard of before! Last March, none of us could have imagined how much our daily routines would change or just how much we would adapt our teaching and learning in just a year. With the second closure of schools in January we were all much more prepared to carry on our learning remotely but there was one thing stopping us: a lack of technology.

Luckily, we live in such a fantastic community and within a couple of weeks we were overwhelmed by the generosity of local people who have donated laptops and tablets both new and old. The equipment was put to good use helping children continue their schooling. Each made a massive difference to families who were juggling home learning, some with multiple children and only one device. There were some very grateful families in Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck - and one very happy Headteacher!

Through a mixture of live online teaching, pre-recorded lessons and at-home activities, every child had the opportunity to continue their learning and make the most of the time away from the classroom. We even had music lessons and craft sessions online as well as a weekly singing assembly which was incredibly uplifting and put a smile on a lot of faces! We even celebrated World Book Day and 50 years of the Mr Men series by Roger Hargreaves. You might have seen some of our potato 'Mr Men' and 'Little Miss' characters on display around the village.

Some of our children continued to attend school during the lockdown and had been going on daily walks around the village, which helped to keep spirits up and connect with others in the community. We have had very positive reports from members of the community stuck at home who love to see the children as they pass by. On our return to 'normal' school on March 8th, our youngest pupils have continued this new tradition and love to get out for a walk when they can.

However, despite making the best of the lockdown, we couldn't wait for 8th March when we reopened our doors to all our children. It was joyous to see all our pupils return to some semblance of normality where they could catch up



Tiddler's school's not open, so Tiddler can't be late,
But he still learns all his lessons, sent over by Miss Skate.

with their friends and learning could once again take place back in the classroom together. The last 3 weeks before Easter have been exhausting but they have been a fantastic time to reconnect and re-establish routines. Although the Easter holiday is very welcome, we are looking forward to an exciting summer term of events and activities.

Helen Bartley



Mr Men and Little Misses enjoying Lockdown together

The school celebrated World Book Day and 50 years of the Mr Men series by Roger Hargreaves during Lockdown. Above, some of their potato 'Mr Men' and 'Little Miss' characters sitting in the children's playground.



Mothers' Union

As a follow up to the Women's Aid Refuge Christmas Gift Appeal, to which members of the local community also donate, I felt it appropriate to pass on current news of how the Refuge is coping during the pandemic.

This past year has been a particularly difficult and busy one, due mainly to the pandemic and the restrictions imposed by the lockdowns. Putting measures in place to keep everyone at the Refuge safe from the virus has been a real challenge. There has been an increase in the demand for places as domestic violence has increased across the country, but the Refuge can only accommodate eight women and their children at any given time. As soon as one moves on to their own accommodation their place has been immediately filled.

During lockdown they had to make the decision not to accept any donations of goods so would-be donors have had to keep the goods on hold.

As reported in the run up to Christmas, to comply with Covid restrictions, the Refuge could only accept Supermarket vouchers or money for their Christmas Appeal. The staff at the Refuge do not distribute all the vouchers to the women residing there over the Christmas period, but throughout the year as new residents arrive in need of financial support until they begin to receive their benefits.

The Lady Day Service on 25 March was held virtually on Zoom, and led by Revd. Michael Banyard, MU Diocesan Chaplain.

For the time being Mothers' Union meetings remain suspended, but as the lockdown eases we hope to plan for resuming our fellowship and social activities together.

We wish all readers a blessed Easter.

Ann Langran

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Covid Vaccinations: These are proceeding as planned. When you are due for a 2nd jab you will be invited by the practice so please do not call them in advance.

Dispensary: The prescription delivery service is in operation and leaflets are being distributed for those who wish to take up this option.

Acute Prescriptions: Please wait **3 hours** after a prescription that has been generated via a phone or video consultation before collecting it. This will ensure that the prescription has been received in dispensary and dispensed. If you cannot pick up your medication, please let the GP know so they can put arrangements in place to get your medication to you.

Repeat Prescriptions: Please do not attend the practice until **5 working days** after ordering these. Social distancing is still a challenge in the dispensary and there are fewer staff working in the actual dispensary because of this, which is why they

are continuing to work to a five day turnaround time. This also means that if a certain drug has to be ordered it provides time to get drug supplies in. Please do not ring or attend the practice to see if the prescription is ready before the 5 days is up.

Next meeting: To be arranged and will be held virtually via Zoom. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. AGM meeting due at the end of April.

Bottisham Patient's Participation Group.

The Reading Group Reads...

