



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLV Number 7

July 2021



Editorial

Swaffham Prior has been waking up to some surprises recently. Last month it was that [hideous-traffic-sign-on-swaffham-prior-cage-hill-green](#) that suddenly sprouted up (see Letters for our PC's complaint to the Highways agency and a petition we can sign) and this month another large sign, this one advertising a CAMPSITE just the other side of the B1102 opposite Tothill Rd. For caravans and campervans apparently. What? Unsurprisingly, residents were not impressed, and a number of complaints were made. There was a website apparently, but suddenly it vanished into the ether, so we've no idea what's happened there. Finally, it appears that a Solar Farm is to be built in the fields where Cadenhams Lane meets the A14. Apparently, we should have had a glossy leaflet explaining about this, but ours must have gone the way of all glossy leaflets that pile through the letter box. See page 21 for details, they are consulting now (which is more than the campsite and the traffic sign did) and you will need to get your comments/objections in for the 19th July.

The Heating Project rumbles on—see Letters, Our Reporter, the Crier's continued Q&A (p. 6) and what happened when the Heating Team attended our Parish Council (p 28). I personally find that I have been lulled into a sense of false security in believing that the scheme will replicate current temperatures provided by our oil boiler (~72 degrees). If all goes to plan, then yes it will, but only when it's freezing outside. Hmmmm, So that's blankets on the sofa pretty much all year round then....

But the village is also waking up to nice things. The Pub is back in business, welcome back to Village Gardeners and Strawberry Teas, and don't miss Open Studios which will be taking place in the village throughout July. See you there..

Caroline Matheson

PS. Next issue is the combined August/September — you will need to get any September copy in for this.

Cover Picture: Cadenham Farm by Karen Fisher

Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	7
Julie's Recipes	11
Bottisham PPG	16
Out on the wildside	17
Village Photo Albums	19
Village Gardeners	22
Reading Group	23
Wicken Fen	24
ECDC Report	25
Crossword	26
PC Minutes	30
Anglesey Group	34
Mothers Union	35

News, Views & Reviews

Heating Q&A	6
"Project Prior"	10
The Bells	13
Cadenhams Solar Farm	21
PC re Heating Scheme	28

What's On

Open Studios	12
Strawberry Teas	14
BVC Adult Learning	15
Queen's Green Canopy	20

Wanted/For Sale

Freecycle	33
-----------	----



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Renewable Heat Initiative (RHI)

In my article last month about choosing to install an Air Source Heat Pump, I stated that the house needed an EPC rating of at least E to qualify for RHI payments. In now learn that this was incorrect.

It turns out that, whatever the rating, there must be no outstanding recommendations from the EPC inspection regarding specifically loft or cavity wall insulation (nothing else matters). In our case the inspector tried to insist that we must insulate the fully boarded-over loft above our unheated single-storey utility room. I paid for another inspection by a different organisation, who didn't flag it up at all, so we could now go ahead with an RHI application. I'm glad that we don't have cavity walls that might have added further complications.

John Chalmers

Dear Editors,

End of an Era

We have lived in Swaffham Prior for over 20 years and consider it our home. However, It is with a heavy heart that due to the many difficulties of life, we are having to relocate. Thankfully it's only up the road in Burwell, but it will still be a shock to the system for all of us. The best part of my life so far has been spent in this village and in that time, I have made many friends and also helped the community to become more closely knit and communicate more through my hedgehog rescue, Hoggwobbles and my wildlife articles in the crier. My mum has also taught her art history courses for many years at the village hall. Many of you have already expressed how sad you are to see us moving which was very touching to hear, but I assure you that I will still be in the village often, continuing all my hoggy work and other duties, I'm always reachable. I will also be continuing the wildlife column too.



When we first moved to the village, our garden on Greenhead Road was an unruly, uncared for jungle, filled with overgrown plants and random discarded items. We brought it back to life and created a haven for the village's wildlife. I am very proud personally as without doubt, we created the most wildlife friendly garden on the street and it was a beautiful garden to grow up in and learn from. We landscaped it and brought in the hedgehogs which over the years, I believe have helped to increase the local hedgehog population tenfold. We have been affectionately known by some as the hog house with the spider gate and that name has made us a vital part of the local community. I hope that the new owners continue to love it as we did and

that they see it as a privilege to have such a place. And I still believe that without doubt, we have the best view in all the village from our upstairs window- overlooking the green and the two churches beyond with the glorious sunsets behind- what could be better? Though we may not be at the address anymore, we will always be there in spirit and Swaffham Prior continues to be our local community. As a way of leaving something of us behind, I have put together a time capsule which will be buried in the area and hopefully in many years to come, will be dug up and read.

On a practical note-the newspaper sheds will be continuing as normal so if you tend to bring newspapers to our house then please from now on, place the papers inside the newspaper shed on the high street. If you wish to know the code for the lock, please message me on our Hoggywobbles face book page or message me on messenger or email (you can find me on the village facebook group too). My contact details are all the same except for our address, you will find details of our new address on our Hoggywobbles face book page too. Or if you don't have face book and need to contact me- please email to saffra.monteiro@gmail.com. From June onwards all donations will need to be brought to our new address in Burwell, we would be grateful if you don't continue to bring donations to our old address in the village as I won't be here to get them. Also if you have any hedgehogs that need to be taken in, then again, you will need to drive to us in Burwell. Release site gardens will continue as normal.

Thank you for your continued support and remember that we are just up the road for your hoggy and wildlife garden services and needs.

Saffra Monteiro

Dear Editors,

Heating Scheme

It is great to see Swaffham Prior has been given the opportunity to be the first village to retrofit such innovative technology. Obviously the real driver we all need is to reduce our carbon footprint for the future of our planet.

I believe reading somewhere the product life cycle was 40 years. I need to ask for some calculations that I feel could help support, or question the feasibility of this project. I understand the pipes will be laid in all the roads for future proofing later connections. I understand contracts will be sent in due course so we do not know the numbers of people signing up to the heating network.

Can you provide the number of years for the whole system to be carbon neutral based on 40, 80, 120, and 160 people signing up?



Surveying for the Heat Scheme in the High Street

To gather this detail somebody needs to calculate every tonne of tarmac, concrete removed and relaid, all pipes to be manufactured and disposed of, bore hole drilling and pipes, manufacturing of pumps, valves and components, construction of the energy centre, disposal of old boilers and tanks, manufacturing heat exchanges, etc.

There will be a tipping point and these numbers need to be available. It is not enough to just use data of heat exchanger compared to current boiler output as the infrastructure carbon footprint needs to be taken into account. My concern or support is based on whether this system be carbon neutral in its lifetime therefore please provide answers to above with calculations you have based these figures on, I appreciate some figures will be average and estimations.

Stuart Warner

Dear Editors,

That Sign!

Following discussions with various villagers including Alan Gould who arguably owns the Green at the bottom of Cage Hill, we've put together a petition to ask the County Council to move the sign and replace it, wherever it is re-sited with a more fitting, appropriate sign.

Would you consider signing and forwarding on to anyone else who would support the move? The Parish Council were not consulted.

<https://www.change.org/p/cambridgeshire-county-council-highways-relocate-hideous-traffic-sign-on-swaффham-prior-cage-hill-green>

Jonathan Cook

See below for the letter of complaint written by our Parish Council

Letter from Swaффham Prior Parish Council To the Highways Agency

Dear Sir/Madam

At the Swaффham Prior Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 10th June the latest addition to the village signage (picture 1.) was discussed. There has been a significant amount of anger shown by residents on social media and similarly at the Parish Council Meeting regarding the sign and the manner of its appearance, together with genuine disappointment by the Parish Councillors.

This disappointment and to some extent the anger stems from the total lack of any consultation by the Highways Agency with the Parish Council or the wider community. To our knowledge, there has been no consultation with East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) and while understanding that Highways are a County responsibility, the sign has been placed in the middle of the village conservation area, in the centre of the village, only a few metres away from the Land Army memorial and close to the village sign. We would have expected the ECDC Conservation Officer to be informed as a minimum courtesy as we find it inconceivable that you did

not realise this to be in the centre of the conservation area.

