



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLV Number 3

March 2021



## Editorial

Woosh—and now it's the mere 60 year olds being vaccinated! See our Vaccination News (p. 13) for all the latest compared to where we were mid-February, which was still plodding through with the over-75s. What an achievement, with many thanks due not only to the professionals but also the many volunteers from this area who together have made all this possible.

This issue pursues some of the historical interest introduced in last month's magazine. Julian Luttrell identifies his housekeeper brides, not to mention the 51 Landgirls living at Swaffham Prior House and Ruth Stinton, who grew up at the Corona Dairy, tells us about life with her family there, also sending us a lovely snippet about a mysterious lady who made rabbit fur gloves — but we may have tracked her down already — see the Letters page.

Apparently, Lower End used to be part of the High Street, and she's wondering why and when this change could have come about. At the same time Celia Tyler, whose delightful Prior Photo Album continues this month (p. 11), has identified three relatively recent



names for Cage Hill (aka Cock Hill aka Greenhead Hill). And we've been wondering if the Cock Horse from which the hill got one of its aliases might be one of the horses on the village sign? Please write in if you have if you think you might know more.

It's Mothering Sunday this month, about the only date in our Diary, and another socially distanced celebration for us to get our heads round, but meanwhile the Mothers Union have made us a delightful Mothering Sunday Quiz, see how you do on page 18.

**Caroline Matheson**

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Cover Picture: POP(py)CORN by David George



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Corona Dairy**

Following the articles in last months Crier, my brother (Cecil Nash), sister (Mary Cook) and myself (Ruth Stinton) spent our childhood at Corona Dairy.

Bartholomew and Ella Badcock had five children, 4 girls and a boy. Elna (our mother) who married Charles Nash from the White House next door, Beatrice who married Sidney Aves, Cecil who died in a motor cycle accident, Hephzibah (Hepsie) who married Leon Waldock and Katie who married Arthur Frost. Barth, Ella, Elna and family and Katie and family all lived together at Corona. We did hang our washing out in Gutheridge field opposite and had a key to use the gate. Sometimes we had to shoo the carthorses away as they seemed to be attracted to the sheets etc. Many happy hours were spent there playing games with other village children. We all helped with herding the cows through the village morning and evenings. We can't remember the barn edging on to the street being used as a hay-loft. We knew it as housing the tractors, a car and tools to repair the equipment.

Our dad's mum Hephzibah Nash (known to all in the village as Grandma Nash), had the sweet shop next door at the White House. Grandad Nash worked for the Woollards at Manor Farm and Beech House as it was known then came with the job.

Our address was High Street. Does anyone know why and when it was changed to Lower End?

***Cecil Nash, Ruth Stinton and Mary Cook***

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Dear Editors,

### **Reader, I married her...**

In "Reader, I Married the Housekeeper" in last month's Crier I asked if anybody knew who were the 51 young people recorded at Commissioners Farm in the 1939 Register. Many thanks to Alastair Everitt who, by accident or design, had already answered this question 11 pages earlier in the same edition of the Crier. They were the army of land girls billeted at Swaffham Prior House who were assigned to the wrong address by the enumerator conducting the survey.

***Julian Luttrell***

PS The answers to the housekeeper challenge are:

Leslie A Yarrow of Vicarage Farm married Annie E Preston in 1959, and William Prentice of Gravel Pit Farm married Constance Wade in 1940.

Dear Editors,

### **For Whom the Bell Tolls**

On our daily walk around the village today, February 27th, we heard a bell tolling from St.Cyriac's. We were a little puzzled but thought no more about it until we saw the evening news on television and heard that bells all over the country rang out today for the funeral of Captain Sir Tom Moore. We were so pleased that somebody had rung the bell in Swaffham Prior for such a wonderful gentleman who did so much to lift our spirits and raise such an incredible amount of money.

May he rest in peace.

***Ruth and Robin Scovil***

Eds note: So did we, equally wondering why, and many thanks for this. See page 11 for the latest on St Cyriac's bells.

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Dear Editors,

### **Clem Wadham**

I remember Clem Wadham driving his funny little Ford car about the village. He seemed to sit at an odd angle and always had his arm leaning on the open window. I also remember being taken to Kent House in the room which is now Caroline and James kitchen, to be measured for gloves which the lady who also lived there made from rabbit fur. I'm not sure what the connection was between her and Clem.

***Ruth Stinton***

We forwarded Ruth's letter to Jeff Shackell, who is doing research on Clem, and here is his reply:

Dear Editors,

Thank you for this lovely snippet of news about Clem Wadham. This all helps build up a picture of him. I wonder if the lady making gloves was Kathleen Gathercole as noted as being a beneficiary in his will?

***Jeff***

Thatched Cottage, Lew, Bampton, Oxfordshire, OX18 2AZ, Tel. 07971 985302

[jeffrey.shackell@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.shackell@gmail.com)

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Dear Editors

### **Heating Swaffham Prior**

We were all very grateful to receive the CCC letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> February. This gave the latest news about the Scheme. Will the signatories, Emma, Mark and David please tell us how many people had "signed up" by the end of January? Something for villagers to ask when one meets them?

***Alastair Everitt***

Dear Editors,

## **Dog Fouling**

There has been an increase in the amount of dog poo left around the village. Not clearing up after your dog is not only inconsiderate to others but also an offence legally (ignorance of them doing it and lack of suitable bags are not considered an excuse), a danger to public health particularly children, and generally deeply, deeply unpleasant. Please do not spoil the enjoyment of this lovely village for others! The PC requests that people use the bins provided to clear up after their dogs.

**Jude Griffiths**  
Clerk to the PC

## **From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting**

Handforth Parish Council. This must have caused the biggest laugh throughout the villages of England. It had massive coverage on TV, Google and newspapers. Most villages in England probably wondered if their own PC ever behaved like this. And Swaffham Prior is no exception. I can assure you that our PC has always had in place a safeguard against this kind of happening. There is an unwritten rule that no two women should sit on the Parish Council at the same time. Over the last few decades only once has this rule been breached. But that did not last long.

If this offends any ladies in our community this is easily rectified. There is a vacancy on the PC. Just submit your name and you will be on. Even better would be if several ladies applied and then they could all be lined up before the PC and the men could choose. A bit like an episode of Dad's Army.



