



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLV Number 12
December 2021



Editorial

My heart sank when I read Jonathan Cook’s Travel Consultation article in this month’s Crier, and saw that the ambition was to provide “faster journey times” for public transport. For Swaffham Prior, I believe what is meant is that the bus will whizz down the bypass (stopping just once) and not bother to come into the village in a time consuming way. Faster for the bus, but not for people having to trudge up and down Cage Hill! This is particularly true when laden with shopping and because many people who rely on the bus service are elderly and although could not be classified as disabled, actually find walking any distance quite a struggle. See Jon’s article (p. 12) and get consulting.

Don’t miss Charlotte Cane’s letter this month in which at the request of Our Reporter last month, has looked into Community Land Trusts, and finds that while they *should* be “democratic, non profit organisations for the benefit of the community” are sometimes anything but. With the exception of our own, readers will be relieved to hear!

Crossword aficionados will be delighted to hear that the Red Lion is now very kindly offering a pub meal and a drink (wine or beer) for two as our prize. Currently, this will be a fish & chip supper or on Fridays, a speciality cheeseboard — a MUCH better prize than any of the Nationals are offering! Congratulations to Bob Nunn who is our worthy winner this month, and note you will have until January 1st to complete our Christmas crossword.

Have a look at our adverts this month, and we hope you’ll be impressed, they’ve had a complete refurbishment, and many thanks to our new advertising manager Heidi for this. Also to Peter Rand, for his super photos capturing the changing face of Swaffham Prior as the Heating Scheme progresses.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS, ALL OUR READERS!

From Caroline & James Matheson

And all the Crier Team

Cover Picture: Partridge in a Pear Tree by Heidi

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Cantilena Singers — New Recruits Wanted

I'm the director of the Cantilena Singers, the choir based in Swaffham Bulbeck that I am sure you are familiar with!

We are trying to get back into the swing of things following the pandemic, and are looking for new singers to join the choir. The changing circumstances of the last two years have meant that many former regular members of the choir are now either unable or unwilling to attend, and so we are in need of some new voices.

The choir rehearses weekly on Wednesday evenings during school term-times from 7.45pm until 9.30pm in the hall at the primary school in Swaffham Bulbeck. We have performed a Covid risk assessment and are following protocols to ensure that our rehearsals are as safe as possible, including additional ventilation, socially distanced seating, and encouraging singers to wear face coverings throughout the rehearsal if possible.

The choir sings a variety of secular and sacred music, mostly unaccompanied, and although that may sound daunting, in fact we find that singers who are not used to unaccompanied singing soon adapt to the new experience. We have a core of strong singers in each voice part, so new singers need not worry that they will be expected to carry a line on their own. If you can read music, that's ideal, but it's not a requirement: you can quickly gain experience of reading music by immersing yourself in singing.

The choir is for adult voices, and we currently have members aged in their 30s up until their 70s, but we would welcome new members of any age.

We would love to have some new singers joining us, and would be so grateful if you could spread the word via the Swaffham Crier.

Daniel Spreadbury

ds Spreadbury@fastmail.fm

Dear Editors,

East Cambs and Community Land Trusts (CLTs)

Your Reporter in last month's magazine asked me to look into CLTs. John and I have been looking into them for some time now and I am happy to share what we have found. We remain concerned at the close ties between some CLTs, ECTC and ECDC.

In answer to his specific query, it is not correct that *all* CLT projects are now proposed and controlled by ECTC. Palace Green Homes is a trading name of East Cambs Trading Company Ltd (ECTC) and is involved in some CLT projects. ECTC, whose last published accounts showed net liabilities of £1,087,734, is a wholly owned subsidiary of ECDC.

Community Land Trusts *should* be “democratic, non profit organisations that own and develop land for the benefit of the community.” [What is a Community Land Trust? | Community Land Trust Network \(communitylandtrusts.org.uk\)](http://What is a Community Land Trust? | Community Land Trust Network (communitylandtrusts.org.uk))

There are many examples of CLTs across the East of England and further afield,

not least the CLT in Swaffham Prior and a prize winning CLT in Lavenham. Your CLT was set up with a grant from East Cambs and is run by local people and delivered 8 much needed affordable homes in Swaffham Prior. There is a permanent directors role open for the Parish Clerk as part of the constitution and David Greenfield is currently the link between the Parish Council and the CLT. Similarly, there is now a current tenant who is also a CLT Director.

However, there are other CLTs, where community control and community benefit are far less clear cut. Perhaps the two most worrying are Kennett Garden Village and East Cambs CLT.

East Cambs Trading Company Ltd was appointed by the landowner to promote and get planning permission from ECDC for a very large development in Kennett. The landowner, ECTC and Kennett CLT had been working together from 2016 to bring forward a community development on 40 hectares of land in Kennett. Many local residents, statutory bodies and other groups opposed this development, but in April 2020 ECDC gave permission for the development. On 27 October ECDC, East Cambs Trading Ltd, the landowners, Bellway and the CLT issued a joint press release announcing that East Cambs Trading Ltd had negotiated the sale of the land to Bellway. The Managing Director of East Cambs Trading Ltd, who is also the Chief Executive of ECDC told Councillors that as a result of this sale to Bellway East Cambs Trading Ltd will recover all of its investments in the project and make £3m profit. This would allow East Cambs Trading Ltd to consider paying a dividend to its owner ECDC - the same ECDC who had granted the planning permission.

East Cambs CLT purports to be an umbrella CLT for any community in East Cambs who wish to use a CLT but don't wish to set up their own CLT. When we first raised queries about this CLT in September 2020 we were told the Council had no control over the CLT, even though it was the Custodian Trustee. We asked for a report on East Cambs CLT covering the CLT's relationship with Palace Green Homes, as well as information about how to become a member of East Cambs CLT. In March 2021 we received a report informing us that the CLT had 5 Trustees, (their website currently shows just 4 Trustees), two of whom represent ECDC. One of them is also Vice Chair of ECDC's Planning Committee and the other is Leader of the Council. Despite having been formed in 2017, until recently the CLT had no website and no clarity about how to apply for membership. At a Council meeting in April 2021 it was agreed that the Council should lend East Cambs CLT £390,000 as the balancing funds for a commercial loan with which the CLT would buy 15 houses from ECTC. ECTC would sell the houses to the CLT at an 80% discount and the CLT had already agreed to sell on the houses at full price to buyers. Although now at full price these houses still meet the Government's definition of affordable because they will be sold as shared ownership – ie the buyers buy as large a proportion as they can get a mortgage for and pay rent on the remaining portion. At the recent meeting of the Council's Finance & Assets Committee it was reported that these houses had still not been sold to East Cambs CLT and may not be sold before January 2022 – leaving the people who have agreed to buy them from the CLT still unable to move in.

Charlotte Cane

From our Reporter

With COP26 hitting the headlines our very own Heating Scheme must be the feature of the month in spite of so many competing scandals, newsworthy exposures, or amazingly inappropriate speeches. I shall concentrate of the Heating and do wonder how Josh got on with his presentation because this certainly did not hit the headlines. We all look forward to his coming to the Village Hall and telling us all about it.



