



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLV Number 1/2

January/February 2020



Editorial

We're sorry not to have produced an issue last month but it was going to be very thin and we were concerned that the extra threat from the emerging new variant didn't justify the extra risks associated with printing and distributing a short Crier, especially since a number of us are shielding. Fortunately, rumours that the Crier Team have got the Covid bug are unfounded but unfortunately our Business Manager, Peter Cook, is still in hospital recovering from an operation. He is greatly missed.

But here we are now with a combined issue, containing two delightful articles on Village History: one from Celia Tyler's Village Album project, and another from Julian Luttrell based on his recent research involving the 1939 census and mysteriously entitled "Reader, I married the Housekeeper" — you need to read it to find out why, and who it refers to! Celia has also made contact with the mystery correspondent who contacted us for information about Clem Wadham (November Crier) — all is revealed in her article.

Many congratulations to St Mary's and the School who have been doing a fantastic job of cheering everyone up. Their Christmas Nativity Trail (see p. 18) proved a huge success, and now the Anglesey group have been making gorgeous little pyramid-shaped stands for our phones for all those Zooms and Facetimes (see p.8).

To those of you who missed the Swaffham Prior's Heating Scheme's appearance in the Times (now mostly hidden behind a pay-wall), Our Reporter has the low-down, together with some hilarious contributions from the Landgirls of WWII, and much more.

Finally, we'd just like to say a Very Big Thank-you to everyone who has helped with the Crier during the past tumultuous year and a special message to our loyal Advertisers that invoices will be late but they will be sent out as soon as we are able. Happy New Year, All!

Caroline & James Matheson

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Cover Picture: A bright day after rain, view towards Swaffham Prior from Barston Drove bridge by **Celia Tyler**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

THANK YOU!

Could we just give a BIG THANK YOU to all the people who have daily to slog into work, enabling us to stay safely at home.

Our postie, Kamal delivering our papers, all the white van men, refuse collectors, the online shopping guys and all those people working in super markets.

Am not of course forgetting the unbelievably wonderful staff, working in the NHS. It's almost impossible to express enough thanks to them.

A Grateful Resident

And the Editors would very much like to second this!

Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Volunteers

I moved out of Swaffham Prior in October, but I couldn't be closer and now live on Swaffham Road in Burwell (last house on the end towards Prior!) I have been keeping the Volunteer Group running and would like to reach out again to everyone who may need support during the third lockdown. We have a small number of volunteers still available. Also, it would be good to know who else is helping out in our community that might be outside of the Volunteer Group, as I have had contact from the ECDC and can provide Volunteer ID for anyone who may need it. On that note also, there is a request for community volunteers to get in contact as the COVID vaccine is being rolled out to those who meet the following criteria:

Priority Groups for Vaccination

- homecare workers
- those working to support the homeless population in centres or temporary accommodation
- those involved in the direct supply of food and other goods
- · those supporting older people and those with long term health issues
- · those supporting vulnerable children and young people
- · volunteer drivers involved in transporting people to vaccine appointments

Please remind anyone to get in touch with me, same details as before.

Many thanks

Cheryl Wilding

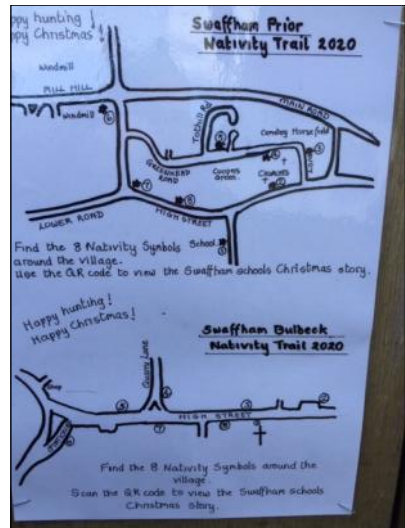
cherylwilding@hotmail.com tel: 07825787896

Dear Editors,

I am noticing an increase in the number of cyclists , runners and walkers out especially on the fen roads and in particular- Station Rd . Do remind them to wear luminous gear and lights. Many seem to forget - and or leave coming home too late. Take care- be seen.

Sue Wade

Sometime during January the Crier's email stopped working because Air Broadband (RaSP's successors) had done some reconfiguration of their network which prevented Crier email being delivered. The problem has now been rectified, but we are very sorry if your copy has been missed because of this.



**The Nativity Trail was a great success — there were over 660 scans of the QR codes in Prior and Bulbeck over the Christmas period.
See School News: p. 18**

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

January: I had considered putting “our Reporter” into hibernation until the Spring. Just like a hedgehog. But, because it is very dangerous to disturb a hedgehog during hibernation I decided to keep one eye open. Of course there will always be **Hoggywobbles** to help out. See pages 11-13 of the December *Crier* for Saffra Monteiro’s interesting piece. Here is a non-controversial local goodwill activity to support. Do help to save the Mrs Tiggy Winkles. They are rather charming creatures.



For December you will need to read Jude’s minutes of the meeting – unless of course you were lucky enough to Zoom it.

Let me now fill the page by giving you some idea of the life of the 60 Land Girls billeted in Swaffham Prior House during the war. They did not have smart phones, or television – just the wireless and wind-up gramophones. They did however write poetry amongst their other activities. Below I give you a sample of these. What an insight into these jolly girls

**“Iris is a good girl
She goes to Church on Sundays
She asks the Lord to give her strength
To squeeze the boys on Mondays.”**

Irene

**“Little bits of powder,
Little bits of paint,
Makes a lady,
just what she ain’t.”**

Margaret

**“Molly is a good girl,
She played with her toys,
All she thinks of now-a-days
Is playing with the boys.”**

Betty

**“Iris Hazell is her name
Single is her station
May the Lord have
Mercy on the man
Who maketh the alteration.”**

Maureen

But, if you want to know all about the life of the land girls during the war do read pages 104 to 106 of **Sylvie Short’s excellent and indispensable history of Swaffham Prior – *Two Churches Together***. Even if you have already read it, it is worth getting out again. And, if you do not have a copy, and have any interest in the village, you will not regret obtaining one.

Meanwhile the oldies’ triumphant cry of
“I’VE GOT A SLOT”
has been replaced by
“I’VE HAD THE JAB”.

Alastair Everitt

February: I was just preparing to nod off for my half-hibernation when I glanced at Jude's draft minutes of the PC's December meeting. This brought me up with a start.

At that meeting David Greenfield reported on the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) transport consultation questionnaire. Read on. I quote from the minutes.

"The idea for Newmarket Road is to close it to cars and encourage walking, cycling and **equine** access and decisions will be made using this consultation, in which ECDC have decided not to take part."

"The PC discussed the possibility of responding to the questionnaire in a way that represented the village as a whole. It was felt that the questions were framed to lead to specific answers and that the **questionnaire in no way took account of accessibility for people who were less mobile or poor.**"

Of course it does not because **GCP has no remit for bus transportation!!** Nor is the building of 3,000 dwellings on the Newmarket road part of GCP's remit. Presumably some will be allowed one car.

GCP needed an answer by 18th

December. David, a supporter of the scheme and presumably a keen cyclist, was asked to draft a written response, circulate it for approval, and send. I hope this answer appears on the village notice board. And meantime if this scheme does get off the ground it will be a truly delightful sight when King's Parade has horses clumping along it again. College Porters will be rushing out to collect the horse droppings for their roses. Certainly it will be a good feature piece for the newspapers.