The proposed development of 28 houses on the horse field received a thumbs down from the PC and from the public attending. I bet the CCC is eyeing this up as a possible source for additional customers for the Heating Scheme which it has now taken over. Is this a possible dilemma for the people who support the Heating Scheme? The latest information about it is interesting. Whatever happens, the irony is that since the heat proposal some people in the village have installed air source heat pumps. And more are considering it.

Meanwhile technology moves impressively ahead with developments such as the use of hydrogen. Its possible use is quite amazing. When will we put more research into Carbon Capture? There is such an urgent need for this that it is amazing it is being neglected. But there is some progress in trying to solve the traffic problem. Flying cars are predicted for 2023 onwards. This will certainly ease the road traffic on Newmarket Road, though they may frighten the horses.

It is very early days with Brexit and we will need to wait for everything to settle down to see if it will adversely affect our trade. But already it has hit the village. Because of shipping problems from China the cost of the new Village Hall Chairs has risen sharply and they are now not expected until the summer. So the matter has

been put on hold until more information is available. But we must think beyond that. Life is becoming more difficult when we have to ensure that no one person may be offended by a remark, whether chance or not. This presents the Village Hall Committee with a dilemma. Because of China's unforgivable treatment of the Uighurs should the order be cancelled altogether? Or is there the risk that someone, now or in the future, is going to become "distressed" when asked to sit on one of those chairs. Will there be a time when the Committee has to make a grovelling apology and confine the chairs to the dump.

Another dilemma exists over the proposed new Cumbrian coal mine. Naturally the initial reaction is to oppose it. That is until we learn it is specifically to produce the type of coking coal which is essential for furnaces to produce the steel which is necessary for the hundreds of new wind farms which are to spread across our land and our seas. The alternative is to continue to import most of it from Australia and the USA by sea. It would save all that carbon, create 500 jobs, and even leave some to export and increase our trade. This is a close call. Or we could close down all the furnaces and import all our steel. That would certainly help to achieve our no carbon target and ensure Britain has more clean air,

The snowdrops are out again, but not those the PC bought and had planted about four or five years ago. At that time Paul Latchford asked that they be added to our verges of delightful daffodils. Someone offered the PC a bargain deal for hundreds and hundreds of bulbs. The village rallied round and various groups planted them all out. The following year two or three appeared. Since then there has been none. Even though this has been raised several times the PC is totally unconcerned. There must be a reason for this. Maybe the Garden Club would like to do some sleuthing.

This past year has been difficult. But there is joy for those whose favourite tippie is Gin. Over the last twelve months 124 additional distilleries were created in Britain, bringing the total in Britain to 560 distilleries. Chin Chin. We must be doing something right.

*Alastair Everitt*

PS. Not everyone takes *The Times* which was in the news. I have a few spare copies of that excellent article on our Village supporting and warming up to the Heating Scheme. Please contact me if you would like one.

# Our village heat network is happening!

The energy centre construction for our heat network will be ready to start this May. Activity around the project will soon escalate, as we start to engage with all households that have expressed an interest, to plan individual heat network connections. Thank you to everyone who has supported the project so far, it is fantastic to see more villagers keen to connect, two additional households have been in touch last week alone!

To find out what the project means for you, please read on.

## **Retro-fit ready**

You don't need to replace your radiators or upgrade your insulation to join the heat network. It has been designed to work for all 300 homes in Swaffham Prior, including the listed ones. **How?** If you sign-up, a heat interface unit will be installed in your home to receive heat from the energy centre and replace your current boiler. It operates at temperatures of 70 – 75c, the same as a boiler, so it can plug straight into your central heating system. Using this high temperature system is hassle free, as you do not have to make additional changes to your home. We can help electric homes make the changes required too, contact us to find out more.

## **Now is the moment...**

We want to reduce pollution, have affordable heating, protect our house prices, and not be out of pocket when oil and gas boilers are phased out across the UK.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our village to get rid of the oil tank, the boiler, and make the change to renewable for free - the connection costs have been waived. The heating tariff, to be released in March, is capped to oil prices, so you shouldn't have to pay any more than you do today.

## **Funding, planning and permissions, sorted! Green Homes Grant available!**

This project has been 3 years in the making, it was brought forward by a group of residents in the village and has been supported by many villagers over the last couple of years. These residents got Cambridgeshire County Council involved to unlock grant funding and make the idea reality. We have got funding, planning and all legal permissions to make this happen. We have even won additional funding to support extra upgrades to the poorest quality homes in the village through the Green Homes Grant. If you live in a home with EPC of D, E, F, or G, or do not have a 'wet' radiator system get in touch!

## **UK Gov reviewed project**

The heat network project has been supported by central government through policy, advice and funding. Making low-carbon, renewable heating available to all households is a UK priority. Our project team has worked with BEIS (department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy), meeting on a monthly basis for two years. The business case and technical design of the heat network have been tested by investment company, Triple Point and engineering consultants Aecom on the behalf of UK Gov.

### **When is it happening?**

Spades are due to hit ground in May 2021. Work will start with the energy centre in the old barn on Heath Road, before the network construction is due to start in the village. The winter of 2021 can be your last on oil, connections of homes are due to start in early Spring 2022. There will be more details on the construction plan available for all to see soon.

### **Employment opportunities released**

An advert for contractors has recently been shared through local Cambridgeshire construction circles. We would like to involve as many local contractors as possible in developing this project, if you know anyone in civil, electrical, mechanical engineering, fencing or landscaping who may be interested in applying, please email [jack.park@bouygues-es.co.uk](mailto:jack.park@bouygues-es.co.uk) or [Jason.merchant@bouygues-es.co.uk](mailto:Jason.merchant@bouygues-es.co.uk)

### **What do you need to do?**

If you want to get off oil and switch to our local renewable heat network, **email us** ([info@heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk](mailto:info@heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk)) to arrange a household survey now. In spring, we will be sending an offer pack to all households, to get all customer contracts in place before construction starts.

If you have any questions about the project, please send them to the project team. There are professional engineering, accountancy and legal teams ready to answer your questions.