There are two issues to be addressed here:

- the lack of any consultation process with the village and
- the sign itself, described by more than one villager as a ‘monstrosity’.

On the latter, we are intending to have discussions with ECDC Conservation Officer for any suggestions and would appreciate your support on any recommendations made. We would also like to explore the siting location and the style of the sign; surely something more in keeping with a conservation area is possible?

On the former point, we would ask for Highways to now engage with the community.

Under the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, local authorities can implement Traffic Regulation Orders but implementing a Traffic Regulation



Order requires a statutory procedure to be followed which includes consultation and advertisement and surely that applies to any impact on the relevant parish of the TRO (PRO698 – Fair Green & Great Lane, Reach) or an adjoining parish, if impacted by that TRO e.g., signage.

Swaffham Prior is more than a commuter village; it is surrounded by working farms and farm traffic is integral to the success of those businesses. It is difficult to understand how such a sign could be erected without any reference to those impacted by the restriction of vehicle length. We would like Highways to commence constructive discussions with all stake holders at the earliest opportunity so the case for the sign can be proven, what options are available regarding its location and the possibility a derogation or exception to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for farm vehicles at specific times of year e.g. harvest.

We look forward to hearing your response to the issues described at your earliest convenience

Yours sincerely
pp J Griffiths
Swaffham Prior Parish Council

Heating Project

Questions and Answers from the Crier - Part 2

Last month we published answers to some of the questions people have been asking about the Heating Project concentrating on those issues with a direct practical effect on everyone's decisions whether or not to sign the contract to use the system. Since then the final version of the contract (the Heat Supply Agreement or HSA) has appeared on the project's web site and the Parish Council has met with the project team (see the Clerk's minutes on pXX).

We were reasonably happy with the assurances about the guaranteed supply temperature but further thought suggests that this may not be so straightforward. The original informal position was that it would be at least 72°C to every house in the winter and 62°C in the summer but this is now formalised in the HSA in Appendix 4 as part of the definition of an "*Interruption*" which is "*Heat Supply was not made available to Your Heating System at a time during the Supply Period at the appropriate minimum temperature. That minimum will be 72 degrees Celsius for external air temperatures of 0 degrees Celsius and below and 62 degrees Celsius for external air temperatures of 20 degrees Celsius and above. The minimum temperature will follow a broadly linear relationship with external air temperatures between 0 and 20 degrees Celsius. The very large volume of water in our Heat Supply means that it can take up to 4 hours to respond to changes in the external air temperature and establish a new equilibrium.*"

The published typical day-time temperature for Cambridgeshire in January is 2 to 8°C for which the corresponding guaranteed supply temperature is thus 71 to 68°C. **So we're back to the question aired some time back of whether the supply temperature will be adequate.** Add to this that an interruption has to be for over 24 hours continuously and this then has to last for a further 24 hours continuously before there is any compensation payable and we appear to risk quite long periods in winter when the supply temperature is below the 72°C that we thought we'd been relying on.

Another big concern has always been: what happens if the scheme isn't viable for the Council to run? The answer looks to be in the HSA in paragraph 23.5.6 which is about termination of the contract when the user is not at fault and says "*We serve twelve (12) months' written notice of termination on You either (i) after a date occurring not less than 40 years from 1 April 2021 or (ii) following a determination by Us that the district heating scheme is to be discontinued.*" We have not yet had time to check this with the project team – more news next month we hope.

Editors

From the Heating Project Website

www.heatingswaffham-prior.co.uk/designnow - to book a design survey

www.heatingswaffham-prior.co.uk/hsa - for Heat Supply Agreement (2021)

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Oh what day Wednesday 26th May was. Some of the best TV during the day, followed by **the most hilarious and bizarre meeting I have ever attended.**

First the TV Show. This was the seven hours with Dominic Cummings being examined by two Parliamentary Committees. Some people have called it “perversely entertaining” but most people found it “compulsive viewing”. I fall into the latter group and must have watched for four of the seven hours. Anyone with an interest/curiosity in politics, government or Covid in the past, present and future is likely to find it engrossing in some way. But if you hated Cummings you would not have watched. You would employ the “cancel culture” practice, and feel so good and moral about it.



Having had such a good time with this I thought it only fair, after the drubbing I had given him, to hear what the newly elected Josh Schumann would say should he turn up for our Annual Village Assembly – or even to discover if he had sent in a report. Meanwhile I do owe Josh an apology for his appearing so rarely in Swaffham Prior. I had since discovered that our seat includes not just Reach Burwell and Swaffham Prior, but also Chippenham, Fordham, Kennett and Snailwell. What an area to cover. I wonder how he doctored his election handout for each. It would be interesting to see them. But to only turn up twice to 52 Prior meetings is not good enough. And the lack of reports is unforgivable for any representative. It means he does not have to bother with us, so sure he is getting elected.

The Government has decided that council meetings are not allowed to be virtual. This decision is causing huge cost and disruption throughout England

That apart, I arrived at the Annual Village Assembly (AVA) following the footsteps of another person. We stepped into the Hall to be met by three masked figures. With our masks, cold steel suspicious enquiring eyes, we looked like something out of a 1950s B gangster movie. Then I noticed a circle of six chairs, and wondered if I was joining a witches coven, or whether hoods would be passed around.

Slowly we relaxed. Representing the PC was Jude (Clerk) and David who was filling in for the Chairman John. David explained that they were not allowed virtual or Zoom meetings and that indoors they have to follow certain Covid safety rules. This means that the number of people allowed depends on the size of the room and the ventilation. The calculation showed that only Six were allowed. I told David that I thought that ECDC was an ASS.

But, before I get onto the meeting itself, I have since learned that this was a Government directive and not an ECDC one. The Government had decided that all council meetings are not allowed virtual meetings. This Government decision is **causing huge cost and disruption to all councils throughout England.** For

instance, the CCC full council meetings need to hire a hanger at Duxford. True. No doubt all councils protested vehemently to the Government - which refused to give it a second thought. Who on earth made that decision? Which brings us back to the Cummings interview, Who did make all those decisions? Will we ever find out? In contrast, the Welsh and Scottish governments extended the use of remote virtual meetings for their councils. People can hire the Village Hall with far more participants. Parliament continues to have its own “virtual meetings”. This was not such a difficult one to resolve, was it? Why did not MPs protest against such a stupid and unnecessary decision? So, apologies ECDC, it is the Government that is an ASS.

There were only five of us and I was hoping for two more people to turn up so that I could report that for the very first time people had to be turned away from the AVA because of excessive numbers. How that would have gone down in history? Such is how myths are created. I did not know the other two members of the public because we were all masked up. One was Mr X because he did not wish to give his name. I think he is a long established resident and he is also, from what he said, a first class engineer with a great track record for efficient resolution of problems. He came to raise questions about the Heating Scheme. Fortunately David rather than John was there. David started by saying that having missed our chance to have gas many years ago it is to hoped the village now knows better and will take up this offer of the Heating Scheme. I had a brief lively discussion about whether the gas offer was relevant. We agreed to differ. How I love that phrase “Agreed to Differ”. So rare these days. And so un-woke.

Then Mr X started raising some technical questions. David explained that the whole issue was very detailed and complicated and that there had been no point in publishing every decision and technical examination that had been made. Mr X was not convinced until David assured him that everything is on the Heating Scheme web site if Mr X wishes to see them. The fifth person there was Shamir Javaid, only one month in the village, and he had just came to learn more about us, the locals. He is also an engineer. Then Mr X and Mr Javaid took over the meeting. As they were facing each other, talking quite quickly in the empty Hall echo I have no idea what they were talking about. Mr Javaid appears to be an excellent young man and an easy conversationalist. David just let them get on with it, until he closed the meeting. The two engineers went away, chatting merrily.

That left Jude and myself. After Jude had tidied up she took me into the new chair storeroom. What an absolutely amazing experience that turned out to be. It was wonderful. Such a surprise. The architect and the builder must be congratulated. So well designed, with really nice and warm internal brickwork. It was fabulous.