MANSFIELD PARK

By Jane Austen

Mansfield Park is very different from Pride and Prejudice and Sense and Sensibility, whose smart heroines make the novels. Fanny Price is quiet, dutiful even prim. But she has an inner strength and strong moral compass that allows us to observe the bad behaviour of those around her who are singlemindedly pursuing wealth, status, and pleasure regardless of personal and moral costs.

This is not a simple romantic tale. Much of the book is observational and descriptive and Jane Austen is at her witty best with her sharp pen and eye for the foibles of others. But without pace and a strong narrative thread, some of us found it hard work.

Our discussion was lively and centred on our responses to Fanny and on Jane Austen's intentions with this heroine; some liked and even admired her, some felt she was too slight and timid and feminism was mentioned!

It is always interesting to read works written in a different period of time. Some aspects may grate, such as issues around the slave trade or sexism, but, for me, Jane Austen describes her characters and their interactions so perfectly, that she portrays truths about human emotions and behaviour, a timeless constant regardless of historical setting.

Roz Chalmers

Next month we will be discussing *About Grace* by Anthony Doerr. We'll meet at 6pm on Wednesday 7 April over Zoom. Get in touch (Caroline, 744008) if you'd like to attend.



At Council on 23 February the Chairman announced the impending retirement of Dr Liz Robin, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Director of Health. On behalf of the Members and Officers of the Council, the Chairman thanked Dr Robin for all her pandemic-related work and wished her well for her forthcoming retirement. We would like to add our thanks to Dr Robin for all the work she and her team have done over the years, and especially throughout the Covid pandemic.



Council approved the budget for 2021/22 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy through to 2024/25. The East Cambs element of the Council Tax is frozen for 2021/22 but will rise by over 3.5% in 2022/23 and by the maximum amount allowed in the subsequent years. Despite these Council Tax rises, the Council is forecasting a budget shortfall of over £4 million from 2023/24. We supported an unsuccessful amendment which would have given financial support to local businesses recovering from Covid and carried out a consultation on leisure and recreation provision across the district as well as raising Council Tax more gradually and reducing the budget shortfall below £4 million.

Although the District Council's share of the Council tax is frozen, your Council tax bills will rise because the bill sent by the District Council covers the County Council, Police and Fire services and your Parish Council – many of these other bodies have increased their Council tax charges. If you are finding it difficult to pay your Council tax, you may be eligible for reductions or exemptions. There is a list of these at <https://www.angliarevenues.gov.uk/services/counciltax/reductions/index.cfm>. Or you can get advice from Citizens Advice or by contacting John – john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk or Charlotte – charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk

There was cross-party support for a motion in support of the proposed Fens Biosphere. (Biosphere Reserve status is awarded by UNESCO to unique and valuable landscapes.) Biosphere status can bring people and organisations together to develop a shared vision for the future of the Fens. It will support better management of the natural capital of the Fens, create a sense of connectedness to the Fens, and contribute to a sense of place and better quality of life. Charlotte had to declare an interest in this and not vote or take part in the discussions because she works for the local Wildlife Trust, who are a partner in the project.

The administration passed a motion calling for the A1123 to be down graded to a B road. We did not support this motion because evidence from across the country shows that changing from an A road to a B road does not lead to any reduction in traffic or speeds, but it does lead to a reduction in road maintenance funding from

central government. In this case, we would lose £250,000 a year putting yet more pressure on a budget which is already struggling to fund adequate road maintenance.

It was confirmed that the Council has a 7 year land supply and therefore our development envelopes in the Local Plan 2015 should be respected.

Our next Councillors' Surgery and meet your Councillors will be on Thursday 29 April at 6.30pm. This will be held by zoom - Meeting ID: 886 6745 4755, Passcode: 984508. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196.