Swaffham Prior itself has had brilliant coverage in the *Times* of Saturday 9th January for its Ground Heating Plan. It was a full half page multi-colour treatment. This was reported by Ben Webster, the paper's Environment Editor. He did the scheme proud and any other council reading it must want to know more. Enquiries will flood in. But, as one villager commented, "I'll never believe any story I read in a newspaper ever again." It was such a sad distortion of the facts.

I have always maintained that as a village we have been privileged to have been involved from the very beginning with this "good idea". And good ideas have to be researched and tried out, otherwise there will be no progress. Just like Smart Meters and Smart Motorways. But very soon it was apparent that this was not a good one – it was not suitable for Retrofitting. Most probably it may be an excellent idea for New Builds. We must remember that there have always been District Heating Systems in this country, all powered by gas, oil, wood chips, furnaces burning waste. They are nothing new. But there are NONE using ground heat sourcing.

I am slightly dismayed that the people Ben Webster spoke to only gave part of the facts. I think this is disrespectful to the village and ignores the number of sincere questions which villagers have raised over the last two years, questioning, objecting etc. I think there have only be two letters in support. They still bang on about 160

people “expressing interest” implying this means they will sign up. It means nothing of the sort, and never has done. It means people wish to be kept informed. I find this very disappointing. And it is not only a “few older residents” who raise objections. I suppose if you are only aged forty-two people in their sixties are old.

One must wonder whether Ben Webster is being a little mischievous in his selection of quotes, I am light years behind Emma in my appreciation of new technology, but I do know that for £100 or so there is a little gizmo that she can have in her kitchen which will give her the level of her oil when she needs to refill. That would solve one of her problems, and I think she owes me a no-offence-taken half in the *Red Lion* when all the troubles are over. And of course everyone is impressed by the size of Mike’s oil tank. The removal of this will enable him to build a summerhouse to work from home and to also have a small vegetable garden. My tip to Mike is that if he installed heating and light he would be able to work there all the year round.

One could go on for ever. For example the illustration only shows how the scheme works for a New Build project. But not for a retrofit. The costs have now risen to £9 million which even for 160 house is an astonishing amount. Who was the comedian who said “You cannot be serious!!”

Other incorrect statements in the article include:

a) “more than a dozen other villages...are keen to copy the scheme”. Wrong. They have just “expressed an interest” and wish to know more.

b) “there was overwhelming support in the village”. Wrong. At the August PC Meeting only one member intended to “sign up”. That is 11%. Work out the numbers likely to sign,

c) “a few older residents” “don’t like change”. Many of the people raising questions and objections are in their sixties and may not like being placed with the oldies just yet.

In the November Crier (page 4) Dave Jackson wrote a brilliant letter which is essential reading for anyone who has “expressed an interest”. He is a great fan of District heating, and he asks questions for which anyone “signing up” needs answers. He went direct to William Frinault of Bouygues who designed the scheme but who has **“not visited Swaffham Prior”** to see how we differ from a NewBuild. Dave had already raised a number of his concerns 18 months ago at a public meeting. He still does not have satisfactory answers to some of his major concerns.

Meantime all will be resolved in February when the final chance to “Sign Up” by the end of January (date moved from October/November) is revealed – if it is revealed. So, it is not long to wait for the end of this long ongoing saga.

If anyone is still interested, do Google Ben Webster to read comments from the rest of the country.

Meanwhile the world has moved on. Another triumphant cry has been added to

“I’VE GOT A SLOT” and “I’VE HAD A JAB”

We now have

“I’VE HAD TWO JABS!!”

Alastair Everitt

Eds Note: Dave’s letter and a response from the Heating Project are on pages 4-5 of the November Crier. If you don’t still have a paper copy, it’s online —just google “Swaffham Crier November 2020”.

Ringling out the Christmas bells in St Cyriac’s Tower



Bellringing has been very limited by Covid rules and Swaffham Prior bells haven't rung since March. However, by providing a band of ringers all from the same household, we were able to ring four of the bells for the Christmas service in the morning. I hope you enjoyed hearing them again.

Gareth Davies

Eds' Note: The gorgeous sound of St Cyriac's bells managed to coincide with the few flakes of Christmas snow — magical!

Christmas Crucifix outside St Mary's





Heating Swaffham Prior

In Mid-January, the Environmental and Sustainability Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council unanimously approved funding to deliver the Heating Swaffham Prior project. Confirming delivery of the heat network.

Our next major project milestone is to apply for RHI (Renewable Heat Incentive), in early February. Following this application, we will finally be able to fix the tariff and standing charges, offer packs will then be sent to households that have expressed an interest in joining the network. There will also be an additional opportunity for further households in the village to join the heat network launched.

Following the success of our planning application, people's interest in the Heating Swaffham Prior project has sparked across the country. We had some wonderful opportunities to discuss the future proofing of our village in The Times, Your and Yours (BBC R4), and BBC Cambridgeshire. Rural villages across the UK are keenly watching the project develop, inspired by the environmental and long-term cost benefits.

Heating Swaffham Prior Team

info@heatingswoffhamprior.co.uk

Next Steps

Feb – March 2021

Send offer packs to all homes that have had surveys

Launch an additional opportunity for homes to sign-up as part of the first phase (no connection fees)



Tablet or Phone Pyramids

Support your device –
ideal for home schooling,
working from home
or Zoom calls to friends.
Made in Swaffham Prior.
Please email Dee to place an order:
admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk
Fabric patterns are random.
Donations please – proceeds will be
split between Newmarket Open Door
Food Bank and projects supported in
Mara, Tanzania

4 steps to sculpting a dog — allegedly!



Museums and leading artists are inviting the British public to take part in what they hope will be the biggest art exhibition ever mounted.

The Great Big Art Exhibition is being launched by Angel of the North sculptor Sir Antony Gormley, who is asking people to make an artwork at home and put in their window or garden.

Details of how to take part, [including a free activity pack](#), are available from arts organisation FirstSite.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

The 27th Advent Concert did not take place this year.

Beloved by many, both in and out of the village,
it is always a fusion of words and music, light and dark,
warmth and cold, the two churches,
and old friendships renewed over the mulled wine
and the warm mince pies.

*Ian Moore and the Cambridge Voices
send their best wishes to the Village.*

JULIES HEALTHY NEW YEAR RECIPES

Smoked paprika paella with cod and peas

- 1 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 100g brown basmati rice
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 500ml reduced salt vegetable bouillon
- 1 large red peeper, deseeded and chopped
- 1 large courgette, diced
- 125g frozen peas
- 300g pack skinless Atlantic cod loins, cut into large chunks
- Chopped parsley
- ½ lemon, cut into wedges

Heat the oil in a non-stick frying pan over a medium- high heat and fry the onion and garlic for a couple of mins to soften. Add the rice and spices, stir and then pour in the bouillon and chopped pepper. Cover the pan, reduce the heat and simmer for 20 mins. Stir in the courgette, cover and cook for a further 10 mins.

Add the peas and cod, cover again and cook for 10 mins more until the rice is cooked and the liquid absorbed. Toss with the parsley and serve with lemon wedges.