Kind Regards,

Emma Fletcher, Mike Barker, David Greenfield

**Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust, SPCLT**

Chris Parkin

**Cambridgeshire County Council**

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## **Where has all the Poetry gone?**

Since the sad loss last year of our unofficial poet laureate Offir Catlin our regular supply of verse has dried up. Even Wulsin has become silent and retired unto his cell. Are there no other poets in the village? Perhaps the following little verse tinkle by Wendy Cope will encourage others.

### **Making Cocoa for Kingsley Amis**

It was a dream I had last week  
And some kind of record seemed vital.  
I knew it wouldn't be much of a poem  
But I love the title

# KEEP BRITAIN TIDY

## Great British Spring Clean

### 28<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

This year the Keep Britain Tidy campaign **THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN** will run from 28<sup>th</sup> May to the 13<sup>th</sup> June.

The first of these events was in 1989, and in 2019 over half a million volunteers across the country were involved. Of course, this campaign was suspended in 2020 due to Covid restrictions but is now back in the diary for 2021.

You will certainly already know how successful our own Litter Picking activities have been in Burwell and can see the transformation in our local environment over the last three years.

Last year I became an “Ambassador” for the National Keep Britain Tidy Organisation and have been regularly attending their zoom meetings.

As part of this year’s Spring Clean event, I am planning to coordinate a **special litter pick on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May**. This will be a litter pick of the roadsides from Burwell to Quy involving groups from Burwell, Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck. The route will be split into a number of sections each covered by a specific team. For example, a team could drive to the Wheatsheaf at Quy and collect litter from there up to the Roundabout.

Refreshments including lots of cakes will be available on the lovely green in Swaffham Bulbeck.

We will be looking for sponsors for this event to raise money for the Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) organisation. There will be a specific “Just Giving” page set up and hopefully a lot of people will donate.

KBT was initiated in 1955 through a federation of Women’s Institutes and became a registered charity in 1960. The aim of the organisation is to inspire people to eliminate litter and waste and promotes a wide range of national campaigns. It is totally dependent on donations and fundraising for its survival. I have organised this day not just to raise money for KBT but to demonstrate that the vast majority of us do not like to see Litter.

Please let me know if you would like to participate in this event at [helen.mcmenamain@icloud.com](mailto:helen.mcmenamain@icloud.com) or mobile 07584 201 981.

Litter picking sticks and bags will be available. More details will follow once I have an idea of the number of volunteers for the Spring Clean.

*Helen  
McMenamin*





# **JULIE'S SPRING TIME RECIPES**

## **Spring lamb stew**

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

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pan and brown the meat, garlic and onion, add the bay leaf, thyme and carrots, and enough water to cover the meat.
2. Bring to a simmer and remove any scum that rises to the top. Once all the scum is removed, cover the pan. Cook for 2 hours, or until tender.
3. 10 minutes before serving add the peas and beans to the lamb. Cook until the vegetables are tender.
4. Finally season with salt and pepper and serve straight away. Serves 4-6 people.

## **Rhubarb & custard cake**

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

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

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

Reserve 3 tbsp of the custard in a bowl. Beat the rest of the custard together with the butter, flour, baking powder, eggs, vanilla extract and sugar until creamy and smooth. Spoon one third of the mixture into the tin, then some rhubarb and continue to layer ending up with rhubarb on top. With the remaining custard dot over the top.

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

## Swaffham Prior Photo Albums Project

### Cage Hill



This month we're sharing another village view photographed by Thomas Cooper in the early 1900s. This is Cage Hill over 100 years ago, when the main road to Burwell came through the village (and continued to do so until the bypass was opened in 1974). Before the street was formally named Cage Hill, it had been known as Greenhead Hill (Greenhead Road takes its name from this) and Cock Hill. Why Cock Hill? There were once two pubs at the bottom of Cage Hill – we see The Rose and Crown on the left in this photograph. Opposite, on the corner of High Street, was The Cock – now a home named The Fencock. The Rose and Crown closed in 1957 and until 1998, part of it was a general store, café and Post Office.

NB The old Corona Dairy, Lower End – Last month I said the colourful glass above the red front door still bore the name 'Corona'. I was wrong about that – in fact, there are some wonderful cows giving a nod to the past.

**Celia Tyler, 0780 4508335**

#### References:

Cambridgeshire Collection, Local Studies Library - free public access

[www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol10/pp273-278](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol10/pp273-278)

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

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Ed's Note: The reason for the name Cock Hill and indeed the pub name, The Cock, was because horse-drawn carts coming out from Cambridge frequently could not get up this steep (for round here!) hill unaided. So at the bottom was stabled a *Cock Horse* who was brought out to help pull. If anyone knows anything about this

practice and when the horse was last used, we'd be very grateful to know. Apparently, a similar scheme used to be employed by the railway where a *Cock Engine* was stationed at the bottom of steep gradients for the same purpose.

It's a great pity this historically interesting name has been changed — who can have been responsible? And when?

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## THE BELLS, THE BELLS...

We are fortunate to have a particularly fine set of six bells in St Cyriac's tower. They are not rung as often as we would like, because for many years there has been no village ringing band – but members of other local bands get together to ring for weddings and the occasional Thursday practice night. However, under Covid regulations, the bells have been silent for so long that no-one will remember that one of the six – the Tenor, or lowest note – has been silent for even longer.

When a single bell tolls to mark a death or a funeral, as it did at Swaffham Prior on 27th February for Captain Sir Tom Moore, it is usually the Tenor that is rung. Unfortunately, the heaviest bell at St Cyriac's could not be used for that tribute as it has been out of action since 2018. The bell itself is intact but the fittings on which it swings are in need of replacement and some strengthening is required to part of the bell frame. Until the work is carried out it is unsafe to ring that particular bell.

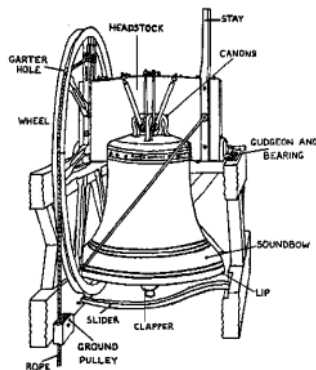
Covid, amongst other things, has made it a long process to obtain quotes and agree with the Churches Conservation Trust how best to carry out the repairs that are required. However, agreement has recently been reached and an order placed with a professional bell hanging company to undertake the work. It is possible that it will be completed after Easter, though we are waiting confirmation of that.