AND THEN

On Thursday 10th June was the big PC meeting. All in the open air under a hired tent. Fortunately it was a fine evening. Inside the Hall was a group which had hired it with apparently no restriction on the numbers. They were having such a jolly time with such whooping and laughter that in the end the door needed to be closed so we

could hear ourselves. Thereafter at regular intervals it was closed by us, and opened by them. Quite a knock-about comedy

Sheryl French had turned up with her technical team to answer some of the queries which had been bugging some PC members for some time. This was also a great opportunity for any sceptic to nail down Sheryl. I expected a large crowd, suggested we should inform the press, proposed a photographer. What a story. The editors were not quite so sure, were more realistic, advised caution, and how right they were. It was only our two *Crier* Editors, Michael Limb and myself who turned up for the Heating Scheme discussion.

Also there was George Hurrell to discuss the new sign imposing traffic restrictions, and also that old chestnut – agricultural traffic. That large sign has certainly enraged a wide variety of people. Read Jude's report for this story, and also more details of the Heating debate.

Sheryl gave a long address about the Heating Scheme and the current and forthcoming progress. She made the point that the Government "is very serious about taking away fossil fuels". Yet, just 14 days later it has been revealed that the Government had been preparing for months to approve a new North Sea Oil and Gas project. She reported that there have been 100 online surveys and physical visits will take place in the following 6 weeks. Matters are still being discussed with the Cambridge Housing Scheme. And also with the School and the two Churches. They surely cannot be serious about the churches. St Cyriac's is out of the question, and I suspect St Mary's is the same. I have always wondered why the churches have featured so often in their publicity. What is their game?

Helen New of Pinnacle Power explained how they were going to dig up the roads, lay pipes and leave "stub-ends" in the ground for the time when people come to their senses and sign up. 100 metres will be done at a time, going from one side of the road to the other. She gave lots of technical detail.

Next came questions about the practicality of digging up roads, prohibiting parking, all without causing too much disturbance. Steve said SID had shown that along Mill Hill 1,000 cars travel during rush hours. He foresaw tremendous queues, with much traffic diverting through the village. Many parts of the village were mentioned as problem-causing, including Greenhead Road which is always heavily parked up. There could well be a problem if people do not move their cars. I don't think the implication is that the Greenhead Road residents are a bolshie lot – but one has to look at every possibility. On the other hand progress always entails some inconvenience, and it will not be forever.

Steve made everyone sit up by shouting "Look over there" turning to point up the High Street. "What do you see?" We all turned and looked. Saw nothing unusual – was it a bear or a kangaroo? "There he said – all those parked cars. All customers of The Red Lion". Then he hit Sheryl below the knees. "What compensation are you offering to The Red Lion when you close the road?" I didn't hear Sheryl's reply.

After dealing with the possibility/probability of achieving the viable number of people interested, we moved on to another important question. If the Scheme fails to meet 72 degrees or fails completely there is a daily compensation, **but only up to an**

annual limit of £500. It will be run by the CCC and they have responsibility for ever unless they hve it off to a private company. If that company goes bankrupt subscribers would receive a maximum of £500, with no heating. But, all is not lost, because it seems CCC has to provide an alternative form of heating. Some cynic at the back was heard to mutter “Blankets?” On the other hand **it is understood that CCC has guaranteed to keep the programme running no matter what happens.**

Steve, Paul and Peter were brilliant with their questions, especially as they always enunciate so well.

At that point the official meeting opened, and I departed. But I gather there was a lot of interesting subjects and chat. So do read Jude, with the more extensive report appearing on line – if you are interested in the Village.

Alastair Everitt

“Project Prior”

It goes without saying that the last fifteen months have been unlike anything we have experienced before. It is important to recognise this – and to record it in some way. St Mary’s Church is therefore hoping to hold an exhibition – working title “Project Prior” - which will allow people to display their lockdown creativity. (Taking inspiration from Grayson Perry’s Art Club!) We are hoping people will exhibit an example of anything that has got them through lockdown/s – art, craft, photography, music, writing, gardening, new skill, cooking, language learnt, decluttering, decorating etc etc.

We would love to invite everyone in Swaffham Prior to be involved in the display in some way. We are planning this for the end of 2021 – provisionally looking at holding an open day on 4 December, with refreshments in Church, but then keeping the exhibition in place for a week or so.

As this is some way off, please keep hold of anything which demonstrates your creativity and resilience during the most difficult times of lockdown. This needn’t be anything new at all, but if you wanted to use this as a chance to reflect back on the whole C-19 experience, that would be a possibility too.

We are still at the very early stages of planning, but we hope this will provide an opportunity for people to share their personal/family experiences of Covid, through creativity, which could be quite cathartic. We would also like to keep a photographic archive so future generations can see what this pandemic has been like, as everyone has had a unique experience.

If you have any thoughts or ideas, please be in touch with Dee on admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Dee Noyes

JULIE'S SUMMER DESSERTS

SUMMER PUDDING

200g strawberries, hulled and quartered

200g blueberries

200g cranberries

200g blackberries

6 tbsp caster sugar

2 tbsp lemon juice

2 tbsp sherry

1 tsp ground mixed spice

8 slices of day old white bread with
crusts removed

1. Put the fruit into a saucepan and simmer over a medium heat, stir in the sugar, lemon juice, sherry and mixed spice until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat and leave to cool.
 2. Cut the bread diagonally into quarters, then use it to line a 1 ½ pint pudding basin.
 3. Spoon the cooled berry mixture into the prepared pudding basin and cover with the remaining bread.
 4. Put the basin into a bowl to catch any overflowing juices, then top with a small plate that fits snugly into the rim of the basin and weigh down with a heavy can or something
 5. Refrigerate for 2 hours or longer is better. To serve loosen the sides of the pudding with a knife and turn on to a serving place. Decorate with berries and serve with cream.
-

RASPBERRY BRULEE

250g raspberries

1 tbsp lemon juice

2 tbsp raspberry jam

125ml crème fraiche

125ml double cream,
lightly whipped

1 tsp vanilla essence

6 tbsp caster sugar

Whole raspberries

Put the raspberries and lemon juice into a saucepan and stir over a low heat for about 5 minutes until they start to soften. Remove from the heat, stir in the jam and divide between 4 ramekins.

Preheat the grill to hot, in a bowl, mix together the crème fraiche, cream and vanilla essence, spoon the mixture over the raspberries and level the surfaces. Sprinkle the caster sugar over the top, allowing 1 ½ tablespoons per ramekin.

Cook under the preheated grill, as close to the flames or element as possible for 2-3 minutes, until the sugar caramelises, remove from grill, decorate with whole raspberries and serve immediately.

Welcome to Open Studios July 2021 in Swaffham Prior !

Nine artists living in the village will be taking part at 5 different venues.
Look out for the yellow flags and banners outside each place. Art works
in a wide range of materials and styles will be on show, including oil and
watercolour paintings, ceramics, fluid art and creative textiles.

Everyone is welcome! All Entry is free of charge

Paul Abbott	The Mill House, 11 Mill Hill	<i>Colourful Landscapes & more</i>		Weekends 1, 2, 3 + 4
Prior Arts Group (7 artists)	Village Hall, High Street	<i>Textile Art, Paintings and Ce- ramics.</i> Refreshments for sale, garden seating available. Toilets & Parking,		Weekends 1+2
Ruth E. Blundell	34 Lower End	<i>Colourful, semi-abstract Paint- ings</i>		Weekends 3 + 4
David George	Windmill Cottage, 34 Mill Hill	<i>Watercolours & Oils</i>		Weekends 3 + 4
Sarah Northrop	12 Mill Hill	<i>Fluid Art in Acrylics</i>		Weekends 3 + 4
All venue opening hours : 11am -6pm on both Saturday and Sunday				
Dates:	3 rd -4 th July	10 th -11 th July	17 th – 18 th July	24 th -25 th July



The latest UK Government guidance regarding the COVID 19 pandemic will be followed at each venue. If you have any queries prior to your visit, please contact the artist directly. All contact details and more information about the artists can be found in the Open Studios e-guide www.camopenstudios.co.uk

*Celia Tyler,
Prior Arts Group*

Fox ceramic by Ian Siragher



THE BELLS...