Creamy chicken & asparagus braise

- 1 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 2 skinless chicken breasts or 150g each
- 10 medium asparagus spears, each cut into 3
- 1 large leek, washed and thickly cut
- 3 celery sticks, sliced
- 200ml reduced salt vegetable bouillon
- 140g frozen peas
- 1 egg yolk
- 4 tbsp natural bio yoghurt
- 1 garlic clove, finely grated
- Chopped fresh tarragon
- New potatoes to serve

Heat the oil in a large frying pan and fry the chicken for 5 mins, turning to brown both sides. Add the asparagus (reserve the tips), leeks and celery, pour in the bouillon and simmer for 10 mins. Add the asparagus tips and peas, and cook for 5 mins more.

Meanwhile, stir in the egg yolk with the yoghurt and garlic. Stir the yoghurt mixture into the vegetables and add the tarragon. Divide between two warm plates, then place the chicken on top of the veg and serve with new potatoes if desired.



Shout out to Lower End— Swaffham Prior!

Hi folks, so we have now got a nice little collection of release gardens on the church side of the village, however I am rather disappointed that no one has applied from the Lower End part of the village. There are some amazing gardens down that part and it would be wonderful to have some apply so that we could balance out areas for release. There are a few houses with hedgehog signs outside so I know there are hog friendly gardens in that area. Please do get in contact with me by email saf-fra.monteiro@gmail.com or on our Hoggy-wobbles page on face book. Thank you.

Vandalism at the Newspaper Shed

Our community I have always considered to be very safe and not had any issues for years however this is no longer the case. Thanks to some immature local kids who thought it would be fun to vandalize our newspaper sheds and cause criminal damage, we now cannot have folk using them for safety reasons! They have been setting fires inside the sheds and so this is a serious fire risk to the house next door which means we cannot leave them open to the public. The police are now involved to try and locate the children that did this. However we will be shortly adding coded locks to the doors (they may already be in place) and only people that I give the code to will be able to access inside the sheds. We may also add an external newspaper bin in the future to be used for folk that don't have the code or forgot to ask for it.

But for now, please contact me for the code, or if you have papers and no code then please instead bring papers directly to me at 32, Green Head Road. This is really frustrating for me as I trusted the community and prefer people to be able to add papers freely but this is no longer an option and I cannot keep cleaning up after stupid vandals that are doing something potentially extremely dangerous. I hope all our supporters will continue to bring papers as we cannot work without them and do not want the hogs to end up being the victims of such a thoughtless crime!

Lastly if you have any information about the children involved, please contact me. Or if YOU are the kids who caused this damage to our sheds then I would strongly suggest you come forward with your name. If you do then we will be understanding but if you don't and we find out who you are then we will not be. You have committed a crime and damaged property belonging to rescues that care for a highly endangered animal. This in itself is an offence and are now receiving tougher punishments! Do the right thing!

Saffra Monteiro

Swaffham Prior Village Photo Albums

January 2021

Again, the COVID - 19 pandemic has prevented much progress being made with the Village Photo Albums project. However, just before the end of the year, we were able to begin accessing The Cooper Collection of 100 or so photographs at Cambridge Central Library. Thomas Cooper was born in Swaffham Prior in 1883 and took up photography in the early 1900s. He captured a unique visual record of our village and the people who lived in this community.

This month we're printing a photograph taken in the village over 100 years ago by Thomas Cooper.



Lower End *A photograph by Thomas Cooper*

The snow scene along Lower End was photographed around 1900 and presents a street view that has not changed much since then. The White House with its three dormer windows and, next door, the old Corona Dairy house look much as they do today, except there is no longer a door onto the street at the front of The White House. Fashions *have* changed since then, of course, and we'd perhaps be surprised to see a girl wearing a white pinafore dress around the village nowadays.

As the photograph shows, the open field that exists today opposite The White House and Corona used to be walled along the road. We can just make out a door set into the high clunch wall on the left. This led into the field where apparently the family from Corona had their washing lines. The cows were stalled next to the dairy and would be herded up the road every morning to pasture fields in the village, particularly down Paine's Drive at the bottom of Cage Hill. When buses started to

serve the village, the timing had to be chosen carefully to avoid a collision! The dairy closed in 1963 but the house retains its name in leaded glass above the front door. The hay barn (the white gable end can be seen beyond Corona in the photograph) and cow stalls have gone and a new house and garage built on the land.

The White House was once known as Beech House and, amongst other functions, was a sweet shop and, during World War II, a doctor's surgery. More information and reminiscences of Corona Dairy and The White House can be found in Sylvie Short's very readable history of the village 'Two Churches Together'. Please get in touch if you have any village memories inspired by this month's photo.

February 2021

Steam Threshing

This was photographed around 1900 by Thomas Cooper and shows threshing underway at **Camping Close** (behind the Village Hall). The traction engine on the right belonged to Clem Wadham who hired out agricultural machinery to local farmers from his



yard next to Kent House. The long belts from the engine drive the great wooden threshing machine in the centre of the picture. Several men are needed to keep the threshing machine fed - two pitching down the harvested stalks from the top of the stacks and two on the machine (reached by the ladder). Threshing was a risky job – a lapse in concentration could result in a fall from the stack or into the jaws of the thresher. The man leaning on the machine keeps an eye on the grain flowing from the front into sacks lined up below. The separated straw piles up at the rear where it falls off the elevated conveyor. In the foreground, loaded on a barrow and probably as heavy as one of the boys nearby, we see the end product - a full sack of grain. The boys are not helping out with this heavy work – perhaps they heard the chug of the engine and the rattle of the thresher, ran along to watch and ended up having their photograph taken!

December's Crier published a letter from Jeffrey Shackell of Oxfordshire, enquiring for information about Clement Wadham. Jeffrey is a member of the Road Locomotive Society and is researching the owners of steam traction engines which were photographed in 1925 by Major Ronald Ind. Jeffrey has confirmed that Major Ind came to this village and photographed the engine featured in Cooper's picture – Clem Wadham's Burrell 883, built 1881.

Celia Tyler 0780 450 8335

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

www.fadingimages.uk

Cambridgeshire Photographers – Thomas Cooper

Cambridgeshire Collection, Local Studies Library - free public access

Reader, I Married the Housekeeper

68 years at the Bar

Back in 1939, the landlord of the Red Lion was a Nevil Wartnaby and it turns out the Wartnaby family had a very long association with the pub. Censuses show that Nevil's father Walter was landlord of the Red Lion back in 1901, and Sylvie Short's book "Two Churches Together" pushes this date back to 1893. Walter was still the landlord when he died in 1916, leaving his widow Sarah Ann living at the pub with their children.

Nevil remained at the Red Lion, with his mother, throughout the 1920s and into the 1930s. His mother died in 1937 and is buried in the cemetery here in Swaffham Prior next to her husband Walter.

Nevil Wartnaby married Ruby Gray in 1926. By 1939 he was landlord himself, but his wife Ruby was not living with him; we can be pretty sure that this was because they divorced because Nevil Wartnaby married again in 1949, to Dorothy Peacock and Ruby Wartnaby married again in 1959.

When Dorothy Gladys Wartnaby died in 1961, her husband Nevil was still the landlord of the Red Lion.

After this Nevil moved away from Swaffham Prior (marrying a third time and later dying in Norwich), leaving behind a pub that had been run by members of the same family for over 68 years.

The 1939 Register

The first clue to this story came from the 1939 Register, which was a census of everybody living in England and Wales taken at the start of WWII on 29 September 1939. The original documents were filled in by enumerators who travelled from door to door recording the names, dates of birth, occupations and addresses of everybody who lived there. Photos of these documents can be found online at Ancestry and Find My Past, for a fee. This article is based on my about my research into the 1939 Register for Swaffham Prior.