Meanwhile in our tiny village so much has moved on since the revelations in last month's *Crier*. On 12 November the *Times* weekly 'Bricks and Mortar'. section did a piece of the government's £270 million Green Heat Network Fund and it listed a number of outstanding examples for which it is being used. These include the 2,000 homes in King's Cross moving to green gas/bio gas which will mostly come from Dumfries in the Scottish Borders. Also **19 homes** in Lime Grove in Tuffley in Gloucester which will use a ground source heat system. And in a village of 2,000 the Old Pulteney whisky distillery together with **200 houses** are powered by bio mass energy. Finally little old Swaffham Prior is included with some interesting new facts. It seems that only **"70% of our houses rely on oil for heating"** and that the "Swaffham Land Trust is working on a communal system using a combination of ground source and air source heat pumps."

The PC held its meeting on 11th November and even more "facts" were revealed. At the end of October 10 homes had signed up. David explained that the Agreements were being sent out in batches of 36 and of those 35 had now signed. That is fantastic. A very welcome and reassuring leap forward. I suppose that the people missing the end of October deadline will not be charged the £1,000 connection fee as it is not their fault. Steve said that the cost had risen to £13 million. So, in two months the costs have jumped from £9 to £13 million. Is this money coming from the £270 million Green Heat Network Fund? We keep asking the source of the money and are never given the answer. Those who were at the famous Zoom meeting will never forget being told "This has nothing to do with you. You are getting it for nothing" – so in effect Shut Up!! Once the late comers need to pay will they have the right to ask the question and expect an answer? Perhaps Josh will tell us. Charlotte Cane said that some places hoped to learn something from watching Prior. I wonder what they will learn?

The PC is still working on the Allotment Dispute solution. Paul has put forward an update of the allotment regulations which will not come into force until next April. Meantime Jude has completed 2 of the 3 sessions of the CALPALC Allotment Course and found these very informative. At one session it was suggested a push button tap would reduce the use of water. Very sensible though doubtful if it would go down well. We have yet to hear whether the allotment users have agreed to pay a voluntary £25 for the use of water,

Some on the PC have great reservations about the effectivenesses of the Heating Scheme and its solving of the World's climate problems. But they may be interested in following the example of the Calstock Parish Council in Cornwall. At the

instigation of the local children it has been ruled that from the New Year artificial flowers and plastic objects are banned from the cemetery. There will be a notice saying "This cemetery is plastic-free". An attractive idea?

Alastair Everitt



The Prior's Flour



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS
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WE HAVE CREATED TWO TEMPTING PRESENT IDEAS FOR
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BREAD BAKERS' DELIGHT

1.5KG BAGS OF THE PRIOR'S WHITE, WHOLEMEAL,
RYE AND SPELT FLOURS
WITH A CHRISTMAS CARD CONTAINING YOUR GREETING

FOODIES' DELIGHT

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BAGS OF OUR OATS & MUESLI
WITH A CHRISTMAS CARD CONTAINING YOUR GREETING

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ADDRESSES ONLY) TO ARRIVE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH INSTRUCTIONS
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SEE WWW.PRIORSFLOUR.CO.UK TO ORDER
YOUR PRESENTS OR COME TO THE MILL SHOP



Scouts' Remembrance Day Parade, led by Tim Doe

WE'RE BACK!!

Boxing Day Hockey Match

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VS SWAFFHAM BULBECK

The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck

Sunday 10.45 ^{am} (10.30 am players)

COME AND SUPPORT SWAFFHAM PRIOR!!

All proceeds to MAGPAS



Contact **Mandy Kingsmill** if you would like to play in the winning team!
New players especially welcome

07796 091855 (mandy@kingsmills.uk)



JULIE'S CHRISTMAS RECIPES

Turkey Rice Salad

225g brown rice
50g wild rice
2 red dessert apples, quartered, cored and chopped
2 celery sticks, chopped
115g seedless grapes
45ml lemon or orange juice
150ml thick mayonnaise
350g cooked turkey chopped
Salt and freshly ground pepper
Frisly lettuce leaves or iceberg lettuce

Cook the wild rice and the brown rice in a pan for 25 mins or until tender; rinse and drain.

Tip into a bowl and add the chopped apple, celery and grapes. Mix the orange or lemon juice into the mayonnaise and season well and then pour over the rice mix.

Add the turkey and mix well to ensure the mayonnaise is mixed in.

Arrange lettuce leaves on a serving plate and spoon the rice mix on top, season well again and it is ready to serve. A perfect left over Turkey recipe for Boxing day buffet.

Feeds 8

Stir- fried Brussels Sprouts

450g brussels sprouts
15ml sunflower oil
6-8 spring onions chopped
2 slices of fresh ginger, grated
40g slivered almonds
150ml veg stock
Salt and pepper
A dash of soya sauce

Remove the outer leaves from the Brussels and then slice thinly.

Heat the oil in a wok or heavy based pan, add the spring onions and ginger and fry for 2-3 mins, then add the almonds, continue to stir fry until both the onions and almonds begin to brown.

Now add the brussels sprouts, stir fry for a few minutes, then add the vegetable stock and cook on a gentle heat for 5-6 mins until the sprouts are tender, add a dash of soya sauce and season well, increase the heat to boil off any of the excess liquid. Spoon the Brussels into a warmed serving dish and serve immediately.

Serves 4

On the Wildside:

In For One, One For All!



Okay it's not that Christmassy but the hard working ant seems to me to be the perfect offering for this month's article. After all, ants look out for each other, are hard working and always strive to achieve huge goals way beyond their size- I think that alone has plenty of wholesome New Year's spirit for all of us to channel into the New Year.

I agree, ants aren't the prettiest but for their size, they are seriously amazing! Did you know, there over 12,000 species of ants well wide! Ants are the longest living insect- in fact one species of ant can live for up to 30 years! That's pretty incredible for such a tiny body! Of course ants are probably best known for what they can carry, often 20 times bigger than their own body! A single ant can carry 50 times its own bodyweight, and they'll even work together to move bigger objects as a group! Ants also hold the record for the fastest movement in the animal kingdom. The aptly named species of trap jaw ant, can close its jaws at **140mph**, which it uses to kill its prey or injure predators. Image if *that* bit you on the bum!

Ants are social creatures- they work as a team to get jobs done-The colony, also called a **formicary**, is made up of one or more egg-laying queens and a large amount of female "worker" ants that tend to her, build and maintain the nest, forage for food and care for the young. Male ants have wings and their only function is to mate with the queen. Ants communicate with each other using pheromones, sounds, and touch. A single ant can release an alarm pheromone that sends nearby ants into an attack frenzy and attracts more ants from farther away. Several ant species even use "propaganda pheromones" to confuse enemy ants and make them fight among themselves. Ants travel distances of up to 200 meters from their nest and scent trails allow them to find their way back even in the dark. Ants perform many ecological roles that are beneficial to humans, including the suppression of pest populations and aeration of the soil. On the other hand, ants may become nuisances when they invade buildings, or cause economic losses. Observed by humans since the dawn of history,

the behavior of ants has been documented and the subject of early writings and fables passed from one century to another.