As reported last month, the bells are back in action, with thanks to everyone whose generous donations have raised enough to pay for the work, to Matthew Higby's engineers for rehanging the tenor bell (with one day to spare), to Gareth Davies and Tom Ridgman who have spent two years laying the groundwork for the project, to the CCT who have enabled it to go ahead, and to the ringers who dusted off their skills to ring for the wedding on Saturday 22nd.

Pictured Above: the renovated headstock, on which the bell is to hang, outside St Cyriac's. Gareth was very pleased that there were two men from Higby's, so he didn't have to help carry it all the way upstairs.

After the summer holidays we will be inviting the youngsters who have been learning with us to start again, and launching a recruitment campaign for new ringers. Form an orderly queue.

John Chalmers
Tower Secretary

Strawberry Teas At Home

Sunday 17 July

Orders for teas and payment in advance please
£5.50 adult/£3 children

Janet: 07833 960678

Dee: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

In aid of St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

To allow for any Covid eventuality, we are again making our popular Strawberry Teas - in conjunction with the Pop-up Teashop - an "at home" event. Share your take-away strawberry and cream scone and other summery delights with friends and family wherever you choose!

Please book without delay
- numbers limited!

BON MOT NUMBER 119

"The definition of 'stupid' is
doing exactly the same,
and expecting different results."

An Old Chestnut



Bottisham Village College

Adult Learning

Thank you for your patience and support over the last few months where Covid-19 restrictions have made it difficult for us to provide some courses.

We are now looking forward to welcoming you back in September when we will be offering:

Astronomy
Calligraphy
Cinematography
Dressmaking
French Beginners
Spanish Beginners
Indian Cookery
Italian Cookery
Introduction to Counselling
Painting – Mixed Media / Watercolour
Patchwork and Quilting
Pottery and Ceramics
Stained Glass
Tai Chi for Relaxation
RHS Horticulture
Maths GCSE in One Year
Yoga

For full details please visit our website:

www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

Tel: 01223 811372 email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org

Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or Twitter: @CommunityEdBott



Newly renovated insect hotel outside a classroom in front of school. Things are buzzing....

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

ABUSE: Please show respect to the staff at the Practice, they will not tolerate verbal or physical abuse, of which there has been an increase recently. They are working under difficult circumstances and are doing their best to help patients. Please exercise patience.

AGM: This was held via Zoom on May 25th. The Chairman's report will be put on the surgery website along with the accounts and the notes. Chloe Baker and Ali McCarthy, Social Prescribers gave a presentation of their roles and work and Dr Keith spoke about Stress, Burnout and Depression with slides. Both of these very interesting presentations will be put on the surgery website.

Social Prescribers: You can self refer for an appointment with the Social Prescribers, there is a form on the website and you can also book via reception.

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 meetings Wednesdays July 21st and September 22nd at 2pm.

Bottisham Patient's Participation Group

Out on the Wildside Rattier then Rats!

Okay so let's face it, for most of us, rats really aren't our cup of tea. But whether you love them or hate them, you have to accept that they are now very much part of our wildlife. In England the rats we tend to be familiar with are the common brown rat, also known as the Norwegian rat. They are brown or grey in color and have a life span of around three years. And part of the reason why they are known as such terrible pests is because of the sheer amount of them that can appear in areas- this is mainly due to the female rats that can give birth to up to five litters a year! Basically they never stop breeding and because they are so highly intelligent, it makes it very challenging to deal with them. It's also in the warmer months when we tend to see their numbers spike so here is my mini guide to rats.



Now normally I talk about why it's so important that we look after the creature in question but I'm afraid the jury is totally out on that one for me when it comes to rats. So instead I'm going to give some information that you might find useful and also talk about how to deal with the scaly tails. It is a common misconception that rats all stay together in one burrow, in fact, a female rat will have multiple nests and borrows in various spots, as well as hiding places. They are mainly nocturnal but if you see them out during the day then this is an indicator that you have a very high population of rats in your garden and you may want to think about taking action. It is also a common misconception that the blame of rats being close by is a food source- in fact, while a food source will attract rats to an area such as bird feeders and ground feeders, if you have rats then the problem is that you have places nearby that they can call home, not the food source itself! So the key is to make sure you have no lovely spots in your garden, like under your shed where the rats can live. Because the only way to get rid of rats is to remove their home and force them to move elsewhere!

Anyone who knows me, knows that I love pretty much all creatures so why am I so against rats? Well simply because rats are pests on all levels, their numbers are totally out of control and recent studies suggested that every single one of us is never less than 10 meters from a rat! They can cause property damage and more importantly to me, they can in high numbers, effect the other wildlife. Rats have been known to kill baby hedgehogs and attack weak adults as well as raid bird nests and attack small pets. Rats will eat just about anything and their teeth can chew through most materials but if you are a untidy person with lots of rubbish in the garden then they will love it and you may find very quickly that you have a out of control infes-

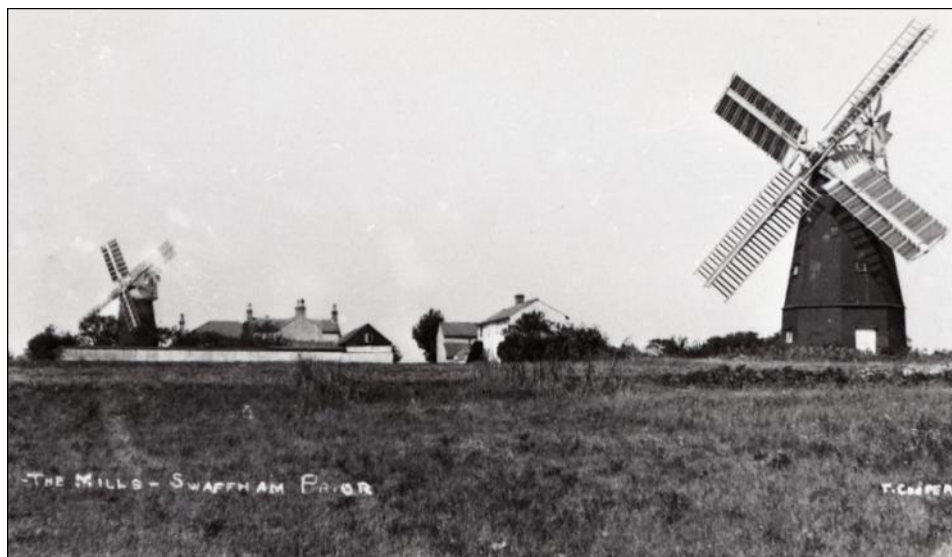
tation.

So how do you deal with them while still protecting the rest of the wildlife? Well there is no easy answer I'm afraid but my tips: keep a tidy garden, that doesn't mean don't have lovely wild overgrown patches for the insects and hogs, it just means don't leave litter or old mattresses or piles of old scrap wood around. Try to keep your feeders tidy e.g. put a base dish under your bird feeders to catch any seed that might fall out. Hedgehog feeders should be removed first thing in the morning and only put out at dusk. Check regularly for signs of rats in your garden! For sheds and outbuildings, try to have the bases flush to the ground and don't ever have sheds that are raised because that tiny gap underneath will be the perfect home for rats. Keep bin bags and rubbish inside a shed or garage until bin day so that rats can't pick out litter to make nests with. Hedgehog boxes and any small enclosed structures that a female rat may leave her babies in, should be checked regularly and cleaned twice a year with a strong hedgehog friendly spray like safe 4. Rats love chickens and any old buildings that are rotting- so monitor closely if you have chickens and remove any rotten structures. If you are worried that there are rats coming from a neighbor's garden then simply talk to them and see what can be done.