The CCT have no funds to pay for the repairs, so the bellringers have undertaken to find the money. We have already raised more than half the sum required and have guarantors who are willing to provide loans to underwrite the costs, should it be necessary to pay the bills before the fundraising is complete. We are looking forward to being able to ring all the bells again, once lockdown restrictions are lifted, as has been done regularly for the 230 years since the bells were first installed. We will also be recruiting new ringers. To reach our target though, we need to find a further £1500.

Any contribution you can make will be gratefully received. Cash or cheques (made out to Swaffham Prior Bell Repair Fund) can be delivered John Chalmers, 19 Lower End, Swaffham Prior CB25 0HT, or email

[swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com](mailto:swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com) for further information.

**Gareth Davies (Tower Captain) & John Chalmers (Secretary)**



# Vaccination Update from Ely North and South

## Primary Care Networks—February 10th

After a whirlwind of a week we thought we'd share some key numbers of where we are up to on COVID-19 vaccinations in Ely North and Ely South Primary Care Networks (i.e. for patients registered at Cathedral Medical Centre, St George's Medical Centre, St Mary's Surgery, Burwell Surgery, Haddenham Surgery, and Staploe Medical Centre):

9500 vaccines given so far - from 15th Dec 2020 to 24th Jan 2021

Cohort 1 (care homes): 100% of all our consenting care home residents have been vaccinated

Cohort 2 (Over 80s): all invited, and approx. 90% vaccinated. If you're over 80 and have not yet been vaccinated, expect a letter in the post, or give your surgery a call - we will make sure you're vaccinated if you want to be!

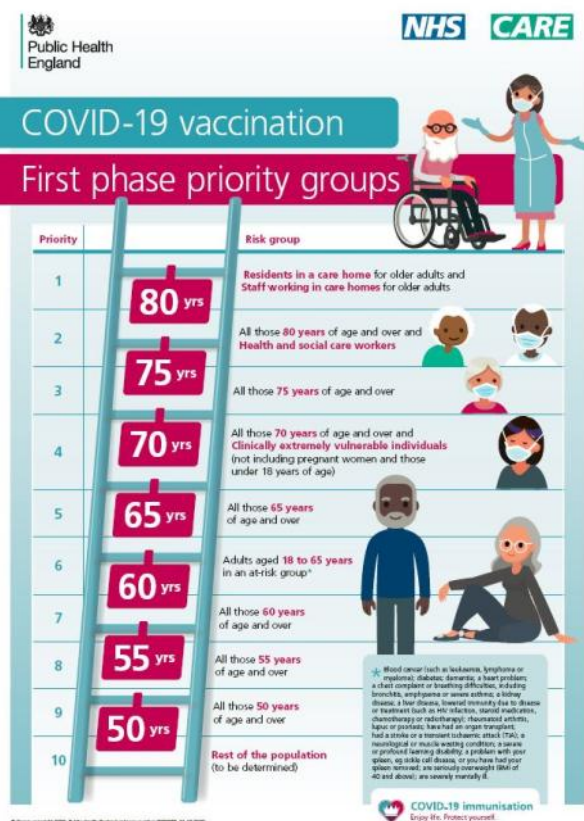
Cohort 3 (Over 75s): all invited, approx 83% vaccinated.

Cohort 4 (Over 70 and clinical extremely vulnerable): all will be invited this week, approx 11% so far (started late last week).

**We have achieved this amazing result through 21 clinic days and over 3,500 hours of effort, 1,000 of which were provided by our incredible army of 117 volunteers. Wow!**

The numbers speak for themselves - this has been a herculean effort by literally everyone - and it continues to be! We simply would not be able to do this without the incredibly generous help of all the volunteers; or without the massive commitment of our staff who have worked so hard throughout this pandemic year. It continues to be a very special, heart-warming, and historic thing to be a part of, in it together, as a community, to get us all back to health and normality.

We know there are many



more waiting in the wings who would like to help - and for that we are truly grateful. We are continuing to 'settle in' to how we run the clinics and will continue to work out how best to enable everyone who would like to take part to do so.

We also know there are many of you who are anxious to get your vaccine. We are doing our best to communicate as often as we can to keep you all updated, but as you'll have seen in the news things are changing very rapidly. Our priority is to ensure that we provide vaccination clinics as soon as we have certainty over vaccine deliveries. We're excited to say that we are expecting deliveries that should enable us to almost complete cohorts 1-4 in the next 7-10 days. The clinics are going live shortly, so if you're eligible, please look out for the SMS to book yourself in or wait for our call.

Meanwhile, it would help us enormously if you could please:

keep checking your practice website for more information

not call or visit your practice to enquire about getting your vaccination if you haven't yet heard from your practice. Please don't worry! You haven't been forgotten and you will get your vaccine as soon as possible.

Lastly - a reminder that we are here for you and your health as always. Under current lockdown rules it is better to contact us through Ask My GP or on the phone rather than coming in person, but please don't do nothing!

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Eds note:

## **The situation has already moved on ...**

Check this website for info on other centres doing vaccinations:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, you can book a vaccine if