The Register was entirely hand written, and was used to produce identity cards and issue ration books, and also to record people's war efforts, containing notes of who was an air raid warden or a nurse and such like. After the war, it was used to help set up the NHS in 1948. When women got married their change of name was written on the Register, sometimes even with the date of the marriage. It was still being updated this way as late as 1970s.

The original records are all in the National Archives in Kew. Colour photographs of the documents are released from time to time with the details of any people who may still be alive blacked out.

Swaffham Prior in 1939

So, what else does the Register tell us about Swaffham Prior in 1939?

Of the 545 names in the Register, there were 14 Badcocks, 14 Bensteads, 12 Fletchers, 10 Prestons, 10 Sheldricks, 16 Webbs, and 2 Wartnabys (Nevil and his sister Vere).

There were two butcher's shops in the village in 1939, one at Homedale (now

Yule House on Lower End) run by William Goer, and one on the High Street in Oak Cottage run by Ernest Sturgess. William Goer's young assistant was Les Munden who later took over the business.

There were still four pubs in the village, the Allix Arms (landlord Arthur Bye), the Red Lion, the Rose and Crown (landlady Florence Regan), and the Cock (landlady Marie Milgate).

Although the enumerators were very thorough, and made sure to visit every dwelling no matter how far from the road, they seem to have completely missed Adventurers Farm, so we have no insight as to who was living there at the time.

There was a Post Office in the village at Bondgate (now 26 High Street) and another in Prior Fen near what is now Tip Tree Marina.

One unexpected discovery was that the Fairview Grove of today was called Millfield in 1939. Only the top four houses on each side had been built by that time. Next door, the Master Grist Miller at Fosters Mill was Sydney Foster, whose foreman lived at Ivy Cottage.

In the Register, 34 Lower End was called Corona House (this is where Corona Dairy was based). Might there be a case for resurrecting this name in 2021? In 1939 there were two families living there: Batholomew Badcock and Ella E Badcock (Ella Effie) with two children, as well as Charles T Nash and Ella E Nash (Ella Elna) with one child. It must have been confusing to have two Ella E's in the same house!

Commissioners Farm on Prior Fen seems to have been occupied by 51 young people all of whose names have been blacked out. The most likely reason for all of them being there is that they were evacuees from the 1 September Evacuation (Operation Pied Piper), but if anyone can shed light on this puzzle, I would love to hear!

More information and a challenge

You can see photos of the Swaffham Prior pages of the 1939 Register at www.tree-sleuths.co.uk/sp-1939-register, where I have added the modern addresses of the houses in the village as well as the burial plot numbers for people who are now buried in the cemetery. There is also an alphabetical index to locate people's entries from their names.

Finally, what is the reason for the title of this article? If you look carefully there are two people in the Swaffham Prior Register who **married their housekeepers**. Can you find them?

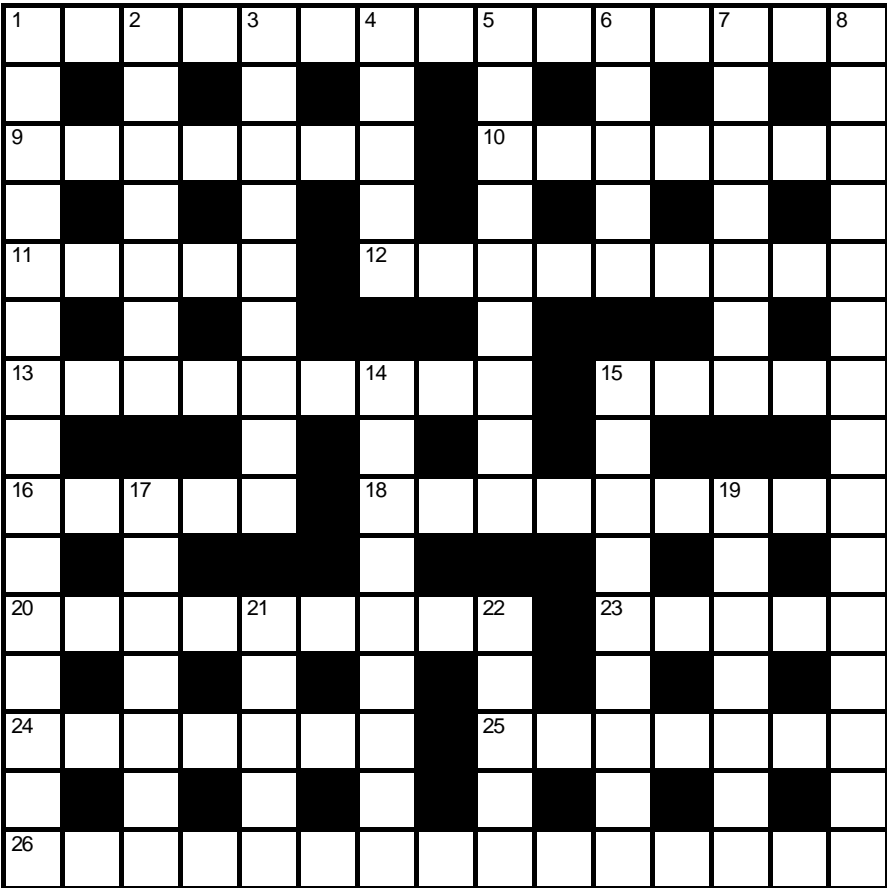


Julian Luttrell

Crossword Number 181

Compiled by **NIBOR**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 22nd February 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 Weather strip may prevent getting beer from a barrel (7,8)
- 9 Agree to a small change to show (7)
- 10 Small feline looses breath in damaged bronchial tube (4,3)
- 11 Queen follows vehicle to find nurse (5)
- 12 Exhaustion in wrecked Nile depot (9)
- 13 Photographer might want this cooked eel hotpot (9)
- 15 Fundamental but also seen in classic starters (5)
- 16 Fast like a fastener (5)
- 18 Oak Cottage perhaps, where children play high jinks (4,5)
- 20 A red headed rebel leader in original story (9)
- 23 Found in active dictation from sacred texts (5)
- 24 Care home in which we leave damaged showpiece (7)
- 25 A crop is destroyed... how dull (7)
- 26 Fat parrot is not waterlogged we hear (15)

Down

- 1 Having two passports, a couple of subjects and trendy too (4,11)
- 2 Clothing is real mess after a very quiet beginning (7)
- 3 You know where you are going when you have studied this (9)
- 4 Walk from dodgy trade (5)
- 5 Two unknowns look at mobile instrument (9)

- 6 Free two ducks found in college (5)
- 7 Criticises corrupt sire after short month (7)
- 8 I induce carbolic mixture to make RNA (11,4)
- 14 Strangers who like to be in the open air (9)
- 15 Conduct of a follower and have trouble giving debt to redhead (9)
- 17 In spar a soldier finds sunshade (7)
- 19 Air current plan at university first (7)
- 21 Perish in golden surroundings; goodbye! (5)
- 22 Was he once a postman living abroad? (5)

Solution to crossword no. 180

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

We congratulate Robert Nunn, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive his prize certificate from the editors. An honourable mentions goes to Trish Whitehead.

School News



Last term was unlike any other we have had before. However, despite the many challenges that Covid 19 posed, there was much to celebrate. The children have been remarkably resilient throughout and have adapted to new routines with ease. After a very long absence for many, they quickly immersed themselves in their learning and we are very proud of the progress they have made during the Autumn term!