Pest control is expensive and a last resort! Please don't stop putting food out for the wildlife because you have rats because those rats will be there anyway, with or without the food so the only victims will be the hedgehogs and other animals that will go hungry! Poison needs to be handled with care, if you must use it then you should use bait boxes that protect birds and hedgehogs from being able to get to the poison. Please NEVER use open snap shut traps, they are horrid and often catch hedgehogs, breaking bones and causing a slow painful death. All traps and poisons should be placed within the entrance holes of a rat burrow, nearby, within sheds or under them where birds and hedgehogs cannot reach. Never just throw poison around openly as you will kill many animals that are not rats! Humane traps are useless as again they catch hedgehogs too and rats are so intelligent that they rarely fall for it. Bait traps are the safest and very effective but the first thing and the most important to do is find the burrow and destroy it! As I said before, it's about removing or blocking the homes they can use. If you find a nest, there are a number of methods to use including placing poison in the holes and then sealing the rats in so that they perish under there. They can also be smoked out but really and truly the simplest way is to find the nest and get rid of it. If you suspect that a box has rats in it, block the entrance, then hold the box over a tall wheelie bin and tip out, any rats will fall into the bin and will be captured.

Lastly I would add that rats will be a problem for every address at one point or another so understanding is key and working together, street by street is the most effective way of getting rid of them. Protect your other wildlife and be savvy and smart about the methods you use to deal with them- in short you need to be rattier than the rats!

Saffra Monteiro



Swaffham Prior Village Photo Albums

The Two Windmills

Photographed by Thomas Cooper, early 1900s

Just in case we've forgotten what the village skyline looks like with two windmills in full sail, here's a photograph taken over 100 years ago when both were operating. The view is taken from the fields off Heath Road behind Mill Hill, looking back towards the village. Foster's Mill is in the background to the left and The Smock Mill (which is currently without its sails) is in the foreground. By the end of the 19th Century, the Foster family owned both mills and continued to work them well into the 20th Century.

In 1971, Sydney Foster sold the, by then, disused tower mill to Michael & Gay Bulleid who set about the huge task of restoring it to working order. They were successful and in 1992 the mill started grinding again drawing hundreds of visitors each year who came to tour the mill and buy the flour. In 1998 the current miller, Jonathan Cook, bought the mill and developed the business in response to growing demand for organic flour. The business has grown and changed with the times but you can still buy flour at the mill every week. Hundreds came for flour during the lockdown.

The Smock Mill was struck by lightning in the 1920s and was judged beyond economical repair. After years of decline which almost saw it pulled down, the smock mill building was repaired and converted to residential use in 1988 by Steven Bradley. The cap and sails were retained but the sails no longer turned and the cap was fixed in one position. Now, the new owner, James Forsyth, is returning the mill to working order to generate electricity. Earlier this year the cap, stocks and sails were removed by crane and a new cap is being made at the International Boat Build-

ing Training College in Lowestoft.

When the repairs are complete, Swaffham Prior will be the only place in the UK where two windmills sit in such close proximity, both able to face the wind and turn their sails.

References:

Cambridgeshire Collection, Local Studies Library - free public access

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

<https://www.priorsflour.co.uk/blog/> *Swaffham Prior Smock Mill Repairs Update*, 1.5.21

Celia Tyler 0780 4508335

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee....

The Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to **"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."**

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, *The Queen's Green Canopy* will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>



Cadenham Solar Farm

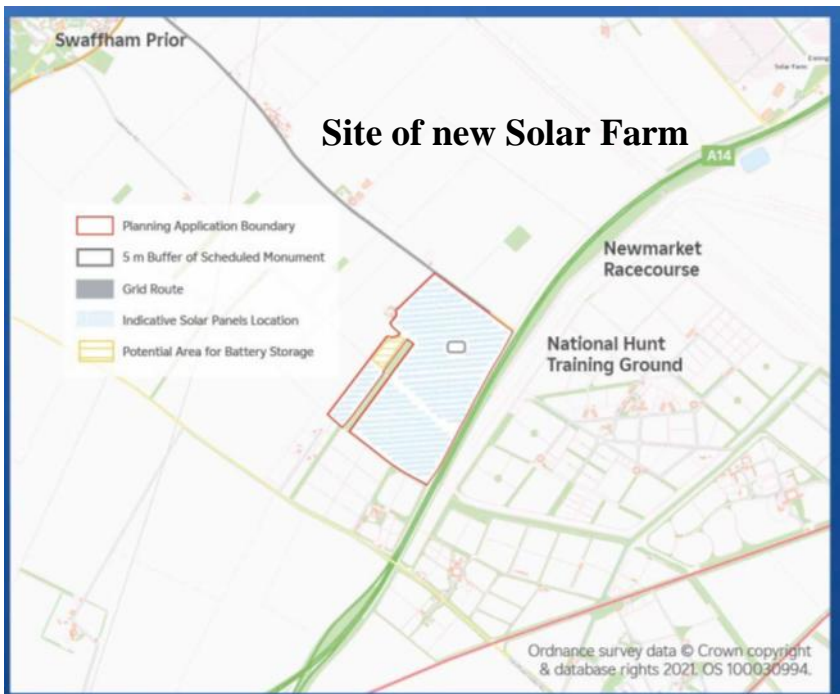
EDF Renewables is proposing to install a solar farm to the west of the A14 Newmarket bypass, and south east of the villages of Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck. (ie. at the A14 end of Cadenham's Lane), and are consulting the community on these proposals before submitting a planning application to East Cambridgeshire District Council.

The site will connect into National Grid's Burwell substation and will have an output power capacity of 49.9 MW (Megawatts), generating enough low carbon energy to power the equivalent of 9,500¹ homes.

They are conducting community engagement online, through the post, over the telephone, and through virtual meetings. The consultation closes on 19th July 2021, so you need to send your views by then.

You'll find more information on their website and they invite you to complete the online feedback form and/or join them at the next online event on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 6.30pm.

Register online at <https://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/cadenham>, or contact them on 01223 854032 or cadenham@edf-re.uk.





VILLAGE GARDENERS

Thirteen intrepid gardeners came to the meeting in the newly appointed Village Hall. It was a joy! No excavating for tables and chairs; no locks, keypads or pass codes- just open the door marked tables and chairs and there they all were.

Mike Day who worked for years at NIAB and now in retirement is on the RHS vegetable panel, gave us a talk 'Salads AYR.' All Year Round.

Gone are the days of Sunday tea salad — lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes and for the adventurous, radishes. Now, literally hundreds of salads that can be contrived from modern vegetables.

A major proportion of green salads are grown, especially in Holland, by the Hydroponic method-fed solely by water and chemical nutrients. No soil. It's ultimately a great saving of water, as it's constantly recycled. Organic green salads and vegetables are grown in soil- so if you have the good fortune to find it on your lettuce from a farm shop or market, you have the genuine article.

Mike recommended The Salad Garden, by Joy Larkcom, as being one of the best on the subject and mentioned many of them in his excellent and amusing power point presentation- cabbage, beetroot, peppers, chilies, celery, dozens of lettuces and tomatoes, but not cauliflowers, which one member who grows sensational ones, found bitterly disappointing!

Mike confessed, as a vegetable man, that he found trial beds of many coloured lettuces, just as, or even more attractive than trial beds of Delphiniums.

If anyone has a desire to see, thousands and thousands of lettuces growing, visit the fields between Soham and Littleport- they will not be disappointed.

Gone are the days of Sunday tea salad — lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes and for the adventurous, radishes...

AND THERE'S MORE:

At last, after two whole years, the Village Gardeners and friends, took off In a coach to Beth Chatto's in Elmstead Market. It was a lovely day in every respect- sunny, a few clouds and gentle breezes- just right for wandering round these very special gardens.

The dry bits were dry, the damp bits damp, the shady bits shady and glorious displays of plants in the huge top beds,indispersed with hundreds of foxgloves and field poppies. It was inspiring.

We could all of course eat our lunches outside, stand in practically non existent queues, for tea, coffee and ice cream and recharge our legs for the afternoon session and plant buying. Quite a few plants came home with us and are now hopefully planted in Prior and Bulbeck.

For those of you who are interested, the delightful book 'Dear Friend and

Gardener', a compilation of letters between Christopher Lloyd and Beth Chatto, is now again in print.