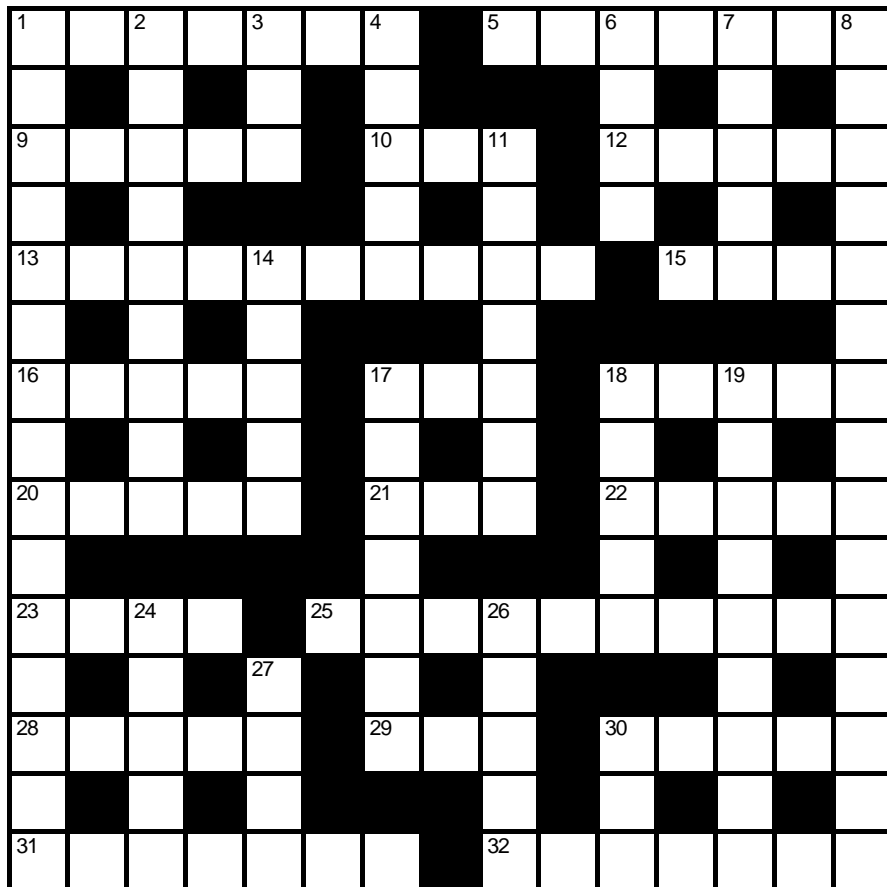
- you are aged 60 or over
- you have previously received a letter saying you are at [high risk from coronavirus](#) (clinically extremely vulnerable)
- you are an eligible frontline health worker
- you are an eligible frontline social care worker
- you get Carer's Allowance

You also need to be registered with a GP surgery in England to use this service. You can [register with a GP](#) if you do not have one.

# Crossword Number 182

Compiled by **OUNCE**

Marked clues are \*singular or \*\*plural examples of 1D and have no other definition. Send your answers to the editors by 18th March 2021. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a £20 meal voucher for the Red Lion—see the pub manager for full details. NB: emailed solutions are acceptable but please include “CROSSWORD” and the crossword number in the header



Name:.....

Address:.....

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

## Across

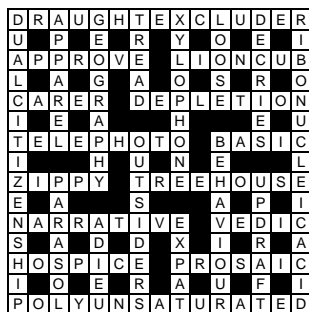
- 1 \* Mix with cold water? No ta! (7)
- 5 \*\* Tempestuous tilters (7)
- 9 \* Look out! Dangerous grounds, even at first (5)
- 10 Blade concealed in cocoa recipe book (3)
- 12 Concur that tenor escapes from bent orange tree (5)
- 13 \* Neat oxtail stew (10)
- 15 Navy follows Iron Hart's tongue for instance (4)
- 16 \* Return of the bad Tory leader (5)
- 17 We hear Homer's exclamation from female (3)
- 18 Core of man with skill (5)
- 20 Elector against old-time Queen (5)
- 21 Are Stephen and Elizabeth small fish? (3)
- 22 \* 500 wander (5)
- 23 \* Not easily solved to begin with (4)
- 25 Trouble if Isabella relies on this in court (5,5)
- 28 Uncovers the foxhunt I led up to (5)
- 29 Skinhead bearing article for Caspian perhaps (3)
- 30 \* Key effect of nettles? (5)
- 31 \*\* Holy person phones (7)
- 32 \*\* Doctor Remus doctored (7)

## Down

- 1 Community names eccentric client "Loco Venus" (10,5)
- 2 Queer duck! Not even strange amount (3,3,3)
- 3 Jack's river? (3)

- 4 Perch in Kangaroo Street (5)
- 6 \* Drams from Amsterdam? Wild! (4)
- 7 Look around. Right one for 23A? (5)
- 8 She gets thingies muddled while acting like a tourist (6,3,6)
- 11 \* Man with rye cocktail (7)
- 14 Drinker to back agent (5)
- 17 Disastrous fates of the French conquers (7)
- 18 Microscopic pond life killed by Hercules? (5)
- 19 Eat in a mob? Horrible - I hate that (9)
- 24 Irony, we hear, from woodland deity (5)
- 26 \* War between Sweden and Malta (5)
- 27 \* 150: a number (4)
- 30 Cowardly, unadmired rascal originally a member of singular 5A (3)

## Solution to crossword no. 181



We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to the Joyner Family, Martyn & Debbie Clark, Lesley Daly, Sue Jackson, Robert & Julie Nunn and Dainon O'Dowd.

# Village Hall News



The building work at the Village Hall is finally nearing completion:

—It actually looks like the architect's drawing!

With additional, and better-designed storage, as well as simpler access to the Small Hall, everyone should find that using the Village Hall is an even more delightful experience. We look forward to inviting everyone to see the improvements when we reopen.

## Reopening:

Unfortunately, we are still unsure when it will be safe to reopen - certainly not before March, and possibly a lot later, depending on viral mutations, vaccination levels, and government guidelines.

We will communicate any decisions through the Crier, the village Facebook page and our website.

## The Management Committee:

Sadly, we are losing the valuable services of Peter Rand, who has decided to stand down from the Management Committee after six years as our Maintenance Officer. He has carried out a huge number of minor works at the Hall, and has overseen several larger projects in this time, and he will be greatly missed.

So, that brings me to the last item: we would love to enlist the support of more Swaffham Priorites\* in running the Village Hall, and making decisions about how it



should serve the community. If you are interested and can spare a few evenings (I think we have 5 meetings each year), please get in touch.

Mike Carrington: [bookings.spvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.spvh@gmail.com)

Alan Durrant: [chairman.spvh@gmail.com](mailto:chairman.spvh@gmail.com)

\* I'm not sure if Swaffham Prior residents have a collective name, but the spell-checker doubted 'priorite', so I looked it up and found - for the geologists and chemists among you - that it is defined as:

**Priorite:** a titano-niobate of yttrium, cerium, and other rare-earth metals that is isomorphous with eschynite. — it is also called blomstrandine.



## 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.

Now that we can see light at the end of the tunnel we are looking forward to welcoming you back.