Ants have often been used in fables and children's stories to represent industriousness and cooperative effort. They also are mentioned in religious texts. In the Book of Proverbs in the Bible, ants are held up as a good example of hard work and cooperation. And now for a few last fun facts that might make you go wow- Ants don't have ears and some of them, don't even have eyes! Ants "listen" by feeling **vibrations** from the ground through their **feet**, and eye-less ants such as the **driver ant** species can communicate by using their **antennae**! The largest ants nest ever found was over 3,700 miles wide! Found in **Argentina** in **2000**, the ginormous colony housed **33** ant populations which had merged into one giant **supercolony**, with millions of nests and billions of workers! So there you have it - the tiny by mighty ant! In for one, one for all!

Saffra Monteiro



**Erection of the
steel framework
for the energy
centre up on the
Heath...**

**...as work
continues in
the village**



Act to Ensure your Travel Needs are met in the Future

If you travel into Cambridge for work or leisure, your journey over the coming years will change dramatically. As I explain below, the days of using your motor car to get into central Cambridge are numbered. We are all going to be encouraged (some may say.. prised) out of our cars and on to different modes of public transport – bus, cycling, walking - if we want to access significant parts of Cambridge. This article tells you how you can ensure your voice is heard as the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) and Combined Authority, the government bodies charged with leading the transformation of public transport in this area, make decisions which affect you and me.

Why is this happening?

- The population of the Greater Cambridge area is expected to grow by 28% - 33,500 new homes and 44,000 new jobs are planned*
- If everyone continued to travel as they do now, 26,000 extra daily car journeys could be added to our already congested roads*

To ensure the region can cope with the growth and meet the reality of the Climate Emergency, the GCP have calculated that traffic needs to be reduced by 20 – 25% on 2019 levels*

*Making Connections City Access Public Consultation, Page 2

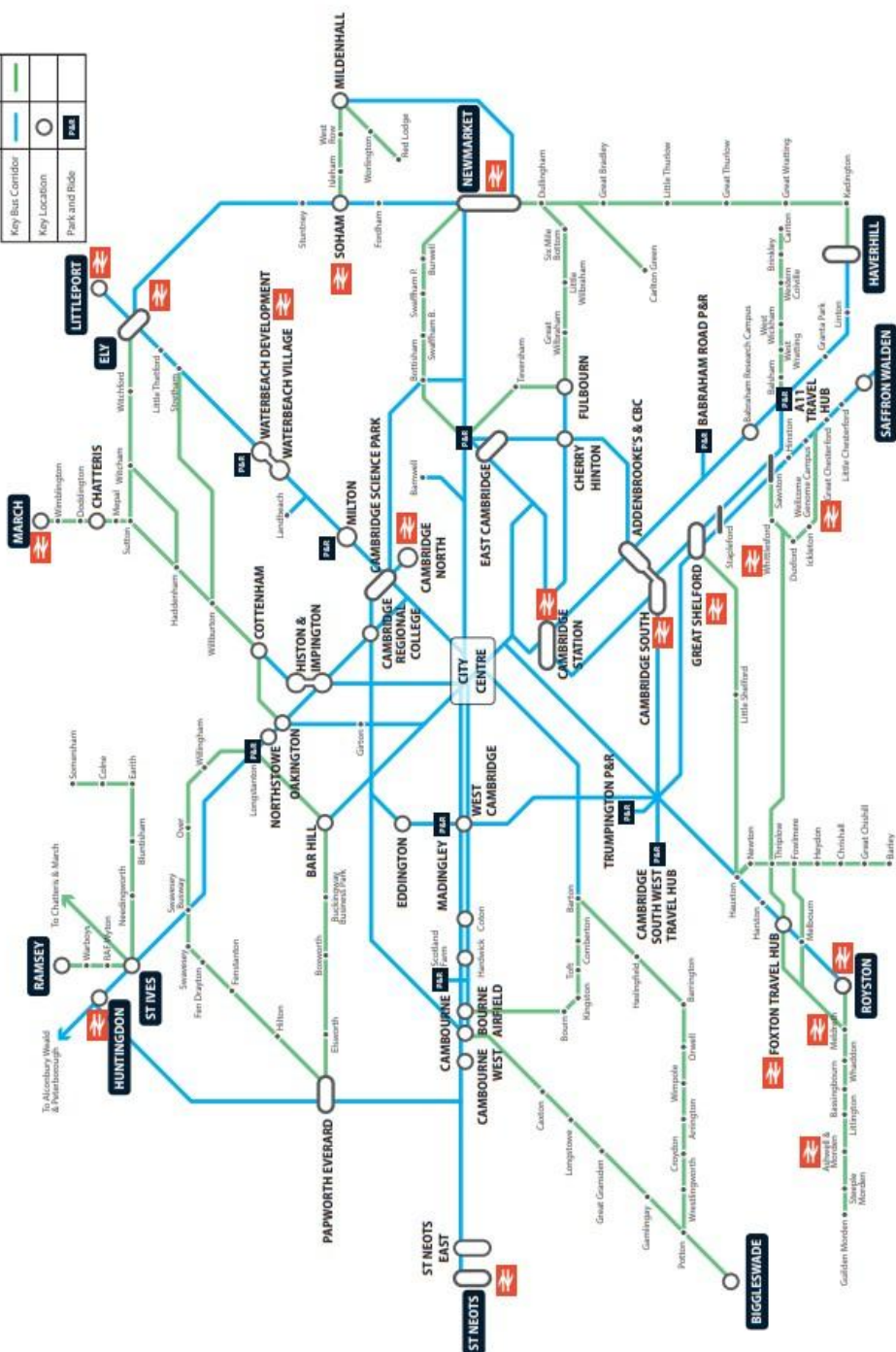
What are the Combined Authority and GCP's Aims?

The aims are to create a more joined-up public transport system to ensure that journey times are better than they would be by car, that road space is better utilised, increasing the number of “sustainable public transport vehicles” on the road network as well as creating better environments for people to cycle, walk or just spend time enjoying public spaces. To achieve this, the GCP are exploring options including:

- Increased car parking charges both at city centre car parks and at workplaces
- Charging private vehicles to drive into parts of Cambridge
- Charging vehicles to drive in particular areas unless they meet particular emissions criteria

The revenue raised from these options, if adopted, will fund a greatly enhanced bus network offering more frequent buses in all areas including rural areas, better connections, more direct services to areas of employment, faster journey times and lower fares.

Roads	—	
Key Bus Corridor	—	
Key Location	○	
Park and Ride	○	P&R



What can you do?

It is essential that as many of us contribute to the Consultation so that our views are heard. Go to www.atob1102.org and follow the link on the first page to **Current Campaigns: GCP Making Connections Consultation**. There you will find more information and links to take you to the **Making Connections Brochure and Consultation Survey**. Make sure that you comment on the proposed bus routes in our area and make clear your personal travel needs - where you travel to and from.

What does the A to B 1102 Group think?