Next month, on the 20th July, we're going on an evening visit to Snake Hall, to find out what happens beyond that gate!

Margaret Joyce.

The Reading Group Reads ...

Agent Running in the Field

By John le Carré

A small but select group met, *in person*, to discuss this month's book, which unfortunately happened to be in half term.

Written when he was 88, Le Carré had lost none of his political insight, nor his story telling skills. It is a book of the present times, written during the Trump presidency, the divisions in Europe and the Brexit campaign in Britain.

This book is nothing like the classic Smiley and the Circus books: it is almost certainly motivated by 'despair and disbelief' (Guardian). It rages against modern-day in-house politics, and an ideology replaced by money (much of London sold off to Russian oligarchs, run-down Vauxhall cars in service, journeys by taxi frowned upon). The conflict with Russia is still there but nastier, more brazen and more meddlesome. He is equally scathing of both Russian and British politics, with some delighting thumb-nail sketches of modern political figures.

The story is of a man of integrity, Nat, serving a government he no longer believes in, and Prue his semi-detached wife. His characterisations are still believable, though perhaps a little dated, and his pace is undiminished. The story tells how he escapes from his position in a service for which he has no further respect. It is a very different book from his earlier ones, and not everybody enjoyed it, but to me he is still a master of his genre, with his ability to examine and reflect on the world he lived in.

Next month's book is *How to label a Goat* by Ross Clerk, and we will meet at on Wednesday evening, July 7, 6pm in Kent House garden, weather permitting.

Brenda Wilson



News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

The Summer Nature Trail is open!

Our seasonal walk around the edge of Sedge Fen has re-opened after its annual rest over the cold and wet months of the year. The delicate peat soils have had time to recover and the lush fen foliage and pops of colourful fen flowers are signs that the conservation in this area is having a positive effect. The route is just over 2 miles in length and is a beautiful and tranquil walk for a summer stroll. For midweek visits booking is not normally necessary, but if you're planning a visit for busy times such as weekends, school holidays or bank holidays, we recommend booking to avoid disappointment.



Hemp Agrimony by Glynis Pierson

Summer of Fun

We're planning a series of drop-in activities across the school holidays including self-led trails through the reserve, pond dipping, mini beast hunting and introduction to balance bike sessions. More details soon!

'Footprints' Community Engagement Project

Work on Wicken Fen Nature Reserve's exciting new heritage project, *Footprints*, has begun. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project will focus on creating opportunities for local people to access a range of recreational activities and to connect with nature, understand the cultural value of this special place, and be part of its story. We're grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for supporting this project.

As part of our Footprints project, we're launching an Annual Neighbourhood Bioblitz over the Bank Holiday weekend this August: Saturday 28, Sunday 29 and Monday 30 August. We want as many families as possible to get involved by spotting and recording as many species as possible in their community. This could be in your garden at home, or in your village community green spaces. We'll be making downloadable resources available to help you with identifying what you find and recording it, and a team of experts will be available to help you via our social media channels too. We're hoping that children, young people and local communities will enjoy learning more about the nature on their doorstep, and we'll be able to start collecting data from areas around the reserve to help inform our future plans. Keep an eye on our online channels for more information.

Keeping up to date

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

Julia Hammond



From our District Councillors
Charlotte Cane &
John Trapp

Unfortunately the strategy of ECDC Council that it would hold Zoom meetings as in the previous year, and that the results of any voting on motions or resolutions would advise the Chief Executive was deemed illegal. The Planning Committee met at the Hive, but unfortunately there was no livestreaming. Other Committees are meeting at the Grange, with very restricted access for the public.

Using Zoom, John attended the Better Public Transport - Cambridge Eastern Access Project: to note the recommendation that Phase A on-line improvements to Newmarket Road should be advanced to OBC stage, with a longer term Phase B plan to develop a high quality public transport route connecting Coldhams Lane and a relocated Park and Ride site on Newmarket Road to be developed further if the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan indicates that the Marshalls site will be allocated for development and land made available; presumption of access via Coldhams Lane rather than the Tins, and potential improvement to the Coldhams Lane roundabout; also potential for reallocation of roadspace on Newmarket Road and Coldhams Lane, and to improve the Cambridge to Newmarket Line in the longer term, with twin-tracking and additional stations—GCP should support EWR Consortium and Network Rail in maximising the potential benefits of this asset.

Regrettably the Administration is not engaging with GCP to any great extent, although almost half the District will be affected by these proposals, even more so when the GCP considers the Northern Access.

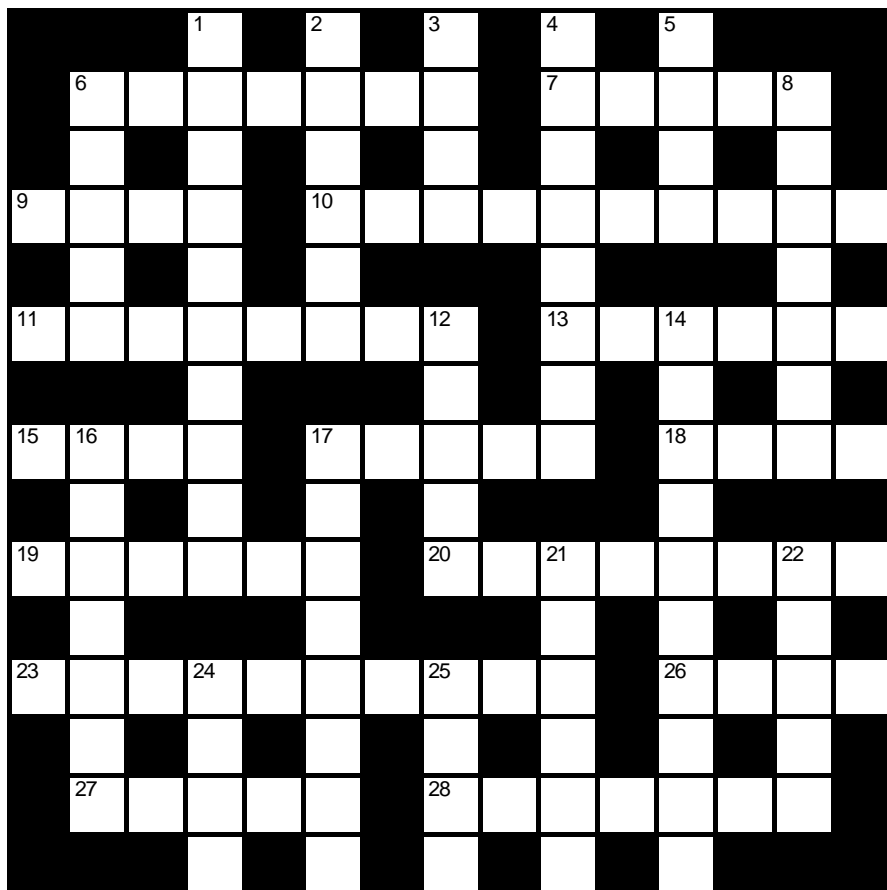
Our next Councillors' Surgery and meet your Councillors will be on Wednesday 21 July at 6.30 p.m. This will be held by Zoom – Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by telephone, the number is 01314 601196.