To build up our programme we are recruiting new tutors, so if you have skills in the following areas and are passionate about your subject, do you have spare time to teach an Adult Learning course?

Arts and Crafts  
Cookery  
Dance  
Eco/Environmental/Upcycling  
Health and Wellbeing  
ICT Skills  
Languages (including BSL)  
Music  
or anything else.....?

If so, please contact us for further information:

[www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning](http://www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning)

Tel: 01223 811372 email: [adultlearning@bottishamvc.org](mailto:adultlearning@bottishamvc.org)

Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or Twitter: @CommunityEdBott



## Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

In March the branch would normally hold its 'Spring Social', but due to the continued social distancing restrictions this will not be taking place this year.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> March it will be Mothering Sunday and we invite readers to join us in a little piece of light hearted fun and have a go at the Mothers' Union Mothering Sunday Quiz.

### Mothering Sunday Quiz

1. What food is most associated with Mothering Sunday?  
a) Sunday Roast   b) Eggs   c) Simnel Cake
2. In Ancient Greece, which goddess was celebrated on Mothering Sunday?  
a) Goddess Artemis   b) Goddess Hestia   c) Goddess Rhea
3. 'Mother's ruin' is a common British name for which alcoholic drink?  
a) Gin   b) Vodka   c) Brandy
4. In which Indian city, did Mother Theresa found her missionary?  
a) Mumbai   b) Varanasi   c) Calcutta
5. How many cards are sent for Mothering Sunday in the UK?  
a) 10 million   b) 45 million   c) 30 million
6. In which year did Marie Curie become the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize?  
a) 1925   b) 1903   c) 1910
7. Mother of Pearl is a common name for?  
a) Nacre   b) A Jewel   c) A Stone
8. Who was the mother of Queen Elizabeth I?  
a) Anne Boleyn   b) Mary Queen of Scots   c) Mary II
9. Which popular Mothering Sunday flower do Christians believe were made from the tears of Mary when she wept for Jesus on the cross?  
a) Carnations   b) Daffodils   c) Sunflowers
10. When did women get the parliamentary vote in the UK?  
a) 1918   b) 1917   c) 1916

Answers can be found on page 32.

*Ann Langran*

## BON MOT NUMBER 115

"If men talked about women in the way that women on *Woman's Hour* talked about men, they'd be lynched."

*Melanie McDonagh*  
(January 2021)

## The Reading Group reads

### Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones

A small island in the South Pacific is in revolt against the ruling nation. Most of the young men have joined the rebels in the jungle. This leaves a small village on the sea shore watched by gun boats, helicopters and visited at times by regular soldiers tracking down the rebels. The only white person remaining is Mr Watts who becomes the self-appointed teacher. The only text book is Dickens' *Great Expectations*. There follows a narrative which is engrossing, tender and beautiful with a lyrical quality to the writing, Idyllic? Not quite. There is rape and the cutting up of Mr Watts into small pieces which are fed to the pigs, And later the same fate awaits the god fearing mother of Matilda, a young girl, who is both the heroine and the narrator. Such is acceptance of the huge range of people that a defence can even be made for the officer who allowed the heinous crimes committed above.

Matilda after many years manages to escape and joins her father in Townsville, Australia. More is revealed about Mr Watts and Grace his wife. This is an unforgettable piece of writing. All readers had their individual take on this rich short novel which contributed something to everyone's understanding and appreciation.

The next reading club book is that classic *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen with its benign and benevolent squire, who was also a slave owner.



Hugh Laurie as Mr Watts in the film version

Snowdrops are out – which means Easter is on its way. This means that there will be temporary changes to the waste collection dates. As there will be no collection on Good Friday, all collections in the week beginning 29 March will be a day earlier than usual (if your collection is normally a Monday, it will be collected on the previous Saturday). There will also be no collection on Easter Monday, all collections in the week beginning 5 April will be a day later than usual.

And after Easter, it must be time for elections...

On Thursday 6 May we will be voting for our County Councillor, Police and Crime Commissioner and Mayor. Covid may bring additional challenges to attending the polling station, so you may want to arrange a postal or proxy vote. With a postal vote, the Council will post you your ballot with a pre-paid return envelope, you vote before election day, so that your ballot is delivered back to ECDC by polling day. With a proxy vote you nominate a trusted person to cast your vote for you at the polling station. You can get the forms to apply for postal or proxy votes on-line <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/elections-voting/ways-vote> or by email [Democratic.Services@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@eastcambs.gov.uk) or phone the Elections Office 01353 665555

The Finance and Assets Committee discussed the budget for 2021/22. Although the draft budget for next year is balanced, by drawing funds from reserves, by 2023/24 the Council will have a budget shortfall of £4.6 million on a total net expenditure of £12 million. The Finance Manager “strongly recommended that early consideration is made as to how savings in future years will be made.”

The Committee also approved the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). There were many comments from individuals and groups that felt that the SPD did not go far enough to counter climate change, with interesting and thoughtful contributions, and we hope that most of these suggestions can be incorporated into the new Local Plan. Unfortunately, an SPD cannot go beyond the provisions in the current Local Plan, but it does contain some useful guidance. We were disappointed that several large housing developers had sought to water down the proposals.

The Operational Services Committee renewed the grant to the Newmarket CAB, but for one year only. The paper presented to the Committee recommended that “Once the pandemic and its associated restrictions ease, the Council’s Housing and Community Advice service will seek to create a housing and advice hub in the New-



market area.” We are concerned by this because many people are more comfortable going to Citizens’ Advice than they are going to the Council, because they see Citizens’ Advice as independent. We therefore think the grant should be continued in future years.

Our next virtual District Councillors’ Surgery will be on Wednesday 24 March at 6.30pm, followed by meet your Councillors from 7.00pm. The Zoom meeting ID is 631 542 4066 and the passcode is 938720.

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## **News from Bottisham Medical Practice**

### **Patients’ Participation Group**

**Covid Vaccinations:** These are proceeding well, due to the hard work of the staff, who still have their usual patient care duties to do, and the volunteer marshals. We owe them all our thanks. It has been a major effort to organise finding and equipping suitable premises and getting the supply of the vaccines. GP practices are grouped into Primary Care Networks, with Bottisham being in the Cambridge North City along with another five practices including the East Barnwell Health Centre, hence using it as a vaccination site. *See further information in this edition of the magazine from the Practice Partners.*

Whether having had the vaccine or not we are still advised to follow government guidelines and remember hands, face, space.