Charlotte Cane – 01638 741064 John Trapp – 01223 812120

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



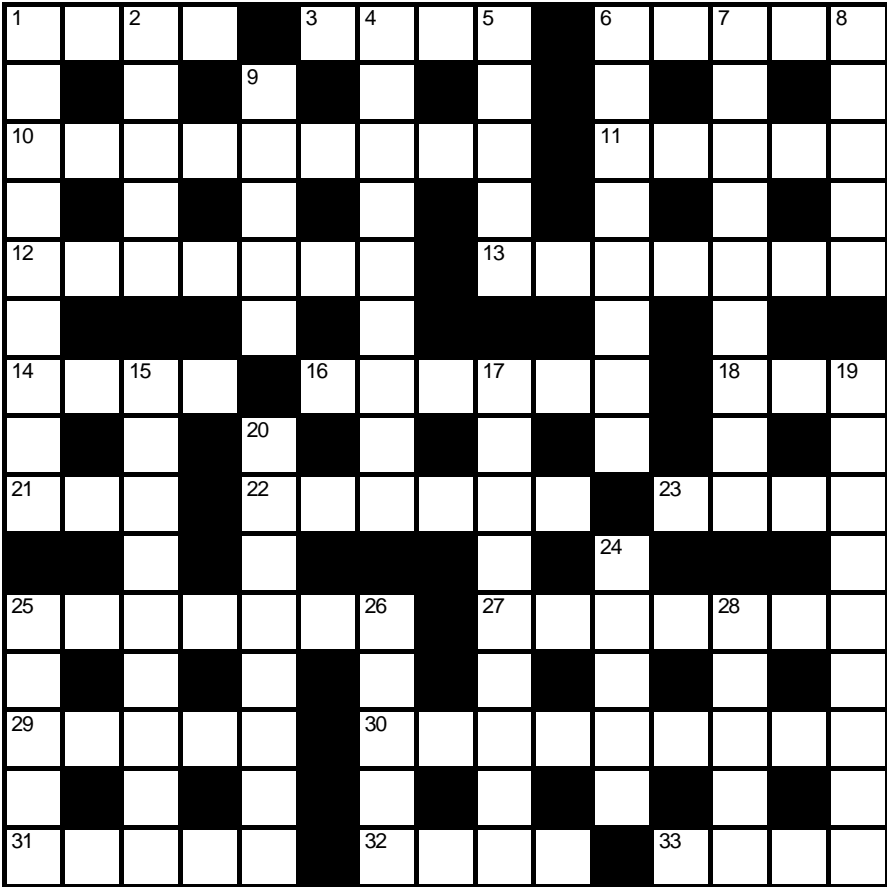
**YOUR LOCAL
COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!**
MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

To find out more, contact: swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com

Crossword Number 183

Compiled by BYWELL

*Sheba and Yemen have a lot to answer for. Send your answers to the editors by 18th April 2021. 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. NB: emailed solutions are acceptable but please include “CROSSWORD” and the crossword number in the header



Name:.....

Address:.....

.....Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Show relief, almost every second Ms Piggy hid (4)
- 3 Ace flyers turn back in the distance (4)
- 6 March turned out to be a bringer of good luck (5)
- 10 * Qualification leads to chaotic reshuffle (9)
- 11 E. coli compound is acid (5)
- 12 First Americans' form of off-road catchword (7)
- 13 * Baric compound consumed by motorists (7)
- 14 Essayist to give birth on the farm (4)
- 16 Burmese leader has one cult split into two (6)
- 18 Sometimes called 'shelled sea kale' (3)
- 21 Ron is backing neither partner (3)
- 22 Banker and member with the first excuse (6)
- 23 Partly handcuff ourselves, yet score over five (4)
- 25 * St Ann is converted and taken in by it (7)
- 27 Limeade cocktail sent over the internet (1-6)
- 29 Mesopotamian qualifier loses fuel and is redirected (5)
- 30 * Street fighter races in the river (9)
- 31 Glories arising from MMI computer operating system (5)
- 32 She loses me otherwise (4)
- 33 Simple water (4)

Down

- 1 Almost a period when lino comes for recycling (9)
- 2 Lizard pecks endlessly in turn (5)
- 4 * Neither sharp nor natural like a lily (4,5)

- 5 Bible classes maybe, with Don Juan oddly missing his refreshment? (5)
- 6 Fashionable six-footers can take the heat out of things (8)
- 7 * Veiled in gossamer I can overact (9)
- 8 * Wandering chamois is lost (5)
- 9 * The first chess player (5)
- 15 Nuisance in bed, as I'm alert, possibly (5,4)
- 17 * Repossess helter-skelter (9)
- 19 Land here where upcoming trade area includes Tolkien territory (9)
- 20 Setter walks round bass units for information (8)
- 24 I roam, brought up in the Cook Islands (5)
- 25 * Rishi in reshuffle (5)
- 26 Less than four personnel people wearing a shirt (5)
- 28 * Tango in two notes (5)

Solution to crossword no. 182

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

Winners of crossword no. 182

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, Robert Nunn, Dainon O'Dowd and Trish Whitehead.

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting

11th March 2021.

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with eight Parish Councillors and two members of the public in attendance.

Report from ECDC – Cllr Charlotte Cane.

A written report was circulated by email before the meeting – see elsewhere in the Crier.

Cllr Cane noted that the proposed 28 house development in Swaffham Prior was outside the Village Envelope. She also reminded all present that the bin collection times would be a day earlier in the week before Easter and a day late the week after.