Even though there was no 'traditional style' nativity production in December, we were able to celebrate with our special Nativity Trail. We collaborated with the church and Swaffham Bulbeck School to create a nativity trail with eight stations in both villages. Using a map to navigate the trail, members of the community could get into the Christmas spirit by watching the children perform songs. These were professionally recorded by a parent who runs Edna Productions which was a really thrilling experience for our children!

Obviously there has already been quite a lot of uncertainty nationally regarding the start of the new term but there is one thing that is certain – whatever challenges we face, I know the whole community will support each other and we will make the best of any situation!

Helen Bartley
Headmistress

The Reading Group reads....

At Sea

by Laurie Graham

A delightful book, that slowly pulls you into it's plot.

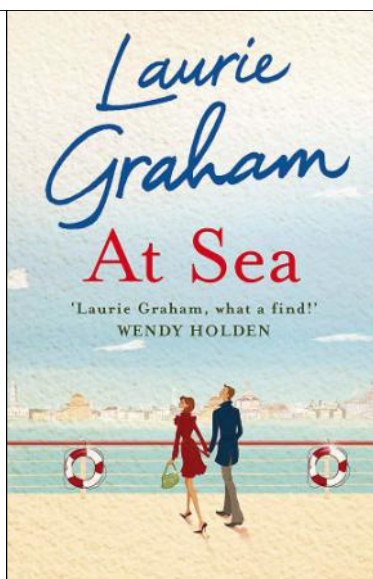
Lady Enid has been quietly accompanying her professor husband , Bernard, for years on cruises where he provides guest lectures . The plot thickens when a passenger, Frankie Gleeson, is convinced that he knows Bernard from the past!!!

This was a perfect book to read during lockdown and it has an ending with a twist!

The next reading club book is Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones.

We will have a zoom meeting about it on Wednesday February 3rd

Catie Whiteley



Village Composer's Anthem premiered at Selwyn College

A new anthem "Sarah" composed by Swaffham Prior's Tristan Latchford was premiered at Selwyn College Evensong by the socially-distanced College Choir in October.

It is part of a project focusing on 'Women in the Bible' and comprises seven Paintings by the artist Silvia Dimitrova, seven poems based on the biblical text by The Rt Revd Dr Graham Kings (these are published in Grahams book 'Nourishing connections') and Seven Anthems composed by Tristan.

The Anthem is the first of seven (which were finished this January) with the completion of the final Anthem 'Priscilla'. They are:

- 1 – Sarah
- 2 – Miriam
- 3 – Ruth
- 4 – Esther
- 5 – Mary Magdalene
- 6 – Lydia
- 7 – Priscilla

Readers can listen in at

[https://
m.youtube.com/watch?
v=N6qwRNKkyIQ](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=N6qwRNKkyIQ)

(about 39 minutes in, after
a short intro).



Sarah with husband and half-brother Abraham, by Silvia Dimitrova

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Cambridgeshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cambridge is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cambridgeshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking! **John Harris**

www.walkinginengland.co.uk, email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Out on the Wildside As graceful as a Swan



Swan's- they are such beautiful graceful looking birds but we often neglect to appreciate them as much as we should, probably because they are a common sight on our fen land and rivers. Although they do have a bit of a reputation for being rather bad tempered with us humans. You can't help but admire the way they so gracefully drift over the waters, often paired with another like a romantic water twin. Swans are of course protected under the Queens authority in England- this is because historically, the legislation was created because swans were eaten as a prized food at banquets and feasts. This rose to the height of its popularity in Tudor times when King Henry the 8th would famously have huge meat pies that would be placed inside the Bird. Valuable rights of ownership were granted by the monarch to a select few. Swan meat was also regarded as a luxury food in the reign of Elizabeth I. A recipe for baked swan survives from that time: "To bake a Swan Scald it and take out the bones, and parboil it, then season it very well with Pepper, Salt and Ginger, then lard it, and put it in a deep Coffin of Rye Paste with store of Butter, close it and bake it very well, and when it is baked, fill up the Vent-hole with melted Butter, and so keep it; serve it in as you do the Beef-Pie. But thankfully today, swans are no longer eaten and are a protected species so it is illegal to take one.

Swans are also feature strongly in mythology. In Greek mythology, the story of Leda and the Swan recounts that Helen of Troy was conceived in

a union of Zeus disguised as a swan and Leda, Queen of Sparta. The swans' closest relatives include the geese and ducks. Swans usually mate for life, although divorce sometimes occurs, particularly following nesting failure, and if a mate dies, the remaining swan will take up with another. The number of eggs in each clutch ranges from three to eight. There are currently six known species still alive, however there are many extinct sub species too. It's easy to see why swans are so often referred to as being like Ballerina's and vice versa, with their long shape full necks and their pure white feathers, they are extremely attractive and elegant. And as we all know, while they seem to glide effortlessly on top, under the water, their little webbed feet are paddling away to keep them swimming in the right direction like a manic speed boat. Male swans are generally bigger and heavier than most females and a group of swans is called a bevy or a wedge in flight.

Swans feed in water and on land. They are almost entirely herbivorous, although they may eat small amounts of aquatic animals. In the water, food is obtained by up-ending or dabbling, and their diet is composed of the roots, tubers, stems and leaves of aquatic and submerged plants. Swan's nests are on the ground near water and about a meter across. Unlike many other ducks and geese, the male helps with the nest construction, and will also take turns incubating the eggs. Swans are highly protective of their nests. They will viciously attack anything that they perceive as a threat to their chicks, including humans. They also often may feel threatened by boats that are too close to the nests which is often a common cause for them attacking rowers and punters in the area.

Remember that if you wish to feed the swans and other water birds, use seed mix or oats, rice or sweet corn mix instead of old bread. Bread is not a suitable diet for them and can often become lodged inside their throats. Bread is okay in tiny amounts but please break into tiny pieces. So the next time you are out, don't forget to look out for these wonderful white pearls of our water ways and admire them, for wouldn't we all love to be as graceful as a swan sometimes?

Saffra Monteiro

BON MOT NUMBER 113

"Orthodoxy is my Doxy.
Heterodoxy is another man's Doxy."
Bishop William Warburton (1698 – 1779)

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

We are extremely pleased to hear that our Chief Fire Officer, Chris Strickland, has been awarded the coveted Queen's Fire Service Medal in the New Year's honours. Congratulations Chris.

Talking of the New Year, did anyone make any resolutions and, if you did, have they already fallen by the wayside ? In January's Cresset we listed four resolutions for you, your families and friends which, briefly, were:

Smoke Alarms – Fit, Test and Check that they are audible throughout your home. TEST WEEKLY (red testing sticks available from me - fcfs)

Even more importantly, during these Covid restricted times, ensure that family, friends and neighbours alarms are fully functional.

Safe and Well Visits – these are ongoing and can be arranged with CFRS via 0800 917 9994.

Be sure in your mind that, should you be unfortunate enough to have a fire (as we did in 1966), you have a Plan of Action – usually along the lines of:-

Shout FIRE, get everyone OUT, CALL 999 * and STAY OUT !

* Use your address and Post Code but, if in an out-of-the-way situation, use 'What Three Words' - if you haven't already done so please put this app on your mobile phone now and use it if appropriate.

In an attempt to keep pace with the accelerating needs of our modern society, BFRS is looking for more 'volunteers' to man its state-of-the-art appliance, shown here outside the Old Courthouse !