The Practice gave a fond farewell to Dr Higham on 5 February, who has now retired after nearly 21 years here at the practice. He will be very much missed by both staff and patients. We would like to wish him well in his retirement.

We would like to welcome our two new GPs Dr Leveritt and Dr Kanagasabapathy to the practice.

**Dispensary:** Please remember the practice are still operating a 5 day turnaround for repeat medication to ensure safe working in the dispensary and manage increased demands.

**Flu vaccinations:** The practice is still encouraging patients to have flu vaccinations. If you have still not had one and are eligible, please do contact the practice to make an appointment.

**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](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com) who will send you a meeting invite.

***Bottisham Patients’ Participation Group.***

## Out on the Wildside: The tiny but mighty earth worm

Okay okay, I know they're not the prettiest creature I could have selected for my article, nor the most character full or loveable but they are without doubt one of the hardest working and most important species for taking care of our natural world. I give you the tiny but mighty earth worm! So why are they so impor-



tant? Well by their activity in the soil, earthworms offer many benefits: increased nutrient availability, better drainage, and a more stable soil structure, all of which help improve farm productivity. Worms feed on plant debris (dead roots, leaves, grasses, manure) and soil and a healthy garden should be full of these guys in your dirt. An unhealthy environment would be one with no worms! Worryingly studies have shown that us humans throwing plastic into the earth seems to be altering the very fabric of the soil and this seems to be killing off worms and other much needed insects and bugs.

Arguably without earthworms in our soils, life could vanish pretty quickly. We would have less food, more pollution, and more flooding. No matter how cute a panda looks, it is Darwin's "lowly" earthworms that are doing dirty, but crucial, work in the soil below. You can encourage your garden to have lots of worms by making sure you have real grass! None of that horrid fake stuff please, that helps nothing. Have plenty of plants as this will encourage a wide range of animals and insects to your little nature zone. Don't litter and if you are into planting and gardening then why not have a nice compost heap and lots of fresh soil around your plant beds. The worms will thank you for it!

They are really pretty amazing little things and so hard working sorting through all that soil. They can live for up to 8 years! And they grow sex organs within the first two or three months of life and reach full size in about a year. Earthworms are hermaphrodites which mean that each carries male and female sex organs. As invertebrates, they lack a true skeleton, but maintain their structure with fluid-filled coelom chambers that function as a hydrostatic skeleton. The typical length of an earth worm varies but it is usually around 10mm to 30mm long. And what about these for fun wormy facts: Worms breathe through their skin! There are approximately 2,700 different kinds of earthworms. Worms live where there is food, moisture, oxygen and a favorable temperature. If they don't have these things, they go somewhere else. And a study done discovered that in one acre of land, there can be more than a million earthworms. Now you can't tell me that isn't extremely impressive? So there you have the tiny but mighty earth worm! Certainly not a looker but boy we do not want to be without these little guys, our earth needs them and we need them!

*Saffra Monteiro*



## Could you make Friendship Calls?



[Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#) (AgeUKCAP) need [volunteers](#) to help with an increase in referrals of older people needing support to reduce loneliness and isolation.

Volunteers are needed to make a once a week friendship call to the same person they are 'matched' with.

Longer term there are also opportunities to make home visits and join the [Sharing Time](#) service. Also needed are volunteer shoppers, on an as and when required basis. All volunteers need to be reference and DBS checked. Please contact [volunteering@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageukcap.org.uk)

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## Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Another month crawls by – where is the tunnel ? Despite the continuing curtailing Covid constraints, life goes on for CFRS.

These days, CFRS is much more than just a 'fire brigade' – as a 'first responder' its remit has expanded to encompass all manner of personal and corporate emergencies. Crews are highly trained, not only in dealing with fires, cats in trees and cows in ditches, but with life-threatening personal situations. Any one of our marvellous emergency services could be first on the scene. However, I am concerned with the ability of CFRS to continue its work in and for our communities – this boils down to Leadership, Professionalism, Manning and Training. Of these, I would contend that Manning is the first step – all the others fall into line through motivation and commitment.



CFRS is looking to recruit new firefighters, both full time and 'on call' to continue the process of maintaining top flight teams of well trained and professional personnel across the County.

Why not **enquire now** to find out how to put your foot on the first rung of the ladder at the start of what could be a most rewarding career.

Go on ....Do It Now !

And whilst talking of 'now' – how about **testing those smoke alarms** – better safe than very sorry. The aftermath and consequences of a fire are devastating. To repeat what I said in the last issue; Safe and Well visits by CFRS are available – be confident that your home is safe and you are well protected.

*Michael White*

# **Notes from the Parish Council meeting**

## **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Mr David Greenfield chaired an online meeting through Zoom at which were present seven Parish Councillors and one member of the public. The meeting started at 7.32pm.

### **Reports**

East Cambs District Council – Cllr Charlotte Cane reported. A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting – see elsewhere in the Crier. Cllr Cane noted that the grant for the Citizen’s Advice Bureau in Newmarket for the next 12 months had been renewed, but that the intention was to eventually bring the work of the CAB ‘in house’. Cllr Cane expressed concerns that this would give rise to the perception of a lack of independence.

Cllr Cane noted that the ECDC budget would have a significant gap in three years time and that she was hoping that papers due to be made available soon would address this. ECDC had also been discussing various methods of parking enforcement, which are to be considered further by the Operational Services Committee.

Cllr Hart asked why ECDC support Newmarket CAB? Cllr Cane explained this was because residents of East Cambs make use of it.

### **Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)**

Re proposed development on the horse field. Cllr Latchford reported a parishioner asking if the PC had missed the opportunity to object to this proposed development 2 years earlier? Cllr Greenfield explained that when a new Plan was being produced two years ago, applications were invited from any stakeholders. 3 were proposed, one of which included the horse field. The PC were not able to object to the sites, only to any failure to follow legal procedure. The PC achieved several Tree Protection Orders on trees in the proposed site and objected where possible. When the Plan was withdrawn, all villages returned to the previous District Plan, so Swaffham Prior returned to a defined village envelope and infill only of up to 2 dwellings.