Cllr Hart voiced concern about the refusal of the Chair of Finance and Assets to answer a query on an overspend of 205% for the pre-planning application of the proposed cemetery at Mepal. Cllr Cane declared an interest in the Mepal development but said she would continue to press for answers. Cllr Hart asked who the Chair of Finance and Assets was answerable to? Cllr Cane replied ultimately the electorate.

Cllr Latchford asked who ‘the administration’ were that agreed to downgrade the A1123 to a B road. Cllr Cane explained that it was ECDC but that she herself and John Trapp had not supported the motion.

Correspondence for consideration/circulation

In response to a request for a damson tree in the Village Hall car park to be trimmed back, the PC were happy for the parishioners to contact the Tree Officer and arrange to trim the damson tree themselves.

Consideration of planning applications received:

21/00164/FUL Demolition of existing bungalow and ancillary building on land to the east and construction of four detached dwellings together with landscaping and associated access. Gaywood 4 Lower End, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB25 0HT.

After discussion, the PC agreed six points to be fed back to the Planning Department. These were:

1) The proposed access road crossed two well-used footpaths which would be dangerous and unacceptable.

2) The Local Plan defined infill as one or two houses; this proposal is for four houses

3) The exit onto the High Street would be dangerous due to bends restricting visibility in both directions and regular parking along the road narrowing it to a single carriageway and further restriction the view.

4) The proposed parking provision for plots 2, 3 and 4 would be inadequate and there would be no turning circle at the top by plot 4.

5) Previous outline planning had been granted on the basis of one proposed house where three houses were now proposed, with a fourth on Lower End, so does not

cover this application. It is also overdevelopment for an area of this size.

6) The PC would consider plot 1 to be infill and therefore acceptable, but strongly object to the backfill represented by the other three proposed dwellings.

To discuss a fire alarm system for the Village Hall

Four quotations for new systems were discussed, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of a manual system versus an automatic system. It was agreed that the PC pay for the Camguard Manual fire system to be installed in the Village Hall.

To discuss renewal of CAPALC membership for 2021-22

SKP and the Clerk explained that continued membership of CAPALC gave access to excellent advice and training for the Clerk and councillors. Renewal was agreed.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk explained that online meetings would at present no longer be allowed after the 6th May 2021, but that meetings of groups of more than two households indoors would not be allowed until after 21st June 2021, which will affect the holding of both the May and June PC meetings and the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was agreed that the May Parish Council meeting move to 6th May 2021, to run at 7.30pm via Zoom, after the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, which would now start at 7.15pm.

The possibility of the Annual Parish Meeting being held outside was discussed – the Clerk to look into suitable locations.

A decision on the June meeting was postponed until May.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Greenfield reported that the Heating Scheme rollout was continuing. There had been much support for the idea of fibre being put in at the same time as the scheme and they were now working out how this would be done. As roughly half the houses were not interested in taking part in the Heating Scheme, Cllr Greenfield had had discussions with Light Blue Fibre about making fibre available to all the village, not just those taking part in the heating scheme.

- Cllr Latchford requested information regarding actions to be taken to show that any damage to buildings from vibrations occurring during the building of the heating scheme were caused by the works.

- Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the building currently going ahead for the scheme would cost £0.5 million, with no possibility of a refund if the scheme did not go ahead, despite no-one having signed up for the scheme officially. Cllr Greenfield noted that no-one had been asked to sign up officially yet.

- Cllr Kent-Phillips asked what written guarantees there were that the heating scheme would not develop leaks which would leave it financially liable e.g. for consequential damage to the July Racecourse via the water table. Did the scheme have a hydrologist's report? Cllr Greenfield confirmed that a hydrologist's report had been received and that the Racecourse had been satisfied with the discussions that had taken place. Cllr Greenfield noted that information was available from the

heating scheme website and that if the information required was not apparent, ask and it would be supplied.

Cllr Camps noted that the Lower End ditch had been cleaned out but the Beeches ditch was still full of vegetation. Cllr Kent-Phillips explained that the Highways Agency would need proof of flooding in order to work on the ditch.

If anyone would like any further information, please contact the Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 8th April 2021 starting at 7.30pm via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

Jude Griffiths

Clerk to the Parish Council.

Tel 745 106.

Email swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com

BON MOT NUMBER 116

"I am quite old now because I don't play sport.

I want to live a long life.

I think that exercise damages the health."

Barry Humphries

(1934 -)

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Just a few brief notes this month.

Firstly, to reiterate a previous 'call to arms' – CFRS is continuing to recruit for both 'full time' and 'on call' personnel. If you are not bedded in to your current role in life, or are actively looking for a highly rewarding and progressive career, why not get in touch with CFRS – via the website or just call 01480 444500.