Stay at Home, Stay Safe, Stay Well and Covid Free.

Michael White

News from Bottisham Medical Practice

Patients' Participation Group

We hope you were able to have as good a festive season as was possible in the current circumstances. Please continue to follow the guidelines to keep safe and well.

Information about NHS 111: The health adviser taking your call will follow very strict pathways, a flow chart. If this suggests that the patient needs another service they can put you through to clinical advisers for clinical support. Clinicians in the clinical assessment service are generally a GP.

The number of call handlers on the 111 service has been increased.

When you call you will be given the option of a video consultation or telephone call. If the health professional is concerned then you could be called in for a face to face consultation. The consultants have the same information that has been provided to 111 and have access to relevant patient records. If a patient is given a time slot for this and the time is not convenient, then an alternative would be offered.

If a visit to A & E Department is felt to be required then you will be given a time slot for that by the 111 service, who can also book patients into the hospital that is closest to them if away from home. The 111 service would support the patient if they had transport issues, maybe offer a home visit from their GP. Do not attend A & E directly unless the patient is in a life threatening condition.

Appointments: The Practice will continue to work as it has been doing since the start of the pandemic and remain available for all health problems. Please remember your face masks when attending the practice.

Covid Vaccinations: Please wait to be contacted directly by the NHS regarding these

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.

And from January 15:

The COVID vaccination programme for Cambs City Primary Care Network (which includes Bottisham Medical Practice) starts imminently. Patients will be contacted via text message or phone to arrange an appointment. Please do not contact the practice unless you have been contacted to arrange an appointment. Patients will be called in order of priority starting with those over 80 and all care and nursing home residents and staff. To begin with a central vaccination hub will be used and patients will be informed as to where this will be at the time of booking the appointment. If you are struggling with transport to get to a vaccination hub, please speak to our reception team who will be able to assist you. We will update the website as and when we move on to the next cohort of patients. The phone message will also be updated as and when things change. Below are frequently asked questions and further information about the wider vaccination programme and the other ways you may be contacted for a vaccine.

Also anyone prepared to volunteer to help with these clinics please message patientsgroup@outlook.com.

Donations!

Many thanks to Jonathan Cook for his very kind donation to the **Crier** this month. Donations form an essential part of our income, and all go to the cost of printing the Crier.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardener's secretariat, was a little over optimistic last month, when it published our programme for 2021. I'm afraid it's put on hold again- but then if The Chelsea Flower Show is now in September, we can postpone too.

We were planning a trip to Beth Chatto's in the Summer, but then maybe we should just all go to Anglesey Abbey, enjoy the beautiful gardens, have lunch in the restaurant, no masks, side by side and enjoy one another's company. When permitted.

Snowdrops, aconites and primroses are all showing in the garden, so Spring and hope are coming.

Margaret Joyce



Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

January

It was with sadness we received the news that Millicent Chapman peacefully passed away on 13th November. Millicent was a longstanding Mothers' Union member for around 70 years. She held the role of Enrolling Member in Lode for 21 years 1976 to 1997. We also much appreciated her musical talents of being pianist for worship during our meetings up until three or four years ago. When Millicent could no longer attend meetings she became an indoor member and continued her support and interest in current MU projects. Sadly, to conform with Covid restrictions it was impossible for us to say our farewells to Millicent as we would have wished, but her family hope it will be possible to give thanks for her life and say our goodbyes sometime soon. We will all miss Millicent, but cherish the memories she leaves with us. May she rest in peace.

The first Mothers' Union Global Day of Action as part of the 16 Days Activism Against Gender Violence took place on 5th December. Over 20 members from across the Ely Diocese attended the Zoom service, led by Helen Banyard.

Thursday Prayers, which are normally held in Ely Cathedral, will take on Zoom at 10.30am on Thursday 21st January at 10.30am. This will be led by our Diocesan President Hazel Williams. Zoom ID 852 1960 4660 no password required.

As we move into a New Year uncertainty still surrounds when we will be able to resume our monthly meetings. In the meantime, we will continue to support those in need of our support and prayer in unison with the Mothers' Union theme for 2021. 'Rebuilding Hope and Confidence'.

Our good wishes to all readers for 2021.

February

As we continue to be in lockdown and it is still unknown when we will be able to resume our meetings. I bring you information about our ongoing “Thank You key workers appeal”

Why we are running this appeal

There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers. However, this has not come without some cost. We are very aware that because of their personal sacrifices quality family time has not always been possible.

Families and supporting family life have always been at the heart of our work, and we recognise the importance of making time to step away from the stresses of everyday life, reconnect and create memories - enhancing wellbeing is essential to healthy lives and healthy families.

This is why we are extending our existing Away from it all Programme (AFIA) to say a special “thank you” to key workers in these unprecedented times.

We were very excited to secure enough funding to get this project launched. Now we are hoping to raise more funds to provide experiences to as many key workers as possible.

More information on the appeal is available on the Mothers’ Union website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/thank-you-keyworker-appeal>

Ann Langran



The Swaffhams’ WI

As with all other groups, we can’t meet together, but are keeping in touch via, email, Zoom, the good old telephone and unplanned, socially distanced meetings in the High Street. The Cambridge Confederation’s online magazine comes to us all each month and is full of fun, local news, craft ideas and projects. It’s also just started a series of online talks- the latest of which is ‘the Archeology of the A14.’

We’re currently dreaming up a project for the Spring, to engage us all and our programme Secretary has our programme for 2021, sitting in her pending file. We’re a bunch of optimists too.

Margaret Joyce

January

At the last meeting of the Operational Services Committee:

It was decided to support the Local Electricity Bill and to write to local MPs to ask them to support the bill.

The grant to the Voluntary and Community Action East Cambs was renewed.

The reports on Waste Collection and Street Cleaning showed very good performance.

At the last meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee:

The External Audit noted some areas that required improvement, but nothing major, and the report was accepted.

The ECDC accounts for the last year were submitted and approved. There was some disquiet voiced about the further loan to East Cambs Trading Company, the Council's company for building development.

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was continued.

A new trustee was appointed to East Cambs CLT which has only four members; some misgivings were voiced over the appointment of the Leader of the Council to a supposedly-community led organisation. Clarification of the purpose of this trust, its governance and its relation to Palace Green Homes and East Cambs Community Housing was sought.

The Bus Services Review document was accepted and will be submitted to the Cambs and Peterborough Combined Authority. Besides the continuation, and augmentation, of the no. 11 bus to Cambridge, other interesting ideas such as a fast bus from Bottisham to Cambridge North, and Demand Responsive Transport to the south of the A14 were proposed.

A CIL contribution of £750,000 to the much-needed expansion of St. Mary's Medical Practice, Ely.

The Gender Pay report for ECDC showed that there was still a gap in pay between genders.

All Council meetings are now on Zoom, and available to view retrospectively as well as being screened live, so you can see your Councillors in action. For details go to the Council website, www.eastcambs.gov.uk.

We shall be holding our next Councillor's Surgery by Zoom on 12 January from 6.30 p.m. The Meeting ID is 357 775 2400, and the Passcode is 098359. If you prefer to follow a link, it will be on Charlotte's Facebook page – fb.me/



charlottecanelibdem. If you join for the Surgery, you will be held in the waiting room if there is already someone in the meeting with us, so that any discussions with us during the Surgery remain confidential. The Surgery will be followed by 'Meet your Councillors' on the same Zoom link, and this will be a group meeting to listen to, and discuss, your ideas and opinions with others.