- We welcome this consultation and the proposal to dramatically increase public transport – especially to rural communities, however
- We believe the GCP should work in closer partnership with the communities, like ours, who need to access Cambridge - to develop attractive alternative modes of transport that encourage car drivers to change their mode of transport
- It is more difficult for people who live outside Cambridge to access the City by public transport. If the city does not meet our needs, we will work and shop elsewhere to the future detriment of Cambridge!
- We are concerned that the proposed new bus routes which form the basis for this consultation are not based on current reliable data which maps the current journey patterns of commuters and leisure travellers and we are lobbying the GCP to address this point before any final decisions are made
- Whilst commuting patterns are still in a level of “flux” post the Covid Pandemic, it is vital that future bus routes operate in a way that meets the needs of commuters, in particular – otherwise, people will fail to make the shift from car to public transport
- As it becomes more difficult to get into Cambridge as routes are re-prioritised for bus, walking & cycling, motorists will find ever more inventive ways of getting around the blockages, traffic speeds will further decrease leading to more and more congestion beyond the City, for example, at intersections like Stow-cum-Quy
- We believe that fast “express” bus routes need to be created with mini park & ride sites in villages – enabling an express bus to make only one stop in each of the key villages, thus enabling fast journey times for commuters to travel hubs which offer connections to different parts of the City without all services going into central Cambridge. The proposals by GCP meet some of these ideas, which we welcome.
- In relation to the proposed changes to our current bus services along the B1102 corridor, we want to know how residents of Stow-cum-Quy will access bus services and how our communities will access the Science Park area – surely it would make more sense for an orbital bus route around Cambridge that went from Cherry Hinton to the Newmarket Road Park & Ride site (where it intersected with the service through our villages) and then on to the Science Park area, Milton and beyond?

Finally, we would like to establish why Dullingham Station is missing from the map and more information on how these proposed services enable our College Students to access Hills Road, Long Road Sixth Form and the Regional College with greater ease than they do at present.

This is an important first step to addressing a reality none of us can continue to ignore and we hope the Mayor, the Combined Authority and the GCP will continue to expand their engagement with us, the rural communities that need to access Cambridge day by day.

Who is the A to B1102 Group?

We've been established to raise awareness of transport issues that will affect you, people in the villages of Burwell, the Swaffhams, Lode & Longmeadow, Bottisham and Stow-cum-Quy – to enable you to have a stronger voice and to lobby for improvements to our local transport infrastructure. We are a voluntary group and have no political affiliations or commercial interests in the decisions we are enabling consultation around. Many of our members are Parish Councillors in their own rights, so we have links to the Parish Councils of the villages we represent, our role is to complement and support their work, not in any way replace it. Learn more by visiting our website www.atob1102.org

Jonathan Cook
Chairman, A to B1102 Group

Wicken Fen Winter Wildlife and walks

There's plenty of wildlife to look out for on your winter walks as overwintering birds return to the Fen. From whooper swans and wigeon enjoying the open water, to hen and marsh harriers finding places to roost amongst the reeds, the diverse habitats on the reserve attract a variety of winter visitors.

If you have your own visitors over the festive period, there are plenty of routes to take to get some fresh air and stretch your legs, whether you want to pop in for an hour or make your visit more of a family get together. Our friendly Visitor Centre team will be happy to suggest a suitable walk. Don't forget to pop into the Docky Hut Café for a warming hot drink and a festive treat afterwards.

Wildlife photography

Do you love capturing images of fen wildlife while you are walking on the reserve? If so we'd love to hear from you as we're looking for local photographers who would be willing to share their photographs for our website and social media channels. Please contact Isabel by email: isabel.sedgwick@nationaltrust.org.uk

Percy the Park Keeper's winter wander trail

Join us for a world of adventures and fun this winter. Percy and his animal friends will be giving nature a helping hand. Follow the trail round our Boardwalk

and Woodland Walk to see how you can help too! There's no need to book to enjoy this activity which will run from Saturday 4 December to Monday 3 January between 10am and 3pm. The trail costs £2 and admission charges apply for non-members.

Festive season opening

The Visitor Centre, Docky Hut Café and Sedge Fen will be open every day except Christmas Day. Routes into the wider reserve (Burwell, Baker's, Adventurers' Fens and beyond) are all open every day as usual. For further details of opening times and facilities, please check our website.

'Footprints' Community Engagement Project: walk leaders

With school outreach visits, archaeology and tree planting activities all underway, we're now planning for next year and starting to recruit volunteers for the next phase of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project: Footprints. We're looking for walk leaders to join the team and lead walks in the communities on the edge of the Vision area. With the support of our local partner Healthy You (East Cambridgeshire District Council), full training and support will be given. To find out more and apply, go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer click on 'Find an opportunity now' and search for Wicken Fen.

For the latest information please visit our website and keep an eye on our social media feeds www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen



Morning light at Wicken Fen by Glynis Pierson

Swaffham Prior Village Photo Albums

Snow Scene

A photograph by Thomas Cooper, early 1900s



This wintry photograph shows the thatched cottage at the end of High Street looking much the same as it does today. The tree in front has now gone but otherwise Danby's Cottage (named for the three Danby sisters who once lived there) is quite recognisable. Until the by-pass was opened in 1974 the main road came through the village past the cottage.

On the left we can just see The Fountain with its roof capped in snow. Around 1874 a fresh water fountain and water trough were installed at the roadside, provided by Mr Allix, the Squire of Swaffham Prior House. These were for the use of those passing by – both people and animals, particularly horses. Sadly, The Fountain was demolished in 1957. The remains of the reservoir that fed the fountain (and provided water for Swaffham Prior House & its laundry as well as for Baldwin Manor) can be seen today just off the Cadenham Lane public footpath opposite Laundry Cottage.

Celia Tyler

References:

Cambridgeshire Collection, Local Studies Library - free public access

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

The Changing Face of Swaffham Prior, by Swaffham Prior villagers, 1988

ROAD WORK NEWS

For two weeks a traffic light failure had caused chaos on the by-pass. All is now resolved. But problems at the B1102 intersection have caused really serious delays. The Contractors report on Facebook is reproduced below.

“We are working as quickly as possible to get through this intersection; however several unforeseen circumstances have made our progress slower than expected.

“A BT Chamber at the top of Heath Road required our pipe to be re-excavated and realigned. The Chamber was significantly larger than expected and the cables had been cast into the concrete chamber itself which meant that our original design could not proceed and required reworking.

“When our team got to the B1102 intersection they found the tarmac there was **80-100cm deep** across the width of the road. This is far beyond the legal specification for this type of road where we usually find **15cm thickness**. We budget our time taken to excavate based on standard road specifications. This increased depth has made our excavation works much, much slower than expected and we’ve lost



The huge hole that caused all the traffic problems at the top of Cage Hill

several days to this additional excavation work. We also found services that had been cast into the tarmac which required slow and gentle excavation to prevent damage to them

“This excessive depth of tarmac and concrete meant that working around a large water main running across the road was exceptionally difficult. We have found a work-around that we can install with the pipework we have available on site but these engineering design changes need to be carefully considered and reviewed to ensure they don’t negatively affect the functioning of the network. We are pleased to say we now have a good solution and the team are full team ahead with installation.”