Crossword Number 186

Compiled by **BYWELL**

* clues contain no definition but are thematically linked. Send your answers to the editors by 18th July 2021. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a £20 meal voucher for the Red Lion—see the pub manager for full details. NB: emailed solutions are acceptable but please include “CROSSWORD” and the crossword number in the header



Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Across

- 6 See 27
- 7 * Alternately imprisoned somewhere in Henry VII's Roussillon (5)
- 9/12 * Loving cod, if it's battered (4,5)
- 10 * Hand on watch then signal (6,4)
- 11 Proud being first person in France buried in cement (8)
- 13/20 * Agents are admitted by the Sun to dance and sit uneasily (6,8)
- 15 Part for a 5-string lute is too much (4)
- 17 Film contest after a little while (5)
- 18 Re-ordered list dropped in water (4)
- 19 Remove the power from a French swallow travelling eastward (6)
- 20 See 13
- 23 * Brewed tea in Quran (10)
- 26 Speak loudly in never-ending row (4)
- 27/6 * Chaotic end with unfinished version of 'La Traviata' (5,7)
- 28 * Relatives flock back (7)

Down

- 1 Loud syncopated music round the twist, composed of small pieces (10)
- 2 Hound's alien voice-over (6)
- 3 For hearing part of 'Two Tickets to Broadway' (4)
- 4 Pass, playing with Ace and Seven (8)
- 5 Oddly in Dorset we finished evenly (4)
- 6 Six-nil! The Italian players take a bow (5)
- 8 Canvas in which the Spanish rise up eating meat (4-3)
- 12 See 9 Across
- 14 Acting prominently as part of officer's punishment (2-8)
- 16 Dreamy setter had to follow timeless tongue (7)
- 17 Colours for different name tags (8)
- 21 Disheartened puppet's return as volunteer (4,2)
- 22 Boy in the middle of sickly white substance (5)
- 24 Have confidence in arrangement for lyre (4)
- 25 Opposed to losing cooker this month (4)

Solution to crossword no. 185

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

We congratulate Robert Nunn, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Colin Dailly, Lesley Daly, Sue Jackson, Mary Joiner and Trish Whitehead.

Heating Scheme update for the Parish Council

June 2021

Four members of the Heating Scheme team attended the June Parish Council meeting in response to questions posed by letter.

Sheryl French, of Cambridgeshire County Council, introduced the rest of the Heating Scheme representatives; Caroline Stoop, also of CCC, Miles Messenger of Bouygues Energy and Services Ltd and Helen New of Pinnacle Power. Sheryl then summarised the development of the scheme so far and outlined the proposed time-scale for the building of the Energy Centre (to begin July 2021) and circulating system (August 2021-February 2022). Sheryl then responded to the questions sent by letter by the PC.

Have enough people signed up the scheme to allow the scheme to go ahead?

Sheryl stated that enough households had expressed an interest for the scheme to go ahead.

Please provide a written guarantee that the village heating scheme will not contaminate or adversely impact the local aquifer upon which it is to be built and will not contaminate the local water supply.

Sheryl stated that if water supply contamination occurred, the County Council would be liable for the costs – if it was their fault, they would not run away. Sheryl also pointed out that the heat exchange will be a closed system and that the boreholes did not penetrate the aquifer – this was later corrected to the boreholes did penetrate the aquifer.

Please provide a guarantee that the Swaffham Prior Heating Scheme will be and will remain the cheapest energy solution for the duration of its serviceable life and thereby will not burden some of the least well-off in our community with higher than the cheapest heating costs.

Sheryl stated that the scheme had been developed to avoid fuel poverty for the heating of homes, through taking them off oil and gas, the prices of which would continue to rise. For the first five years of running, the price would be pegged to that of oil, then would move to being pegged against the price of electricity. It is a condition of the funding received that the price remains lower than that of oil.

Regarding future development of cheaper heating systems, Sheryl noted that the energy centre could change, but that the project had evolved over four years and had involved much consultation with academics and engineers to be the best possible.

Would new building schemes be more likely if they were needed to make scheme financially viable?

Sheryl noted that any house could join the scheme.

It is proposed that charges for the scheme are benchmarked against the price of oil. Please confirm how the benchmark will be calculated and how these will take into account cheaper alternative procurement arrangements for oil.

Sheryl stated that there are to be two tariffs:

- 1) a standing charge calculated on the expected costs of boiler maintenance and

replacement and adjusted for house size; this would be between £262 and £472 a year (including VAT)

2) a variable charge, based on current oil prices and indexed to oil prices for 5 years then gradually transferring to electricity; this would be 5.15p per kWh including VAT. This was calculated as the equivalent to 45.0p per litre for oil; $4.9 \text{ ((energy price)} \times 10.3 \text{ (energy in oil)} \times 85\% \text{ (boiler efficiency))} + \text{VAT (5\%)}$.

Sheryl then handed over to Helen New of Pinnacle Power who outlined the planned timetable and process for installing the pipe network.

Helen stated that installing the pipework was planned to take place over 6 months, starting in August with three teams working concurrently, leaving a stub at each house to enable connection. Heath Road, Cage Hill, the High Street, Lower End and Rogers Road would take place August-October 2021; Tothill Road, Greenhead Road, Fairview Grave and Mill Hill in October 2021-Jan 2022. Pipe would be laid on both sides of the road but only a single lane closure of 100m at a time – each 5m section is planned to take 3 weeks to complete.

Questions followed, which produced the following information.

The work will close parking to the pub for three weeks, but that no compensation would be offered for this.

It was noted that the aim was to work on the roads round the school during school holidays to minimise the disruption to parents needing to park and the pick-up and drop-off points of the school buses. The Heating Scheme aim to keep drive-ways accessible. Sheryl agreed that the direction and flow of traffic on the B1102 must be taken into account when planning roadworks, particularly at the rush hours when 1000 cars per hour pass through Swaffham Prior on the B1102. It was pointed out that during harvest, agricultural vehicles would need a road width of 4m. There was a discussion of where cars were to park when sections of the road were being dug up and what would happen if someone refused to move their car from outside their house. Sheryl said that this would have to be thought about. Several councillors stated that Cooper's Green should not be used as a car park and this was noted.

The chalk at the church end of the village is extremely hard, which could slow down proceedings and that there was a potential problem of vibrations from works damaging nearby buildings, noting it would be wise to stay on the side of the road furthest from houses – this was noted. The depth of the excavations will be between 0.7m and 1.5m and a detailed survey of all utilities had been obtained. The reinstatement will be carried out by a civil contractor and they would return if it slumped.

If a better system for heating came along e.g. hydrogen, the boreholes could be replaced with a different source of heating, although hydrogen was more for industrial use presently.

Not all the household showing interest are currently heated by oil. Cllr Latchford asked that this be taken into account for future statistics regarding carbon reduction?

It was confirmed that the heating units fitted were internal boilers – not ideal for

small houses – the scheme had not been able to source external boilers, although they were looking at adapting some.

The calculated heat loss over the whole system was 4°C.

In the discussion of capping compensation in case of breakdown at £500, Sheryl said that capping was a normal process and £500 was judged to be reasonable as it was not anticipated that the scheme would break down. Cllr Kent-Phillips pointed out that the scheme was contracted to supply sufficient heat to customers; if through e.g. a very hard winter, this was not possible, how could the cap be legally applied? Sheryl said there were plans to cover heat shortages as the scheme would have a duty of care.

The Heating Scheme have 160 expressions of interest which are taken as pro the scheme; there are no figures for households actively anti; however, even if the majority of the village households are actively against the scheme, it will now go ahead. Several councillors noted concerns that the scheme itself, no matter how good, was not suited to retro-fitting in a small old village. Cllr Kent-Phillips asked if not enough people signed up, would the scheme be run at a loss? Sheryl replied that there was a 5 year plan that could be reviewed if necessary but that ultimately the scheme could not leave people without heat. Several councillors noted concerns that this situation could increase pressure to build new houses that would join the scheme. It is not in Sheryl's gift to give the reassurance that more housing would not built to increase numbers on the scheme, but the scheme did have finite capacity.

Cllr Kent-Phillips asked if a leak in a borehole would enter the aquifer? Miles (Bouygues) said that the liquid used was ecologically, chemically and environmentally inert. For a systemic leak, there was an isolation protocol. The boreholes penetrate the aquifer but do not interact with it and monitors would identify which borehole was leaking and notify more or less instantaneously.

Cllr Kent-Phillips questioned why the calculation of the variable charge involved multiplying by the efficiency of the boiler, feeling instead it should be dividing. Miles disagreed.

Sanctuary Housing will pay the costs of installing the system in their houses; tenants would pay for volume used.

It was agreed that communication with the public needed to be quicker, not appear an afterthought.

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting of Thursday 10th June 2021

Cllr Greenfield chaired the meeting at which 7 Parish Councillors and 5 members of the public were present. Also attending were representatives of the Swaffham Prior Heating Scheme and associates.