As we write this, the Covid vaccine is starting to be rolled out, which gives huge hope to all of us. But it is critical that we continue to follow social distancing, mask wearing and hand washing as well as other restrictions. If we keep protecting ourselves and each other, 2021 should be a healthy year for all of us.

February

As we write this, England is in lockdown due to Covid-19. The rules and guidance change frequently, so please check the government website for the latest rules - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. The simple message is to avoid leaving home unless you have to, or for daily exercise, and avoid contact with people who are not in your household. When you have to go out, eg on public transport or at shops, wear a face covering. Use the disinfectant made available while you are out and wash your hands thoroughly at home. Following these rules will help keep you and our community safe. If you need any help or advice, East Cambs has advice and links to other advice at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/covid-19-information-and-support>. There is government help and voluntary help to cover most needs, so if you need help please ask John or Charlotte or follow these links.

The vaccinations are being rolled out to care homes and people who are 85 and over and will then be rolled out further. Our local vaccination centres are the Staploe Medical Centre, Soham and East Barnwell, with volunteer drivers to transport people to their nearest centre. This holds out hope for the future, but it is vital that we keep ourselves and others safe by staying at home as far as possible.

Some people have used lockdown to try new things. For example, if you would like to see flies in a new light you could try <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/events/2021-02-17-flies-good-bad-and-ugly-john-showers-online-and-optional-outdoor>. Or for craft/design/history fusion you could try <https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/make-and-do>. Or go sightseeing from the comfort of your home - <https://www.visitengland.com/things-do-to-at-home-bored>

We shall be holding our next Councillor's Surgery by Zoom on Monday 15th February from 6.30 p.m. The Meeting ID is 631 542 4066, and the Passcode is 938720. If you prefer to follow a link, it will be on Charlotte's Facebook page – fb.me/charlottecanelibdem. If you prefer to join by 'phone, you can join the meeting by dialling 0203 901 7895 and entering the meeting ID and password when prompted. If you join for the Surgery, you will be held in the waiting room if there is already someone in the meeting with us, so that any discussions with us during the Surgery remain confidential. The Surgery will be followed by 'Meet your Councillors' on the same Zoom link, and this will be a group meeting to listen to, and discuss, your ideas and opinions with others.

Charlotte Cane - charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk – 01638 741064

John Trapp - john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk – 01223 812120

News from Wicken Fen — January 2021

We've been working hard to keep as much of the reserve open as possible as government guidelines have changed over the last couple of months. We know how important it is for people to be able to enjoy local open green spaces and be close to nature. Thank you for your support during this time and helping us keep everyone safe. There are pinch points along the Lodes Way (for example, the Burwell Lode footbridge and cattle grids) where we particularly appreciate your help in maintaining safe social distance from other walkers and cyclists.

January is the time of year when we start thinking about moving more and getting 2021 off to a good start. Join us for crisp winter walks along some of our beautiful lode-side paths or start off with one of the shorter routes on Sedge Fen. Staff in our Visitor Centre are happy to help you find the perfect winter walk, so pop in and see us or give us a call if you want some more information, tel: 01353 720274.

We're keeping our website up to date with all the latest opening information so do check before visiting. Tickets are released every Friday for the following week for Sedge Fen walks (Boardwalk and Woodland Walk), and booking details can be found on our website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve> It's not necessary to pre-book to use the car park and walk in the wider reserve.

With best wishes for 2021 from everyone at Wicken Fen Nature Reserve.



February

Looking through last year's copy for various local magazines, it is apparent just how quickly articles and information given in confidence became irrelevant and incorrect. None of us can predict with any certainty how long the current state of affairs will last, so all I can offer here is what the situation is today.

The January lockdown announcement meant that we were required to close the walks on Sedge Fen (including the Boardwalk and Woodland Walk). Booking for visiting Wicken Fen is therefore suspended. Our café is also closed at this time, as well as the Visitor Centre and shop. However, all the walking and cycling routes on the wider reserve are still open for local exercise; our car park is open 9am to 4.45pm (last entry 4pm). Obviously, access to our wider reserve areas, on foot or bike from the village, is preferable, and ideal for enjoying seeing the wildlife out on Tubney and Burwell Fens. Keep an eye on our website and social media for changes with regard to admission onto Sedge Fen, when the situation eases. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve>

What hasn't stopped through the year, however, is our conservation work, including the daily checking of our grazing animals, and fulfilling other requirements to manage the reserve for the benefit of both wildlife and people. And there is already new life out on Burwell Fen, with our first highland calf of the year born on 3rd January. The rangers have yet to come up with a naming scheme for the grazing animals this year – 2020 was distinctly Shakespearean for the cattle – so he is still just known as 'Anna-belle's new one' at the moment!



**Mum Anna-belle
with her New Year
calf born on
January 3rd.**

Photo by Ajay Tegela

Notes from the Parish Council meeting

14th January 2021

Mr John Covill (Chair) chaired an online meeting via Zoom at which were present eight Parish Councillors and four members of the public.

Public participation for items on the agenda

Several members of the public spoke regarding the proposed 28 dwelling development on the horse field.

Mr. Hargreaves strongly objected. The outline is for 28 houses, but the road is definite. He said it was the wrong scheme in the wrong location. It is likely to harm the setting of the two listed churches when viewed from the South East. He said the development would harm the users of Laundry Lane as the development would carve a new road through the existing trees. He added that the development appears to contravene many clauses in the National Planning Development Framework and that the ECDC Heritage Officer advises refusal.

Mrs. Richards was worried about the apparent secrecy to the application and said she did not see any postings locally. She was worried about the high density of the social housing in an “enclave”.

Mr. Sumner noted the application is posted in the Bulbeck slip road area, albeit in inconvenient places to read.

Reports

ECDC representative – Cllr Charlotte Cane reporting.

Cllr Cane noted that the Mepal development is out for consultation. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted some rare pond life had been discovered, and Cllr Cane replied she thought it was covered by the application.

Matters arising from previous minutes

Cllr Latchford reported that the Ground Penetrating Radar project was on hold due to Covid.

Cllr Greenfield reported that PC reply to the Greater Cambridge Partnership transport consultation was sent by email on 23/12/20 after being circulated and approved.

Correspondence for consideration/circulation:

NALC latest Covid update email. It was noted that the playground can remain open.

b) ECDC Elections – It was noted that the 2021 May local elections are scheduled to go ahead, but they are under constant review.

Consideration of planning applications received:

20/01633/OUM Construction of 28 dwellings and provision of access.

Land at rear of 69 High Street, Swaffham Prior.

Cllr Greenfield presented a draft reply. It stated: Swaffham Prior is an infill only village in the 2015 Local Plan, meaning only two house developments are allowed. This development is outside the defined Village Envelope and there has been no local engagement or consultation. The development situates some house very close

to the B1101, raising pollution concerns. The poor local public transport means more traffic on the already (at times) busy High Street and B1102.

Cllr Latchford noted the ECDC Tree Officer recommended refusal due to the many trees that would be removed, possibly some with TPOs in place and asked that Mr. Hargreaves' comments be included.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted comments from two other residents and asked that they be included also, specifically that the development had a private access road so 28 wheelie bins would be placed on the High Street every week as the Refuse Collectors would not go and pick them up. Cllr Kent-Phillips also asked that the previous PC's response be merged in and that Mr. Hargreaves' comments re NPDF be specifically included. This was agreed.