Cllr Greenfield noted that a letter of the PC’s objections to this application had been lodged with the Planning Department and a copy was available online. He also reported that Cllr Cane had said that if it seems likely to pass, she intended to call it in to the Planning Committee; Cllr Greenfield intended to attend and speak for the village at the review if necessary. Cllr Cane stated that she had spoken to the Planning Officer and at the moment he is minded to refuse and that at present the Highways Agency, the Tree Officer and others were not in favour either.

### **Correspondence for consideration/circulation:**

An email enquiry regarding making a section of village footpath wheelchair-friendly had been received. The PC were in favour of the idea.



### **Consideration of planning applications received:**

**21/00111/LBC Demolition of rear lean-to and shower room. Removal of 5 trees. Construction of a single storey rear extension with internal alterations, renovation and repair to the existing house.**

**Well House, 50 High Street, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD.**

It was agreed that the PC comment that they were concerned regarding the view and location of the solar panels and also that the materials used and the style of the extension were appropriate to the Grade 2 listed original building.

### **To decide the dates and times of the Annual Village Assembly and Annual General Meeting**

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

It was provisionally agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May – to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

### **To discuss the Village Hall requirements for a fire alarm system**

Cllr Durrant reported that the building work that took place at the Village Hall has highlighted the lack of a fire alarm system in the Village Hall. As the Village Hall Committee lease the building from the PC, it was agreed that the PC would pay for the installation of a fire alarm system. It was felt that expert advice was needed on what such a system should include, so Cllr Durrant agreed to contact the Cambs Fire Safety Department to arrange a survey, then collect quotes for a fire alarm system that will satisfy building regulations and protect the whole building. To be discussed further at the March PC meeting.

### **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk had contacted the Highways Agency regarding soil on the footpath of Mill Hill and the overgrowth of vegetation along School Lane. The Highways Agency had responded saying that the footpaths were on their list of tasks to do and that after inspecting School Lane, they consider the width of the footpath of over 2m means the hedging does not need cutting back, although householders are welcome to remove plant growth that could damage boundary walls.

A request to put up scaffolding in the playground in order to repair an adjacent roof and chimney had been received – it was decided that the Clerk should reply, stating that the scaffolding needs to be made inaccessible by children in the playground and have an exclusion zone around it to avoid the danger of falling objects.

### **Parish Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Gynn observed a substantial increase in dog fouling through the village – the Clerk to write to the Crier requesting owners pick up after their dogs.

### **Open Question Time**

Mr Limb asked that the PC check whose insurance covered the scaffolding in the playground.

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, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 starting at 7.30pm via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

***Jude Griffiths – Clerk to the Parish Council.***  
Tel 745 106. Email [swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com](mailto:swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com)

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**St Mary's Swaffham Prior**

## ***Lockdown News***



At the moment Sunday services remain online at 10.30am using Zoom. If you have a computer, tablet or smart phone we can provide help to set this up for you so please do be in touch. Please check the noticeboard or any of the links below for news of when Sunday services will be back in churches, which we hope will be before Easter.

From 4 March there will be a Holy Communion service in St James' Lode at 10.30am each Thursday.

Regular activities continue online:

- **Play & Praise** – Fortnightly on Fridays, 9.30am for toddlers and their carers: [suethovic@btinternet.com](mailto:suethovic@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

**Lent Worship** – each weekday in Lent, 7pm (this combines with the Lent Course – please email for information)

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](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk)

Keep in touch:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/angleseychurches](https://www.facebook.com/angleseychurches)

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

Website: [www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](http://www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk)

Email: [admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk)

Details of fundraising and social events to follow soon!

**Please note: new Village Pantry in each church** – following a grant from the Council and with the support of Open Door foodbank in Newmarket we have set up small emergency food banks in each of our five churches. Open Door has agreed that, as it is difficult to get to their depot by bus, local donations can now go to these local pantries, in order to better serve local need.

Please, if you are in need at all call in to one of the local churches and take what you require; St Mary's is open approx. 10am-5pm. If you are one of our regular donors, thank you for your generosity so far. We are assessing the local need and hope to be able to manage things so the church/s in the area/s where there is greatest need receive the most supplies. Please do be patient while we adjust supplies to suit requirements, and please do continue to give.

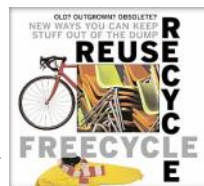
Please pass on this information to anyone who would find it useful. Thanks

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## **FREECYCLE**

Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail ([junthompson44@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Approx. 3 cubic feet of polystyrene beads suitable for filling bean bags etc. Sue 07941 871515

Nikon F50 35mm film camera, dedicated Cobra 700AF flash & Sigma 70-300 lens. Not used recently but should be OK. Laurence 07812 369546

Tesco home blender 150w new; Packable maroon jacket, breathable- size large; Black evening bag with a beaded design; Rainbow coloured large umbrella; Gents compact black umbrella with wooden hooked handle; Felt backed waterproof table protector - 82 cms + 107 cms. Contact Julie Sale, on behalf of Muriel 01223 811222.

Pine chest of drawers (H. 90cm x W. 90cm x D. 44cm; Three long drawers and two half width drawers. Ian & Mary 01223 811 255

Monstera (Swiss cheese) plants for collection only as I have no transport (sorry). Donations accepted for ATC. Theresa 01223 813222

### **Wanted:**

Your unwanted concert tickets, programmes, flyers, posters. Any condition, any era, any quantity. Paul 07932 666210

## Dates for Your Diary March 2021

Mon	1	
Tue	2	St Mary's Coffee Morning, 10.30-11.30am (Every Tuesday [26])
Wed	3	Book Club, 6pm, Zoom [19]
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7:30pm, Zoom [24]
Sat	13	
Sun	14	Mothering Sunday [18]
Mon	22	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Wed	24	District Councillors Surgery, 6:30pm, Zoom [20]

*Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article*

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS			2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Variable		
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	Kent House
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall

**Mothering Sunday Quiz Answers** 1. (c) Simnel Cake 2. (c) God-dess Rhea 3. (a) Gin 4. (c) Calcutta 5. (c) 30 million 6. (b) 1903 7. (a) Nacre 8. (a) Anne Boleyn 9. (a) Carnations 10. (a) 1918