MORE NEWS - HOT OF THE PRESS

“It has been established that the workmen will not be going any further down Lower End than the current enclosure until the New Year. Apparently their next job is to complete all the stubs that cross the road to houses on the other side of the High Street.” So Lower End will have a hassle free Christmas.



The team at work at the bottom of Cage Hill

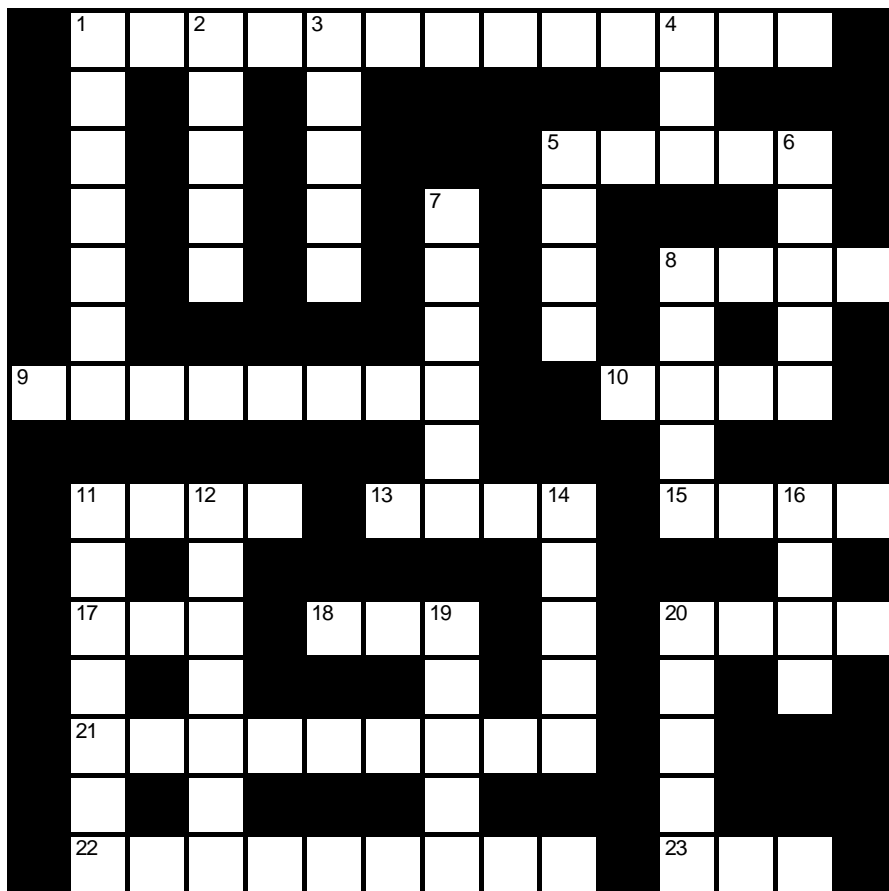
Photos by Peter Rand

Crossword Number 190

Compiled by **NIBOR**

Charmer stirs my cocktail (5,9) from your crossword team. Send your answers to the editors by 1st January, 2022. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a meal for two (see box below) at the Red Lion—see the pub manager for full details.

Emailed solutions are acceptable but please include “CROSSWORD” and the crossword number in the header



Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Across

- 1 Covering for prawn cocktail with grape pip mash (8,5)
- 5 A follower studied a type of 14 (5)
- 8 Wise gift from loving old man (4)
- 9 Praise all the Spanish? You heard I led African leader (8)
- 10 Male donkey service (4)
- 11 She sees rebel leader in May (4)
- 13 Leading to odd yellow socks? Under the tree maybe (4)
- 15 You'll hear Noel (4)
- 17 Colour obtained from pure dyes (3)
- 18 Formula 1 redhead might be Douglas (3)
- 20 Drink is left (4)
- 21 Throw a 3 for broken tree cable (9)
- 22 Tax dues he adjusted feeling this way after 3 (9)
- 23 How a man starts finding meat (3)

Down

- 1 20 was type of beer we hear on Sunday (7)
- 2 Shepherds might see one in Penang elm tree (5)
- 3 Labour maybe, partly moving left out (5)
- 4 Spies lack cover but find what could be mince (3)
- 5 Small child might be 11's (4)
- 6 13s for pretty girls (5)
- 7 Rag covered with dung might be 19 (6)
- 8 12 that sounds like a tomb (5)
- 11 Motoring organisation in the distance. Its magic! (7)

- 12 17 tipped seasonal propulsion system (7)
- 14 Sort of 8D that might be used in Nassau ceremonies (5)
- 16 Almighty baron (4)
- 19 Criticise the turkey for example (5)
- 20 Judy's husband might choose this drink at a 3 (5)

Solution to crossword no. 189

T	U	G	O	F	W	A	R	S	C	H	N	E	E
U	U	I	N	A	A	I	S						
S	H	I	O	F	C	A	B	O	T	A	G	E	S
S	F	T	H	S	H	H	A						
L	O	A	T	H	S	O	M	E	E	N	T	R	Y
E	W	O	R	N	R								
	S	K	I	F	F	S	T	H	I	N	A	I	R
D	E	N											
I	N	S	H	O	R	T	B	L	E	A	R	Y	
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We congratulate Robert Nunn, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive his prize certificate from the editors. An honourable mention goes to Trish Whitehead



PUB PRIZE MEAL FOR TWO
(including a glass of wine or beer each)

Fish and Chip dinner
or
Speciality cheeseboard



Mothers' Union

We welcomed Wendy Bowen as our guest speaker in October. She gave us the most entertaining afternoon talking to us about her experience as 'The Tanzanian Pastor's Wife'.

Wendy presented her talk in true Tanzanian style sitting amongst us rather than standing up in front of us. She began with a brief explanation of Tanzania's location within South Africa, and that it covers the Serengeti and Kilimanjaro National Parks. Then moving on to speak about how her and Roger met whilst studying and their early married life in Cambridge.

In 1966 they found themselves leaving England for Tanzania for Roger to take up the position of pastor with the Anglican Church of Tanzania. Their sea voyage took them through the Suez Canal down to Africa. (No luxury of air transport for clergy in those days!) The first things noticeable on their arrival was the high temperature and everyone spoke in Swahili. Fortunately, Swahili being an easy language to learn, Wendy, Roger and their family of four children soon managed to communicate with the local community.

Wendy then told us of how her main objectives in life has been to dedicate her time to raising her family and commitment to family life, and how this is an integral part of the Mothers' Union ethos. When settled into the Tanzanian way of life it was very noticeable that the Tanzanian Mothers' Union was very active, and had a very forward-thinking approach, which continues to be so today. It is their tradition to choose a material and make a simple garment to wear, so that all members have the same attire to wear over their normal clothing making everyone equal. Although many members have little riches, their dedication to bring changes within their communities is very rich.