Secondly, and still very importantly – Keep Testing your smoke alarms. Many types, Fire Angel particularly, rely on regular testing to prolong the life of the in-built battery – it could last up to ten years.

Thirdly – wherever you live, please keep a weather eye open for your friends and neighbours. Do they have adequate fire protection and awareness – a knock on the door from time to time wouldn't come amiss. Fourthly - with technology and home appliances becoming ever more complex there is more risk of mishaps and, potentially fire in the home – particularly in the kitchen where most home fires start. If you must use an adapter do use a trailing two or three socket one and do not plug in to it more than one high wattage appliance – sockets have their limits which **MUST** not be exceeded on peril of 'you know what !' Please please do not use the 'cube' two or three way versions – the extra weight could well lever the adapter away from



the socket to cause arcing, heat and FIRE.

Lastly – Safe and Well visits have been developed to help CFRS check the safety of homes and to offer appropriate advice. These are free and can be arranged through your local brigade or via Brigade Head Office in Huntingdon.

Stay well, stay safe – don't become a statistic !

Michael White

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

Debbie, 07702 052575

- 11 white plastic garden chairs and two white plastic garden tables. Need a bit of cleaning
- 2 upholstered wooden nursing chairs. Upholstery needs repair/replacement
- Steel heavy duty (and heavy) step ladder

Lesley 01223 812901

- Child's Drop side Cot with mattress.
- Fold-away single bed

St Mary's Swaffham Prior

Holy Week and Easter Services – subject to Covid regulations



1 April	Maundy Thursday	10.30am	
	Holy Communion, Lode		
		7.30pm	Online Service
2 April	Good Friday	9am	Prayers around the Cross, Quay Churchyard
3 April	Holy Saturday	7.30pm	Easter Vigil, Lode Churchyard
4 April	Easter Sunday	9am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior
		10.30am	Online Service

Sunday 11 April 9am Holy Communion, Quay; 10.30am Online Service

Sunday 18 April 9am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck; 10.30am Online Service

Sunday 25 April 9am Holy Communion, Bottisham; 10.30am Online Service

We are reintroducing services in churches at 9am each Sunday; online services are at 10.30am using Zoom. If you have a computer, tablet or smart phone we can provide help to set this up for you so please do be in touch. Please email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk for the Zoom link

There is also a Holy Communion service in St James' Lode at 10.30am each Thursday.

Regular activities continue online:

- **Play & Praise** – Weekly on Fridays, 9.30am for toddlers and their carers: suethevic@btinternet.com
- **Coffee Morning** – Weekly on Tuesdays, 10.30-11.30am
- **Film Church** – Fortnightly on Sundays, 5.30pm for Year 6+
- **CbyC: Compline by Candlelight** - Monthly on first Wednesday, 8pm

In addition, bible study and prayer groups continue on line. Please email for information.

If you would like to receive our weekly mailshot with noticesheet and other information, and for more details on any of the above, please be in touch: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Keep in touch:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches

A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7380/benefice>

Website: www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Email: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Please note: new Village Pantry in each church – following a grant from the Council and with the support of Open Door foodbank in Newmarket we have set up small emergency foodbanks in each of our five churches. Open Door has agreed that, as it is difficult to get to their depot by bus, local donations can now go to these local pantries, in order to better serve local need. Please, if you are in need at all call in to one of the local churches and take what you require; St Mary's is open approx. 10am-5pm. If you are one of our regular donors, thank you for your generosity so far. We are assessing the local need and hope to be able to manage things so the church/es in the area/s where there is greatest need receive the most supplies. Please do be patient while we adjust supplies to suit requirements, and please do continue to give. Please pass on this information to anyone who would find it useful. Thank you.

The **Annual Vestry Meeting** to elect Churchwardens will take place on
Sunday 11 April
after the 10.30am online service

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** in two parts will take place on
Wednesday 21 April on Zoom, starting at 7.30pm.



Leak planting down at Lord's Ground
Farm

Dates for Your Diary April 2021

Tue	6	St Mary's Coffee Morning, 10.30—11.30, Zoom [30]
Wed	7	Book Club, 6pm, Zoom [21]
Fri	9	Good Friday
Sun	11	Easter Day, Holy Communion 9am (St Mary's) 1030am Online Service [30]
Tue	13	St Mary's Coffee Morning, 10.30—11.30, Zoom [30]
Thu	15	Village Hall AGM, 8pm, Zoom [7]
Tue	20	St Mary's Coffee Morning, 10.30—11.30, Zoom [30]
Thu	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Tues	27	St Mary's Coffee Morning, 10.30—11.30, Zoom [30]
May		
Thu	6	Elections for County Councillor, Mayor and Police

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