Cllr Durrant noted that the Highways Agency are also opposed to the development due to the private access road.

It was agreed that Cllr Greenfield would collate the responses, write a response to be circulated and agreed then passed on to the Clerk to send in. The PC also requested that Cllr Cane call in the application.

21/00062/SCREEN Proposed development for a solar farm

Land South of Breach Farm Ness Road Burwell

Although this lies outside our parish, the PC were invited to comment. The application was for additional screening. Cllr Latchford stated that we were originally invited to comment due to the potential noise pollution across Devil's Dyke, and that he would look into it.

To discuss the payment for the Village Hall chairs

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that there are shipping problems from China since Brexit, the costs had risen sharply, and that the chairs are now not expected until the summer. Cllr Durrant will monitor the situation and report back. It was agreed that the PC will hold off paying the deposit for the time being.

Accounts for payment:

These were agreed with the exception of the Village Hall chairs deposit.

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that the Clerk's cash card was now ready and requested £200 be paid into it to start things off; also that although the cemetery water bill seemed high, the tap has been checked and is operating normally.

Clerk's Report

The cemetery tree maintenance will be done by Eastern Tree Surgery on Tue 19th January from 7.30 am and should be done in a day.

The hedge was trimmed back on Mill Hill, but there was a further complaint about soil encroaching path. It was agreed that the Clerk will report the encroaching soil to County Highways.

The PC agreed that the Clerk could book two training online training courses.

An incidence of fly tipping by the Bulbeck slip road has been addressed.

Parish Councilors' Reports

An overgrown hedge with ivy on the back path leading to the Beeches was reported as well as an overgrown laurel hedge – the Clerk to contact the relevant

landowners to request they are cut back.

Cllr Latchford noted developments and a hard surface installed on Driest Drove – Cllr Covill to investigate.

Open Question Time

Mr. Sumner mentioned potential noise pollution problems in the 28 houses development for houses very close to the B1102 – to be included in the objection letter.

If anyone would like any further information on any of the above items, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 11th February 2021 starting at 7.30pm on Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

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

Happy New Year!

Anyone sad to see the back of 2020?

Actually, to be fair there were some amazing moments during last year for me and my family and some significant ‘ministry moments’ too as I sought to help families say goodbye to loved ones, as I helped to care for some members of my church family who had struggles and as we connected with one another through our weekly zoom gatherings ... I could never have imagined this time last year that for the majority of that same year, our church family would not gather together physically - but we have learnt a lot and adapted well.

“Don’t count the days, make the days count”

We do a lot of ‘counting down the days’ in life, don’t we? Counting down the days to your birthday, anniversary, Christmas, end of quarantine or self-isolation period, end of lockdown restrictions ...

Of course it is not wrong to look forward to fun things happening, or not-so-fun things ceasing; however, if we focus too much on the countdown, we can neglect to appreciate that *every day is a gift (that’s*

why it’s called the present!).

want to encourage you at the beginning of this year, maybe you could make it your resolution - don’t count the days, make the days count.” Look for the good in every situation, be an encourager of others, do



random acts of kindness for your neighbours, make the most of each opportunity that arises for you; make every day count in a deeply significant and meaningful way.

One of the ways you could begin this journey is by joining us on our **Alpha Course** online starting **8pm on Wednesday 13th January - Zoom Meeting ID: 785 882 4660 Password: ReNew**

Why not log in with us, see what the material has to say, share your points of agreement and disagreement, questions and responses, doubts and beliefs in this new 'zoom way'. Grab a drink and some nibbles and join us. What have you got to lose?

Happy New Year, I look forward to the ways and times we might cross paths in the year to come.

Rev. Alan

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

2 x child scooter (used) – suitable for 6 years+. Andrea 01223 812412/07974 320921

Green plastic garden compost bin and lid. Jane Blackburn 01638 743078

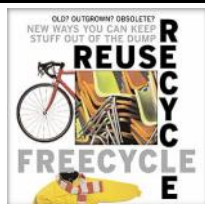
Large freestanding tumbler compost bin. Robert 01223 812126

Contact Julie Sale, on behalf of Muriel 01223 811222:

1. Tartan waterproof backed picnic rug
2. Green National Trust compact umbrella
3. Bodum one cup coffee brewer
4. Brasil Espresso coffee maker in blue (9 cups)
5. Lady's M & S cashmere olive green round neck jumper (size 20)
6. Whistling garden gnome ornament. Includes batteries

2021 Diary - Very pretty, suitable for Handbag; 2021 Desk Diary/Family Organiser, very pretty, A5 size. Lesley 01223 812901

Wall-mounted, electric oil-filled radiator. Needs attaching to wall (has brackets but no screws) & wiring to permanent switched, fused (13 amp) electrical connection. Size 21" wide by 24" tall (53cm x 61cm). Robert & Nicky Bates 01223 813592



East Anglian Air Ambulance

Our crews, operating from both Norwich and Cambridge airports, can be tasked to any kind of life-threatening medical emergency. However, **Cardiac Arrests**, whether they happen at home, at work or in the community, are the most common type of incident attended by our crews – 77 in Cambridgeshire alone last year ! **Cardiac Arrests** can happen to people of all ages for a range of differing medical reasons and intervention at the earliest possible moment is vitally important. **Early bystander CPR** and, if possible, use of a defibrillator before arrival of the emergency services make the biggest impact on that persons chance of survival. EAAA is passionate about teaching these life-saving skills to as many people as possible in and around Cambridge and across the County so that more people are afforded the chance of surviving a Cardiac Arrest.

On Sunday 19th September, post Covid we hope, the 2021 **Chariots of Fire** event will again take place on Queens' Green in Cambridge. Team registration will go live in April. Race Director Charles Hewitson said “ This is an exceptional year ...I am delighted that in 2021 Chariots of Fire will once again provide the stage for local organisations, colleges and supporters to join together and raise money for this deserving cause.” East Anglian Air Ambulance is its chosen charity and beneficiary this year and, this year more than ever before, we need to maximise support on the day. We have to come up trumps with **massive volunteer support**. Our target is £97,000!

Whether you have done any charity support work at all, or perhaps just thought about it but not actually done anything about it, **please please** get in touch. We will need lots of volunteers both on an ongoing basis, to help raise funds, but also on this very important day. We have been offered this great opportunity to underpin our operation in a one-off way – please help us maximise the results. The sky's the limit ! By supporting Chariots of Fire you will be helping to save lives in Cambridgeshire.

To volunteer, or to find out what's involved, please contact Debbie via debbie.howland@eaaa.org.uk

To round off – this year as of 12th January, EAAA crews have attended 31 missions and 25 Covid transfers.

Michael White



St Mary's Swaffham Prior Lockdown News

All Sunday services will be at 10.30am online 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. Some regular activities continue online:



- Play & Praise – Fortnightly 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

And: In March St Mary's hopes to do takeaway Lent Lunches... more information to follow!

“BON MOT NUMBER 114

**“Whoever does not have two thirds
of his day to himself, is a slave.”**

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 – 1900)

Dates for Your Diary February 2020

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Mon | 1 | |
| Tue | 2 | Online St Mary's Coffee Morning 10.30-11.30am [35] (and then every Tuesday) |
| Wed | 3 | Online Book Club, 6pm [18] |
| Thu | 11 | Online PC Meeting, 7.30pm [32] |
| Mon | 15 | Online Councillors' Surgery [27] |
| Mon | 22 | 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 | 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 |