Tanzania has one of the largest memberships within MU, and has a very holistic approach to their work. Each generation dedicating time to nurture and support the younger female generation in caring for themselves and family life. Currently Tanzania MU is the main lead in organising Covid vaccination centres throughout the country.

Wendy then opened up the session for questions, which raised discussion and gave us food for thought on having more contact with our benefice linked diocese of Mara in north Tanzania. Wendy and her family lived in Tanzania for 15 years, and still have strong ties with the country, especially as her son and family live there. Wendy concluded by showing us a most colourful piece of Tanzanian material and circulated information on Mothers' Union Tanzania embarking on an exciting transformation partnership with Tearfund Tanzania. 'Transformation – Now! being our theme for next year, again the Tanzanian ladies have already forged ahead and achieved some of this already. Further information can be found at <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/mothers-union-tanzania-embark-on-exciting-new-partnership-country-wide-transformation>

Ann Langran



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Andrew Sankey gave us a very interesting and beautifully illustrated talk on “The Gardens of William Morris.” We all of course knew about his fabrics and wallpapers, but not his gardens. His garden plants, being the primary source of inspiration for his designs.

He was a Victorian, born in 1834, but “ had a horror of Victorian gardens”- formal, carpet bedding and shrubberies, full of plants brought back from abroad, by the plant hunters.

His ideal, at complete odds with this, was one where fruit trees formed the basis of the design — one that was enclosed, full of cottage plants, herbs, a kitchen garden, where local materials were used and where there was unity of house and garden. A house covered in climbers, was perfect. These ‘Arts and Crafts’ gardens pushed forward the garden movement and though he was no gardener — there is not a single photo of him with a spade, he lectured on the subject.



Red House Gardens by William Morris

His philosophy was to have a profusion of cottage plants, wonderful scents and simple native trees. The first garden he created, in 1860, was at the Red House in Bexley Heath. When he moved there it was in the middle of a Kent orchard, (now sadly a housing estate), and his planting inspired many of his designs- daisy, columbine, honeysuckle, sunflower and a favourite of the public, woodland weeds.

After a few years, the Red House became too small for his company, so he moved to Kelmscott Manor in Lechlade. It was his utopia and ‘heaven on Earth’. A visiting friend, described it as ‘delicious’. It combined all the features he considered so important, the house was covered in climbers and Gertrude Jeckyl having visited often used the idea of Morris’s shaded pergola, in her designs.

He finally moved back to Hammersmith in 1875 and named his new abode, Kelmscott House. It had a beautiful garden and craft workshops, right next door to Liberty and Co. workshops. Morris died in 1896, but Morris and Co. was not bought by Liberty's until 1970.

Our next meeting will be on January 18th 2022. The speaker is TBA. All are very welcome.

Margaret Joyce

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has launched two public consultations on proposals for transport links in and around Cambridge. Some of these proposals have significant implications for our routes into Cambridge, especially along the Newmarket Road.

The Making Connections consultation closes on 20 December and more information can be found at www.gretercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021

The Cambridge Eastern Access consultation closes on 22 December and more information can be found at www.gretercambridge.org.uk/NewmarketRd2021

They will be hosting events online throughout the consultation period, and these will be advertised on the consultation links above.

As you may be aware, there is a local group, the AtoB 1102, who are looking at the implications of these proposals for our area. To find out more about them, register your views and see their campaigns, please see their website at <https://atob1102.org/>. The proposed changes are significant for our area. For some reason, East Cambs is not part of the GCP – so we need to make our voices heard by responding directly to the GCP consultations and working with the AtoB 1102 group.

The Combined Authority is also seeking views on transport and connectivity. You can give them your views at <https://yourltcp.co.uk/>

An electric bicycle ride took place in October to mark the works currently ongoing to install the flagship heat network in Swaffham Prior to get the community off oil and onto renewable energy. The event included a tour of the site where the energy centre is being built for the project. The media took interviews which reached as far as Japan.

Last month the Chair of the County Council's Environment and Green Investment Committee was taken on a tour round part of the area proposed by Sunnica for their colossal (and controversial) commercial solar farm and battery storage stretching for miles across the East Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk countryside east of Burwell. Cambridgeshire County Council has already expressed its concern to the Secretary of State about the scale of what is proposed. The tour began at The Ark Church in Isleham, then took in Freckenham, Red Lodge, Kennett, La Hogue, and Chippenham—and that was just part of this massive proposal. They saw some of the fantastic views, working farms, stud farms and other parts of this wonderful area which will be hugely affected if the Planning Inspectorate approves the plans. Coun-



cil officers are expecting that Sunnica will submit their planning application to the Secretary of State on Friday 12 November. The application will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate, not by the District or County Council. You can follow the progress of the application and register your interest at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sunnica-energy-farm/>

Meanwhile, applications for more solar farms continue to come forward in our area and yet there is still no strategic overview for alternative energy sites in East Cambs – each application is considered in isolation with no thought for the cumulative impact or the necessary infrastructure. We will continue to call for this strategic overview so that we get the right balance between green electricity generation, farming and open space.

We do hope that you will get a good break this Christmas and the chance to meet with family and friends.



The huge drills making the bore holes for the heat extraction up on the Heath

The Reading Group Reads...

The Ginger Tree

By Oswald Wynd

This month we read *The Ginger Tree* by Oswald Wynd, an author who had spent his formative years in Japan, as the son of Australian missionaries.

It's the story, written in diary and letter form, of Mary McKenzie, who in 1903, has left a very narrow, Presbyterian life in middle class Edinburgh and is sailing to Peking to marry her fiancé, Richard Collingworth, - a British military attaché.

They marry, but he's a cold fish, offering her little companionship and is frequently away during the conflicts between Russia, China and Japan. She has a daughter, Jane, but is essentially bored and lonely, with only one good friend, Marie, the wife of Armand Chamonpierre, who's

attached to the French delegation - the only friendship that lasts almost the entire length of the book. Whilst staying with them, she has a brief affair with Count Kentaro Kurihama, a married officer in the Japanese army and becomes pregnant.

"I have been put out". She leaves the scandalised British community, is not allowed to see her daughter again and flees to Tokyo - a journey arranged by Kentaro. She spends almost the next 40 years in Japan, until she is forced to leave at the beginning of the Second World War. During this time she changes from a frightened, lonely, dependant mother of a small son, to an important business woman, in control of her life, as far as it's possible to be in Japan, respected by many Japanese colleagues and friends.

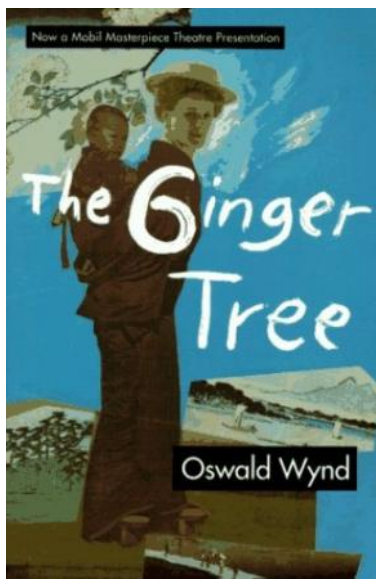
She tragically loses her son Tomo, when he's a few months old, taken by his father, to be adopted by a wealthy family. But with innate strength and help from Japanese and expat English and American friends, she is able to start, what is finally a very successful British fashion business- then much admired by the Japanese.