Public participation for items on the agenda

Mr George Hurrell spoke regarding the restrictions on length of vehicle that can use Reach Road as described on the sign that recently appeared at the bottom of Cage Hill. Mr Hurrell's grain trailers are over the allowed length and this would

cause serious inconvenience for a few days during harvest time, when the trailers would have to reroute around the village. It was noted that the Traffic Regulation Order referred to an area outside of the parish, but that the PC could write in support of a local exemption for the days needed.

To receive a response from the Heating Scheme to questions posed by letter.

Please see full minutes or elsewhere in the Crier.

Correspondence for consideration/circulation:

Email from G Hurrell re restrictions to traffic on Reach Road.

Cllr Greenfield noted that many parishioners had spoken against the sign regarding the Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) currently positioned on the grassy area at the bottom of Cage Hill. No-one from the village seems to have consulted before it was put up in the conservation zone and this was not acceptable. Cllr Gynn noted that the sign was on private property. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the TRO referred to the road in Reach parish so was out of Swaffham Prior's jurisdiction, but the sign itself was in Swaffham Prior and the owner of the land can request its removal. The PC could also support Mr Hurrell in a request for a temporary suspension of the TRO to allow grain trailers access, if Mr Hurrell wrote to the PC requesting such support.

It was agreed to write to ECDC Conservation Officer and the Highways Agency raising concerns about both the sign itself and the effect of the TRO especially for agricultural vehicles.

Email from Sarah Jones of CADNO regarding proposed solar farm by EDF.

Cllr Greenfield noted that a public announcement from EDF regarding the proposed solar farm spoke of a substantial public consultation process being undertaken and had two potential routes for the majority of the solar farm traffic – one from the A14 via Stow-cum-Quy (the PC's preferred route) and the other through Fordham via the A147. The PC favoured the Stow-cum-Quy route and felt no need for EDF to attend the July meeting to explain their plans further.

Email from S Richards regarding replacement of Cooper's Green sign. The pieces of the damaged sign have been collected and it is being repaired.

Consideration of planning applications received:

21/00571/FUL. Proposed first floor extension and single storey rear extension.

25 Greenhead Road, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JT.

Cllr Greenfield noted that objections had been made online, mainly objecting to the scale of the proposed building and that it is too big in comparison to the surrounding bungalows. Two responses were proposed – firstly that the PC make no objections to this planning application or secondly that the PC object on the grounds that the house would be too big and out of scale with the line of bungalows in which it is currently situated. A majority vote selected the second response.

Accounts for payment

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that there had been a failed attempt to break into the defibrillator phone box, the battery of the defibrillator was dead and the gel pads out

of date – these had now been replaced via an emergency order and the lock repaired, but a monthly check needs to be carried out to make sure the battery was still charged, which Cllr Kent-Phillips volunteered to do.

Cllr Greenfield to add the area in front of the Pound walls to the grass cutting rota.

To discuss a proposed new order for chairs for the village hall.

Cllr Durrant reported that the village hall had ordered new chairs from a different supplier. The total cost of these was higher, but the village hall had agreed to pay the difference, leaving the PC contribution the same as was agreed before.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Gynn reported that the previously damaged cremation plaques were becoming overgrown again and noted that bagged dog excrement had been left on the steps of St Cyriac. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the dog excrement bin had been knocked over on Coopers Green but had been repaired.

Two posts on Mill Hill had been knocked over and reported to Highways Agency for repair.

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, 8th July 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



**Painting by
Ruth
Blundell –
see p 12 for
the Open
Studios
Schedule**

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:

Errol dining table extends to oval 113cm x 124cm. Some scratches to surface. Collection only; Laura Ashley wood framed rectangular mirror 100cm x 70cm. Collection only. Jane 01223 813435

Tandem swing (as per photo).
Lucinda, 01223 813670

Composting bin. Christopher 01223 811501

All offers 1-7: Theresa, 01223 813222:

1. Cookworks Microwave - White. PAT Tested. Immaculate. NO MANUAL.

2. Coffee Percolator - Traditional Italian style. Metal. To be used on the hob/ring/gas cooker.

3. C-PAP machine - Hospital issue but they never wanted it returned.

4. Black waterproof jacket - XL - with grey inner fleece.

5. Brown hooded fleece jacket - XL

6. Garden shears - dodgy handle - needs fixing and blades need sharpening. Good strong, sturdy shears, the ones that were made to last the lifetime of the gardener!

7. Family DVD's (16)



Wanted:

Lay back garden chair please. If someone has a spare they don't want or there is an old one hanging about at the bottom of the garden - I would love it! I only have an ordinary chair and it kills my back to try and enjoy the sunshine! :) Thank you so much. Theresa, 01223 813222

Anglesey Group of Churches

SERVICES IN JULY



Sunday 4 July – Fifth Sunday after Trinity; Green

- 9am Online service on Zoom
Village Worship, Swaffham Bulbeck
- 10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Wednesday 7 July

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

Sunday 11 July – Sixth Sunday after Trinity; Green

- 9am Holy Communion, Quay
- 10.30am Family Worship, Swaffham Prior – shown on Zoom, technology permitting

Sunday 18 July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity; Green

- 9am Online service on Zoom
Morning Prayer, Quay
- 10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck
Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 25 July - Eighth Sunday after Trinity; Green

- 9am Online service on Zoom
- 10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

- 10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

All subject to Covid restrictions

You are welcome to attend a service in any of our churches

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 – to request Zoom link

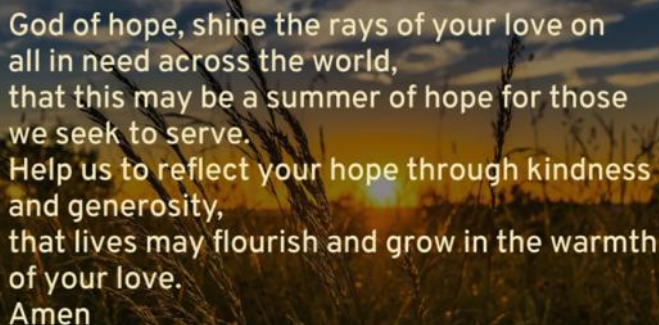


Anglesey Mothers' Union

This year Mother's Union celebrates the 145th anniversary of our founding and the centenary of the passing of our founder. As a movement, started and sustained by the strength of Mary Sumner's vision of women supporting one another, we continue to thrive all these years later. This summer, we also mark 100 years since her death, making remembering her remarkable, inspiring life all the more poignant.

At the time of writing, if the easing of restrictions moves forward as planned, we are tentatively looking at coming together as a group, during the summer. Our last meeting was in February last year and what a wonderful way to mark our first meeting to celebrate the anniversary and incorporate the Mothers' Union 'Summer of Hope' Appeal. The appeal will raise funds to support women throughout the world. More information on this can be found on the website <https://www.mothersunion.org>

Ann Langran



God of hope, shine the rays of your love on
all in need across the world,
that this may be a summer of hope for those
we seek to serve.
Help us to reflect your hope through kindness
and generosity,
that lives may flourish and grow in the warmth
of your love.
Amen

Mothers' Union 'Summer of Hope' Prayer



**Pyramidal
Orchids and
Bee Orchids
currently in
flower down
the Fen**



Dates for Your Diary July 2021

Sat	3	Open Studios week 1 [12]
Sun	4	Open Studios week 1 [12]
Wed	7	Book Club, Kent House garden, 6:00pm [23]
Thu	8	PC Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm [32]
Sat	10	Open Studios week 2 [12]
Sun	11	Open Studios week 2 [12]
Wed	14	Solar Farm on-line event, 6:30pm [21]
Sat	17	Open Studios week 3 [12] Strawberry Teas [14]
Sun	18	Open Studios week 3 [12]
Mon	19	Solar Farm consultation closes [21]
Tue	20	Village Gardeners [22]
Wed	21	Bottisham Patients Participation Group [16] ECDC Surgery, 6:30pm [25]
Thu	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Sat	24	Open Studios week 4 [12]
Sun	25	Open Studios week 4 [12]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS			2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Variable		
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	Kent House
Village Gardeners	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