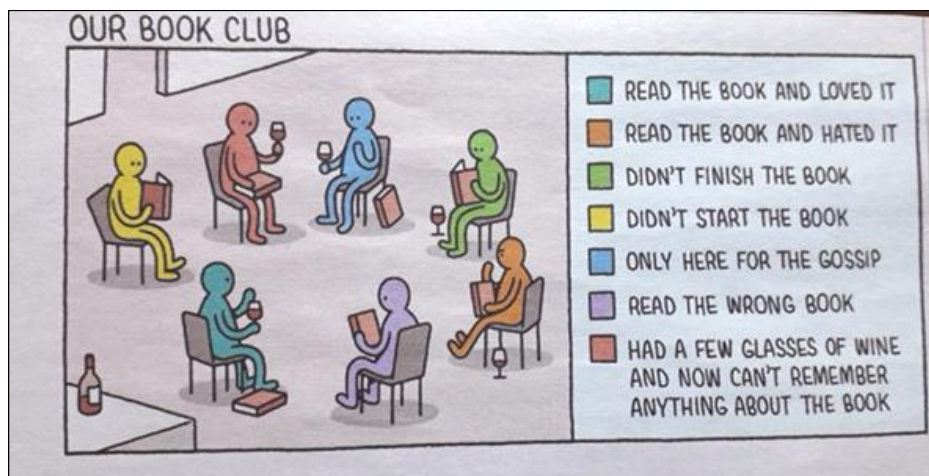
All this is set against the fascinating backdrop of Japan- earthquakes, tsunamis, the death of an Emperor, the suicide culture, all amongst immense global changes and their emerging military power.

She has a few short lived affairs, but there is a constant thread attaching her to Kentaro. He re-appears several times over the years and they always have joyful reunions. She however refuses his offer of marriage, after his wife's death, as Tomo can never be recognised as their son. The book ends, with his final gift to her - a visit by Tomo to his mother as she is leaving the country. It's a very special meeting.

Next month we are reading "A Quartet in Autumn" by Barbara Pym.

Margaret Joyce.





The Swaffhams' WI

We had a story teller - Malcolm Busby this month to entertain us. We really had no idea what to expect, but we were certainly not disappointed.

Story tellers have of course been around for thousands of years and Malcolm said he'd loved being told stories by his grandfather, when he was small.

The tales he told us, were hugely varied and I don't think a single person could have guessed any of the endings! (probably the secret of a good story).

There was the Black Dog of the Fens, The new baby of the pickpockets, who stole from the midwife that delivered him, (does anyone remember Burglar Bill?), the child - or so we thought, who turned out to be a donkey and the classic tale of Pyramus and Thisbe.

All so, so different. We would have liked more, but time didn't allow.

Next month we're all looking forward to our Christmas party and of course starting our usual meetings again in January. All are very welcome.

Pat Cook

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting

Thursday, 11th November 2021

Cllr Greenfield chaired a meeting at which 7 parish councillors and 2 members of the public were present.

Reports

Cllr Charlotte Cane reported for East Cambs.

Cllr Cane noted that there were two consultations being undertaken by the Greater Cambridge Partnership regarding transport, and that the Combined Authorities were also undertaking a consultation on a Transport Connectivity plan. Cllr Cane urged the PC to respond to these both as a PC and as individuals, particularly as the Combined Authorities remit does cover the bus service.

Cllr Cane then responded to a letter sent to the PC by Cllr Bailey (Leader of the ECDC) alleging misinformation given by Cllr Cane and Cllr John Trapp. Cllr Cane noted that her own report said that the new system of asking questions before meetings was working reasonably well so far as questions could still be asked during meetings as well. Cllr Cane was waiting to see how well the system would work for Finance Committee meetings.

Cllr Cane noted that funding had been confirmed for the Newmarket Citizen's Advice Bureau for the next 2 years, to be reviewed again when the two years are up. Cllr Cane noted that many people had been in contact with ECDC regarding this funding and this may have influenced the decision to continue. Cllr Cane also noted that the Community Bus staff give good advice but Cllr Cane remains concerned that it could be seen as less discrete and not independent.

Cllr Cane acknowledged a typing error in a previous report where 2022-23 was written as the year in which savings must be made, instead of 2023-24. Cllr Cane noted that 2023-24 is the year in which savings would be needed.

Cllr Kent-Phillips asked if ECDC were bringing in a levy on food van sites, instead of on the vehicles, causing food van owners to pay for each site, raising their costs considerably. Cllr Cane didn't know.

Cllr Latchford asked if the Eastern Access plan for Newmarket Road still involved closing the road to most traffic from Barnwell Bridge onwards. Cllr Greenfield confirmed this but added that A-B1102 had been taking part in many meetings regarding this and intended to report back to the 6 PCs involved soon.

Cllr Latchford noted that people unable to use buses e.g. due to disability would be intentionally excluded from access to Cambridge by the closure. Cllr Cane replied that the intention was to make buses more accessible but would raise this point.

Correspondence for consideration/circulation.

The PC had received emails regarding an accident on Mill Hill and the need for changes to the speed limit.

Cllr Latchford noted that this was a foreseeable incident and a longstanding problem. A variety of crossing, speed reductions and solutions have been suggested by the PC in the past but rejected on grounds of cost, lack of public interest or the topography of the road itself through the village. Cllr Latchford also noted that

funding was available for some projects, but not for others and that traffic is set to increase with further housing developments in Burwell.

It was agreed that the PC contact CCC Highways Agency, asking them to respond to the need that has been demonstrated and to explore options to make the road safer, preventing fear, injury or death.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that moving the bus stop to Cage Hill did not address the problem of children crossing Mill Hill, that the crossing and speed reduction at Lode was in response to a death and the need for a crossing that stopped traffic in order for people to cross safely.

To review a Memorial Management Policy and risk assessments – continued from October 2021

Cllr Greenfield requested that a clause be added to the memorial management policy clarifying who would be responsible for costs of repairs or making safe.

Cllr Gynn noted that the cemetery bins, meant purely for waste from the cemetery such as discarded floral arrangements, had contained fast food packets and beer cans and that the green bin had been partially filled with earth and covered with leaves from an unknown source, which risk making it too heavy for emptying.

To discuss the charges for repeat Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial.

After discussion, it was agreed that for people wishing to buy a second grant after the expiration of the first, the option of buying a grant allowing the maintenance of a grave marker or erection of a new marker only be offered at a cost of £25.00 per grave. If re-opening of the grave to include more burials were required, a full grant at a cost of £225.00 per grave would still be required.

To discuss a quote for repairs to the Village Hall path

Cllr Durrant presented two quotes to add a metal edge to the main path and repairs; after discussion it was decided a project of this amount should be specifically built into the budget and deferred until 2022-23.

The Clerk noted that a request had been received that the trees at the edge of the driveway to the Village Hall car park be trimmed back as the ECDC Community bus had been unable to use it for fear of the trees damaging the paintwork. The PC declined to undertake this task, feeling that other options were available for the bus to park.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk had taken part in a CAPALC Allotment course and found it very informative. It has clarified that the Swaffham Prior allotments next to the cemetery are temporary allotments, making temporary use of land bought for extending the cemetery and as such will never become statutory allotments. Additionally, it was suggested that a push button tap could reduce the use of water.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that a vote was required to accept the Precept for next year. It was agreed to discuss the budget for 2022-23 (in light of new potential projects) at the December meeting.

Cllr Durrant noted that the undercut hedge at the bottom of Cage Hill is

obstructing pedestrians - Clerk to write to the owners requesting that they address this.

Cllr Hart asked how long the temporary traffic lights were to remain on Mill Hill – Cllr Greenfield to find out and report back.

Cllr Latchford asked about a funded structural survey on a house on the High Street to assess risk of damage from the digging. Cllr Greenfield noted that the route of the heating scheme digging had changed to the footpath on the church side of the road; a survey should be available to those who required one and he will check availability of a funded structural survey.

Open Question Time

It was suggested that the Community Bus could park on the driveway to the Scout Hut, on Town Close.

A member of the public noted that Fairview Grove is a concrete road with metal re-enforcements, which could cause difficulty for the Heating Scheme. Cllr Kent-Phillips suggested that the pipework could go down the pavement instead of the road.

Cllr Greenfield noted that developments had resulted in none of the five companies invited to install Fibre being interested in using ducting out into the heating scheme trenches; instead a company were intending to provide Fibre using current physical structures, from March 2022.

Cllr Kent-Phillips asked how many households had signed up for the heating scheme. Cllr Greenfield explained that they were being signed up in batches of 36; 35 of the first batch had signed up and the next batch had not reached their deadline yet. Cllr Kent-Phillips stated that the current cost of the system was £13 million, in loans that would have to be repaid with interest at some point. Cllr Cane noted that other places hoped to learn from watching Swaffham Prior.

If anyone would like any further information on any of the above items, please contact the Clerk. The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9th December 2021 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

***Jude Griffiths – Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel 745 106. Email
swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com***

BON MOT NUMBER 123

**“The advantage of a bad memory is that,
several times over one enjoys
the same good things for the first time.”**

Friedrich Nietzsche (1884 – 1900)

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

Set of 5 storage cubes – 1 double with sliding door fronts; 1 double open front; 1 single. Dark wood. Jacqui 01223 811190

Framed aerial photograph of Commercial End, taken around year 2000. Frame size 56 x 46 cm (landscape). Mark. 01223 811721

2 seater sofa bed, never slept in, very rarely sat on. 120cm x 190cm when folded out into a bed. Ian 01223 812352

Solid Pine Bookcase/Set of Shelves (Old pine, free standing, nicely finished and in good condition, 170 cm high, 56 cm wide, 24 cm deep; 5 adjustable shelves). David, 01223 811105

Bottisham Patients' Group

Funds: We have contributed to the purchase of the new ECG machine. Thank you to all who have donated.

Better Health and Self Care: With winter on the way it is important to keep as fit as possible with a healthy diet, exercising and not smoking. Most winter ailments, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, 'flu are viruses for which antibiotics are not effective. Remedies can be obtained from pharmacists. It is useful to buy these before you become unwell so you have them to hand. Examples of useful medications to have at home would be paracetamol, ibuprofen, gaviscon, dioralyte or similar rehydration solution salts. Lemsip and other cold and flu remedies are also useful. Self-care for common conditions can help free up GP time making it easier to get an appointment for a more serious condition. 111 is now available online as well as via phone: <https://111.nhs.uk/> 111 online will review your health condition and advise on the best appropriate service.

Minor Eye Conditions Service: This is available free on NHS with several optometry practices. These include acute red eyes, irritated or inflamed eyes, sticky discharge, ingrowing eyelashes, or foreign bodies. If found to be urgent requiring prompt treatment these will be redirected to A & E. See website

www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughhccg.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/other-local-services/minor-eye-conditions-service/.

Next meeting: If you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. Next regular meeting January 26th 2022 at 2pm.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

Services in December



Wednesday 1 December

8 pm C by C (a short contemplative service)
Online service on Zoom

Sunday 5 December – Second Sunday in Advent; Purple

9am Online service on Zoom
Village Worship, Village Hall, Quy
10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Sunday 12 December – Third Sunday in Advent; Purple

9am Holy Communion, Quy
10.30am Christingle Family Worship, Swaffham Prior – also on Zoom

Sunday 19 December – Fourth Sunday in Advent; Purple

9am Online service on Zoom
Morning Prayer, Quy
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior
Morning Prayer, Bottisham
3pm Carol Service, Quy
4.30pm Carol Service, Swaffham Prior
6pm Carol Service in churchyard, Swaffham Bulbeck
6.30pm Carol Service, Bottisham

Thursday 23 December

10.30am Carol Service, Lode
2.30pm Carols, Hilton Park
4.30pm Crib Service, Bottisham

Friday 24 December – Christmas Eve

10am Crib Service with Toddler Group, Lode
3pm Crib Service, Swaffham Prior
4.30pm Crib Service, Swaffham Bulbeck
11.30pm Holy Communion, Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck

Saturday 25 December – Christmas Day

8.30am Online service on Zoom
10am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior, also on Zoom tbc

Sunday 26 December - First Sunday after Christmas; White

10am Holy Communion, Lode

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Norfolk Art

Cloisonne Bowl and a Norfolk View by Paula Sharples

Paula Sharples was born in Brighton in 1951. She gained a degree in Textile Design at Reigate School of Art in Surrey in the late '60s and spent 15 years as a freelance textile designer for the international furnishing and bedding market. She created designs for companies such as Coloroll and John Wolf Decorative Fabrics in the USA and also Portmeirion and Churchill China. The coast is a constant inspiration and Cornwall and Devon feature heavily in her paintings, also the north Norfolk coast and the landscape surrounding her home in the Peak District. She works on gesso prepared board with acrylics, ink and graphite in layers and uses a combination of still life with landscape background. Her use of colour and pattern is evidence of her past in textile and ceramic design.

<http://www.paulasharples.co.uk/>



Dates for Your Diary December 2021

Thu	9	Parish Council, Village Hall, 7:30pm [28]
Sun	12	Christingle, St Mary's (also Zoom) , 10.30 am [30]
Sun	19	Carol Service, St Mary's, 4.30pm [30]
Fri	24	CHRISTMAS EVE Crib Service, St Mary's, 3pm [30]
Sat	25	CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Communion, St Mary's (also Zoom) [30]
Sun	26	BOXING DAY Hockey, Bulbeck Denny, 10.45am [6]
Fri	31	NEW YEAR's EVE
		January 2022
Sat	1	NEW YEAR's DAY Crier Copy Deadline

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	Ruth Scovil	743720	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall