



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLV Number 11

November 2021



Editorial

Giant leap forward or just a costly White Elephant, the installation of the Village Heat Scheme is certainly a monumental upheaval for this village. We are indebted to Peter Rand who at the request of the Crier is making a blow by blow photographic record of the installation. We will be publishing some of his photos as we go along, and then a compendium for public record when the work is completed.

Meanwhile, things are proceeding much as usual. The ever-cheerful and obliging workmen are becoming very popular in the village as they contend with the daily setbacks the scheme is encountering. Not just the recalcitrant clunch, we hear that the diggers found “unexpected things” in Heath Road where there have been big delays, and to date have now counted two water mains, two electricity cables and a phone line which did not come off best in the encounter! An electricity line is a particularly expensive bag — a four figure sum to put right! Although current costs are billed else-where in this magazine as £12m, we heard £13m a week ago, and this rocketing rise is hardly surprising, it is indeed a very difficult job (See our reprint from the Cambridge Independent on page 8).

Mike Carrington reminds us about the Queen’s Green Canopy in this edition (see Letters). We have a dim recollection that there something published in this magazine a time ago about this, but we can’t find it in our archives., so over to you, Village Hall!

Do read our reprint of a John Norris article on the restoration of St Cyriac’s - perhaps some people thought *that* was a monumental waste of money at the time?

And don’t forget to tell your neighbours if you’re planning fireworks on bonfire night (see PC Notes).

Caroline Matheson



Cover Picture: Sunset on High Street by Annie Neild

Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Bon Mot	26
Julie’s Recipe’s	11
SP Photo Album	12
Wicken Fen	13
Book Club	14
Mothers’ Union	16
WI	16
Village Gardeners	17
Cllrs Cane & Trapp	18
Bottisham Patients	19
On the Wildside	20
CROSSWORD	22
East Anglian Air Ambulance	25
Freecycle	30
PC Report	26
Church Services	31
Diary & Clubs	32

News, Views & Reviews

Heating Scheme	8,15,21
Shaggy Ink cap	30
Neighbourhood Police	24

What’s On

Saving the best till last	6
Queen’s Green Canopy	2,7

Donations

Prior Arts Group	10
------------------	----



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

At the close of play...

At the deadline for applications to join the Heating Scheme:

Estimated cost: Twelve million pounds and rising

Total people signed up: Ten

Steve Kent-Phillips

Dear Editors,

Cemetery Grants of Exclusive Rights

The Parish Council are in the process of up-dating records for the owners of Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial in the cemetery. These grants last for 100 years, so as you can imagine, some of the contact details are very out of date. The owners of a grant are able to request use of the grave and addition of, repairs to or replacement of grave markers; they are also the point of contact if any problem occurs, so it is important that the details held are up-to-date. If you think you or a member of your family have a grant that is still running and would like to check that the contact details are correct, please contact the clerk at swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com or 01638 745 106.

Jude Griffiths

Clerk to the Parish Council

Dear Editors,

QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who came to our quiz, it was lovely to see all. After the last eighteen months or more it seemed as though things might be getting back to some sort of normality.

We would like to thank the ladies in the kitchen, Shirley, Sheila, Tracy and Elaine, also thank you to Andrew who was our quiz master once again. Where were the jokes Andrew? To April for organising the raffle plus everyone for the donation of prizes, we really do appreciate you all for your help every year.

Congratulations to Denza who were our winners and Odds and Sods who were very close runners up, better luck next time. We haven't got a date for the next quiz but it will be in March sometime, keep a lookout for it in the Crier. We raised £260 for St. Mary's Church so thank you all very much. We hope to see everyone next year, keeping fingers crossed that things will still be all ok for a get together.

Lynne and Jenny

Eds note: We enjoyed it too even if we didn't do all that well this time. The James Bond marathon was part of our downfall!

Dear Editors,

Green Canopy Scheme and Queen's Jubilee

I wondered if anyone had sent you anything about the Green Canopy scheme? As we are now in tree-planting season, it might be an idea to advertise it.

Also, do you know if anyone is planning anything for the Queen's Jubilee, as we thought the Village Hall might do something?

Mike Carrington (Booking Clerk, Village Hall)

See page 7. No, we haven't heard from anybody yet, so over to you Village Hall!
Eds

Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

Once again the time has come to remind anyone who considers themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant.

The majority of our applicants come from our pensioners, in particular those who have to manage on the state pension. If however you are in particular need or know of someone who may be in difficulty but are unlikely to apply on their own behalf, the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me or to any Trustee and may I stress that assistance is available at all times not only at Christmas.

Mrs Pam Walters

Clerk to the Trustees

31 Tothill Rd, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JX

Tel: 01638 741035



**Heating Scheme
trench rounds the
corner from the
High Street into
Cage Hill. Things
are progressing
despite a number
of setbacks.**

From our Reporter

There can only be one subject of interest this month for the village and this must be COP26. Whoopie!! Swaffham Prior is going to feature and our own Josh will be representing us. We must hope he does the honourable thing and makes his report to this “pioneering” village at an open meeting. He is bound to get a full house as he tells us whether he met the Queen, or even the Pope, let alone Boris. This must have been a great opportunity for him to have had some useful networking. Also he can tell us how his scheme was received.



Meantime after all the twisting and turning of the last four years the Heating Agreement at the beginning of October was at last made available. What a document it is. 34 portrait pages containing two pages each, making 68 pages to read carefully. On line 4 of the very first page we are advised in highlighted capital letters **“THESE WORKS MAY IMPACT THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME OR ON YOUR ABILITY TO SELL IT.”** *That is hardly very reassuring.*

The Heating Agreement was at last made available.....68 pages to read carefully

We are not helped by being urged one line later **“PLEASE SEEK LEGAL ADVICE.”** The first response is *“Why?”* **Is this such a dodgy agreement?** Why would any firm/organisation urge one to take such extreme precautions? If this does not make you run you now have to settle down to read all the 68 pages extremely carefully. Enjoy! I have only selected two points of interest though I know that some people have others.

Firstly there are the four clauses dealing with **“Termination by Us not Your Fault.”** -

23.5.6. We serve twenty-four (24) 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.”

23.5.7. Circumstances as set out in paragraph 25,4 mean that We cannot provide the Heat Supply under this Contract. In this situation We will give You fourteen (14) days’ notice before We end this Contract. *(I leave the reader to look up paragraph 25,4.)*

23.5.8. Our right to use Our System and make the Heat Supply available to Your Property ends, is no longer compliant with law or is terminated. *(???)*

23.5.9. We serve written notice on You that the Scheme is no longer/not viable or is not (in Our opinion) to continue (e.g. because of lack of sign ups) on a date which is prior to the installation of Heat Supply Asset at You Property. *(Ah! At least they have a get out clause – thereby perhaps saving a few million).*

(I assure you that I have carefully and accurately reproduced the wording of the Agreement.)

The prize part of this Agreement is “APPENDIX 2 PAYMENT PROVISIONS.”

The “Standing Charge Rate” I think I can follow. But the “Variable Charge Rate” indexation Formula is a real challenge. Perhaps I am just getting too old. This formula is:-

$$((A+B \times C) \times D + ((F \text{ divided by } G \times C) \times E)$$

To help you each letter has an explanation.

A = the outturn of the Variable Index for the most recent (i.e. immediately previous) October.

B = the outturn of the Variable index for the most recent but one (i.e. the immediately previous but one) October (or January 2021 if later).

And so it goes on for each letter up to G. Have fun with this formula.

Meantime, referring back to the now £10million and rising costs, we would still like to know where the extra millions are coming from. The Government and CCC are probably only stumping up a third. Not Chinese money surely? What sort of company would invest so much in this unproven scheme? Do they also have a get out clause. We need to know, We must be told, At the public meeting Josh will reveal all, we hope. Maybe ECDC is chipping in as Josh had some financial clout with that Council also. Perhaps Charlotte Cane will enlighten us.

Now that ECDC has been introduced, the recent Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) has issued its Annual Report for Cambridgeshire. It makes interesting reading about ECDC. I quote:- “We continue to be very concerned by the District’s perceived misuse of the Rural Exception site rules and its branding of developments containing a majority of open-market housing as Community Land Trusts (CLTs) and ‘community led developments.’” It seems that “Most of these developments are being carried out by the East Cambs Trading Company Ltd (ECTCL). If you remember, ECTCL is the private company which failed to repay ECDC the original loan yet successfully secured from ECDC an extra £5million loan to help out over its current difficulties. Kennett are up in arms about a 500-home CLT project, as also are Wilburton and Little Thetford.

Do people know that all CLT projects are now proposed and controlled by ECTCL using the trading name Palace Green Homes (PGH)? Perhaps Charlotte and our own planning regulation impresario David could look into it.

We do have have some good news to end with. As we all know the BBC has been getting a battering for not being woke or sufficiently diverse, and with insufficient regional accents etc. etc. Under pressure the BBC has now made intimacy co-ordinators mandatory for all its television programmes. One co-ordinator was Ita O’Brien. She said “You don’t ever want pubic bone bashing on pubic bone. So we are using techniques about understanding energy through the body. You’re looking at lifting a thigh, pulling a hip in towards a thigh, having a rhythm.” She does excitingly go on a little bit more about this.

Alastair Everitt

SAVING THE BEST TILL ... *LAST*

at Swaffham Prior v.h.

Saturday November 13th 2- 4.00 p.m.

Artist's final years are often blessed with a startling intensity. They appear to transcend their own historical moment.

As they decline in years, their art appears to revitalise. There is a radical new dimension, a departure that is surprising and often out of character.

In his late work, Rembrandt paints hands as if they were beacons of human feeling.



There is early Turner, and then there is late Turner !



The exuberant simplicity of Matisse's last decade is just extraordinary.

Artists include Michelangelo, Titian, Rembrandt, Turner, Matisse, Picasso and Hockney.

If there was ever a time to push their imagination to its limits, it was now. The troubles of old age is known to many of us as they were to our artists – Rembrandt's bankruptcy and loss of loved ones, Turner's self induced cataracts and gloomy disposition and Matisse's lifesaving surgery. These life events fired their creativity !

After all, what did they have to lose, when the end is nigh ? Every day counts !

This theme offers us a chance to reflect as we approach the end of another, life altering year !!

FEE: £ 32 Enrol no later than October 25th Based on a minimum of 12 enrolments



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

The [Queen's Green Canopy](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org) (<http://www.queensgreencanopy.org>) will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built.

This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

Get involved

Whether you're joining neighbours or a community group, or planting as a school or organisation, every tree makes a difference.

Any trees planted from October 2021 to the end of the jubilee year in 2022 can be part of the QGC. Tree planting season is October to March – this is when roots are dormant and new trees will have the best chance of flourishing. Why not use the summer months to plan your planting and arrange a day of celebration?

Before you apply you'll need to:

- Know the six digit grid reference for the land you wish to plant using the [grid reference finder](http://gridreferencefinder.com/) at <http://gridreferencefinder.com/>
- Have permission from the legal landowner
- Read through our short list of [FAQs](#). They are packed full of important and useful information which will help your application.
- It's also a good idea to contact your local council's tree enquiries team before you apply, as they may have important guidance for planting in your area.
- Please note we are currently taking applications for March delivery.

Join The Queen's Green Canopy!

Request a free tree pack for your school or community group.

Just 10 homes sign for £12m Swaffham Prior “Green” Heat Pump Scheme

Reprinted with kind permission from the Cambridge Independent

An eco heating scheme designed to take a Cambridgeshire village off oil burning will cost £12 million and only has ten houses signed up to the project so far.

The Swaffham Prior Heating scheme is a county council flagship project to show how rural villages with no gas supply can move from burning oil to renewable methods. They have designed a community heat project to be run by a ground source heat pump which has the potential to be linked to homes in the village and celebrated it last week with an e-bike ride to Swaffham Prior.

However, residents have raised concerns about the scheme, which they say is not suitable for many of the houses in the village due to their construction, and because the contract says the scheme can be closed down if it is “not viable”.

With the council admitting only ten homes out of 300 in the village have signed up so far, many are asking if the scheme will be closed down, leaving residents without any source of heating.

Meanwhile, digging to lay pipes on the high street has already begun.

Sheryl French, who is running the project for Cambridgeshire County Council said:

“We have sent out, I think, the first 30 heat supply agreements and we’ve had 10 signed ones back so far.

And so over time there is a five-year plan here, that our engineers’ home surveys will result in supply agreements, which will then go out to people for signature.”



Celebrating E-bikers arriving
in the High Street

However after October it will cost £1,000 for residents to sign up, rising to £2,000 in coming years. And, a village meeting heard on Friday (October 22), many of the 90 people who have had surveys have not yet received a contract.

One person who had a survey in the summer was not even on the list to be sent a contract.. At the meeting, residents asked why the contracts sent out say the scheme can be closed with two years' notice if it is deemed "unviable".

They also wanted to know what level of take-up would make the scheme viable – but the meeting holders did not know.

However, Sheryl French said: "Success would be to get 50 per cent of the village signed up. There are approximately 298 houses in the village."

Resident Steve Kent Philips is anxious about that point. He said: "They could just give notice and stop the scheme, potentially leaving people without heating." He also questions how many of the village's houses could be retrofitted with the heating system. He warns that many homes are post-war concrete houses that cannot be insulated, so would not be suitable for this type of heating. Furthermore, other houses in the village have no wet central heating system or radiators; they are heated by electricity.

He said: "They seem to have no idea how many houses are on electric, so all of the carbon savings are completely pie in the sky. There are also many Grade II listed houses on the high street that have no foundations because they are built on chalk." These old houses are built from clunch (chalk) and timber frames and some date back to the 17th century.

Mr Kent Philips said: "They have to bash through the chalk to dig their trenches. My windows were rattling when they dug outside my home. Goodness knows what it will do to these Grade II listed buildings." He added that the money spent was too much: "They could have just given everybody who wants one an individual air source heat pump at a cost of £5,000 each. "Anecdotally I know lots of people only signed up for surveys because they thought they would get fibre broadband with the scheme. But that isn't happening."

The heat network will be run on a ground source heat pump, which extracts heat from the ground through 130 boreholes drilled in a nearby field to a depth of 200 metres. Water circulated in pipes in the holes extracts heat from the ground. A network of insulated pipes will carry fluid residents' homes where a heat interface unit installed will convert the heat to supply hot water and feed radiators. This will replace current oil boilers.

In a letter to the village magazine, the Swaffham Crier, resident Peter Hart wrote the scheme was "a shameful waste", adding: "The balance of the money already raised for the scheme, and not yet used, should be applied to install high temperature air source heat pumps in all the village properties that want it and to install as many solar panels as can aesthetically be accommodated.

That would mean the original aim of the scheme of contributing to Cambridgeshire's reduction in CO2 footprint would have been met and would leave the village warm and unscathed."

Sheryl French defended the scheme, which she admits will cost the county coun-

cil £9m and has been given £3m of government grants. She said: “Costs will come down. When you’re the first to do anything, everything costs more because you don’t know the risks. So people cost in higher prices. When you’re trying to design it you go through a number of different design iterations, because you don’t quite know what you’re designing. So, there is always a higher cost for the first.”

On concerns about potential damage to clunch homes with no foundations, she said: “We’ve gone past a whole number of old homes and nothing has been disturbed. Pinnacle Power has been drilling the heat network through the streets and has been checking what the vibrations are to ensure that they are not going to create any problems to these old homes.” She added the heat network would tackle fuel poverty because there would be no upfront costs for joining the scheme, although this may change at the end of October. She said: “Anybody, independent of your wealth, can access renewable heat. That’s a really important point that we’re keen to communicate, because otherwise you’re saying the wealthy can change, but the rest of you can keep on oil and the rising oil prices are going to push people into poverty. So it’s a really critical issue for us.”

Lib Dem county councillor Lorna Dupree, who attended an e-bike ride from Cambridge to Swaffham Prior to celebrate the scheme last Thursday, said:

“It’s really an incredible groundbreaking scheme and is the only one of its type in the UK, I understand. It’s just really transformational, because it takes a community of up to 300 people off oil if they wish to be part of it onto renewable energy without the kind of upfront costs that you would have associated with putting in your own air source heat pump.

So it’s addressing renewable energy, the environmental investment needed to address climate change, and it’s also addressing fuel poverty as well and enabling everyone to participate.

“There are 10,000 households in Cambridgeshire that are on oil and need to come off oil if we are to meet our climate targets. The main thing is it has a really enthusiastic community that dreamed up this scheme, who decided they wanted to do this for their village. And that’s really important to have a scheme that’s totally rooted in the community.”

Eds’ note: All comment from residents here are as from private individuals. The PC is officially neutral (as is the Crier), and has definitely NOT supported nor endorsed the project.

Donations!

Many thanks to the Prior Arts Group for their very kind donation to the *Crier* this month.

Julie's Recipes

Bean and vegetable chilli

3 tbsp olive oil	300g sweet red pepper sauce
2 tsp caster sugar	300ml vegetable stock
2 onions, chopped	410g can chickpeas, drained and
250g chestnut mushrooms, sliced	rinsed
2 garlic cloves, sliced	410g can black eye beans, drained
2 tsp chilli powder	and rinsed
1 tbsp ground coriander	Boiled rice or crusty bread to serve

1. Heat the oil in a saucepan and fry the onions and sugar on a high heat until brown, add the mushrooms, garlic and spices and fry for 2-3 minutes.
2. Stir in the red pepper sauce, stock. Chickpeas and beans and bring to a boil.
3. Reduce the heat, gently simmer for 20 minutes, add a little extra stock if the mixture is too thick, season and serve with rice or crusty bread.

Pumpkin and apple curry

1 tbsp vegetable oil	2 tsp turmeric
1 onion, chopped	2.5cm fresh ginger root, chopped
3 garlic cloves, chopped	2 bay leaves
500g pumpkin, peeled, seeded and cubed	2 tsp curry paste
800g baking potatoes, cubed	1 vegetable stock cube
1 medium cooking apple, peeled, cored and diced	50g raisins
	4 tbsp fromage frais, to serve
	Boiled rice to serve

1. Heat the oil in a pan, add the onion and fry for a few minutes until brown. Then add the garlic, pumpkin, potato and apple, stir in the spices, ginger, bay leaves and curry paste.
2. Add 500ml of water, the stock cube, raisins and plenty of seasoning. Bring to the boil, stir and reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15 mins, stirring occasionally until the vegetables are tender.
3. Serve with rice and top with fromage frais.

Swaffham Prior Village Photo Albums

The Reach Road, Lower End

A photograph by Thomas Cooper, early 1900s



This is a village view that hasn't changed much in more than a hundred years. Today the road to Reach still takes the same route out of the village past most of these very same buildings. Since Thomas Cooper took this photograph, only the cottages at the bottom of Rogers Road have gone.

On the left, a group of ladies and children pose outside what is now known as Yule House. It was once Stinson's hardware shop, selling paraffin and making deliveries in the area with a horse drawn van. It later became Munden's butcher's shop and Jack Hurrell ran his business here before he opened the family butcher's shop opposite St Mary's church in Burwell. In about 1963 Munden's closed and it became a carpet shop before conversion to the private home it is today.

Beyond Yule House we can see the gable end of Blackfriars, once 3 small cottages, now made into one dwelling. The brick house opposite is still there, now numbered 48. The cottages next to 48 would have originally been thatched but this was replaced with corrugated iron, being cheaper to maintain, until they were demolished, perhaps in the 1960s. Now, marking the spot where the cottages once stood, is the bus stop and, lately, the big blue Highways length restriction sign which first arrived in Swaffham Prior earlier this year – at the bottom of Cage Hill !

Celia Tyler

References:

Cambridgeshire Collection, Local Studies Library - free public access
Two Churches Together, a History of Swaffham Prior by Sylvie Short, 2013
The Changing Face of Swaffham Prior, by Swaffham Prior villagers, 1988

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Autumn walks



Autumn sees the return of migrant birds to the fen such as wigeon, redwing and fieldfare and the first hen harriers have also been spotted. The wetter areas of the reserve attract wildfowl in large numbers over the colder months too; often 5000 or more birds.

If you enjoy the walk past Baker's Fen hide along Harrison's Drove towards Wicken Lode, it's starting to get muddy so wellies are a good idea. It's worth stopping off at Bakers' Fen hide as the views of the open water are well worth seeing, and it's also a quiet and tranquil place to pause for a few moments of reflection.

Footprints project latest

We're looking forward to starting some more new activities as part of our community engagement project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. In November we will be training our new community archaeology volunteers ready to support local people to get involved with fieldwalking on 20th/21st November. It will be interesting to see what evidence we can find of those whose footprints crossed the land in the past. We hope to connect people with the heritage of this landscape.

We're also going to be planting just over 1000 trees at Oily Hall and White Fen in the wider reserve between 27 and 29 November. The planting is to enhance the community woodland as part of our Footprints project, and to plant blossom trees as part of the National Trust's Blossom Together project. Both areas should provide not only new habitats for wildlife, but also places for people to enjoy walks and picnics, whether on foot or as a stop off along the Lodes Way cycle route.

We will be inviting local communities to come along and join in, so keep the

dates in mind and an eye on our website and social media channels for more details.

Father Christmas at the Fen

We're pleased to announce that Father Christmas has made time in his busy schedule to visit us at the Fen! Join the elves to make a decoration, and to collect a Christmas craft pack for taking home, before popping into Fen Cottage where Father Christmas will be warming his toes by the fire. He will have a present for you too of course! On the 4th and 5th December, it will be Mother Christmas who is visiting the Fen this year, sharing the workload as the man himself is pretty busy. For more details and to book, go to our website.

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

The Reading Group Reads...

Anna of Five Towns

By Arnold Bennett

This is a story about life in the potteries. It contrasts the devastation and powerful demands of the coal and iron industries with the “undismayed and enduring fortitude” of the people. This was all set against the prevailing Methodism, pride and respectability of the area.

Anna is the daughter of Ephraim Tellwright, twice a widower, rich, surly and very miserly, who treats his two daughters as the “natural victims of their master” – “it came to him like eating.” But not everyone was like that and he was indeed an exception. Also the twenty year old Anne was a fine, handsome, balanced girl and her twelve year old step-sister Agnes was an absolute free spirited delight. One might have called her a “honey” not so long ago. Both trembled before the autocratic whims of their father.

Henry Mynors, a fine attractive 30 year old member of society and entrepreneur, obviously going far, was the catch of the area and the ambition of all the right families. He begins to pay attention to Anna, daughter of the rich miser but a little below his class, and local wisdom concluded “Money’ll do owt.” On Anna’s twenty first birthday Ephraim passes to Anna an unexpected inheritance from her grandmother, and suddenly she is rich. Mynors is also surprised, but delighted. Her father continues to manage her affairs as she has no previous experience.

One of her properties includes the rather rundown earthenware factory of Titus Price, an important Methodist member, and his son Willie Price. Ephraim is insisting on his pound of flesh for unpaid rent from Titus, and Willie often visits the Tellwright household hoping to intercede and to plead for more time. The unfortunate



result is that Titus steals from Chapel funds to pay the rent, then commits suicide, followed by Willie's own disgrace, and exit to Australia.

Meantime Anna had been warmed by Willie's good nature and innocence, felt extremely guilty about the suicide and disgrace, and in the last short chapter, when she said farewell, "their eyes met ... and it was revealed that they were lovers". Something she had never felt for Mynors. But, she had promised to marry Mynors, and so she did, and she became a good dutiful wife. "She had sucked in with her mother's milk the profound truth that a woman's life is always a renunciation, greater or less."

The discussion opened with someone saying how much they had enjoyed the book twenty years ago, but now hated it because of the outrageous misogyny. Awareness and Wokeness has arrived. Not everyone agreed. Though life was hard and restricted in the Potteries, not everyone was like Ephraim who remarkably had fathered and brought up two lovely girls, especially the irrepressibly buoyant Agnes. Also there is the bountiful Mrs Sutton, spreading happiness and joy wherever she went. And the amazing revivalist Mr Banks. The description of his revivalist meeting was so accurate.

The result was an interesting discussion which concluded with that almost timeless question. Should Anna, now very wealthy, have gone with the person she loved to Australia. Or should she take the safer route, have children, become an important person in society, do good works and lead a safe respectable life. Ought her heart have ruled her head? The general view appeared to be "that one must be sensible and practical." There were not many Cathy Earnshaws present that evening.

Next month we are reading *QUARTET IN AUTUMN* by Barbara Pym.

Alastair Everitt



**Modern-day
Steam Roller
poised to roll
more tarmac in
Tothill Road.
Tarmac rolling
will only take
place fortnightly
now.**

Mothers' Union



At our September meeting, Richard Ayres gave us a colourful slide show and talk on the gardens at Kirtling, and his time working there. Covering the initial planting of bulbs and plants to their full bloom and maturity. He also very kindly played the organ for our hymn during the service.

Our short programme for 2021 will continue as follows;

Thursday 18th November – Speaker: Jean Webb, MU Faith in Action Coordinator: Updates on new and on-going projects, including the Christmas Wish List.

Thursday 9th December – Christmas Carols and Mince Pies
(Please note a week earlier than usual)

You are most welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langran 812797



The Swaffhams' WI

We had a fascinating and very informative talk from Judith Large, a volunteer at the Hedgehog Hospital, which is part of the Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity.

Hedgehogs are on the red list - an endangered species, so whatever we can do to help them is very worthwhile: provide the most environmentally friendly gardens, give them supplementary food and water and always seek advice, (DIY hedgehog first aid is generally not a good idea), - from a vet or the hospital, if you find one injured or one looking 'not quite right', wandering around in the day time. (An exception to this, we were told, could be a purposeful mother hedgehog, taking a short break from a nest full of very demanding hoglets!)

So - don't keep every bit of your garden pristine, make sure that they can get from garden to garden, a 5"x5" square cut in a fence is sufficient, as they need to roam- up to 2 miles each night, make /buy a hedgehog house, stuff it with dry bedding - leaves, straw or hay and put it in a quiet corner. At Shepreth there is a waiting list for houses, made out of recycled pallets - we were shown one and I have to say it was pretty impressive. Use garden pesticides as little possible especially slug pellets, which are eaten by slugs and ingested by hedgehogs, giving them disgusting gut



worms. If you have a pond then put in a ramp so they can climb out and leave out food for them- dried kitten biscuits, or wet cat or dog food and water.

The hospital is purely a recuperative and treatment centre, for animals mostly brought in by the general public - the hope being of course they can be returned to the wild. Vets can of course anaesthetise and operate on those animals needing surgery, after which they go to Shepreth.

HEDGEHOG HELPLINE: 07947 361187

Our next meeting is on November 15th, when Malcolm Busby, a story teller, will be our speaker. All welcome.

Margaret Joyce



VILLAGE GARDENERS

After a long break, the Village Gardeners were able to meet up again in the Village Hall. Following a very brief AGM we had an interesting and informative talk entitled Getting to Grips with Pruning by a local expert, Nigel Start. He gave us a wealth of information.

Plants never stop growing but can be reduced by humans, climate, surrounding plants, animals and insects. The main objective of pruning is to control the size and shape of a plant. It is important to remove dead and diseased wood.

Good tools are essential and that includes good quality secateurs, long handled loppers, pruning saw and a chainsaw. Plants require moisture, air and light and the general rule is to prune **after** flowering. Vigorous plants like buddleia can be cut by a third in autumn and then very short in the spring.

Evergreens can be pruned generally in months beginning with an A, April and August. They should be pruned after flowering and avoid cutting into old wood. Fruits in the plum family can be pruned in August/ September, once the fruit has been picked. Roses can be pruned very hard, 2"-3" inches from the ground and if they are healthy they will recover. Fruit trees and bushes require early training to acquire the desired shape. Vines are pruned in the new year. Spurs on fruit trees should be thinned. Red/blackcurrants can be pruned by a third after the fruit has finished. In fact it's easier to cut the branches with the fruit still on as it makes it much easier to pick! Raspberry canes can be cut down to the ground when finished fruiting.

There were many questions afterwards and we had all learnt a lot from this very informative talk.

Our next meeting is on 16th November when Andrew Sankey will be giving a talk on the Gardens of William Morris at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

Red/blackcurrants can be pruned by a third after the fruit has finished— it's easier to cut the branches with the fruit still on as it makes it much easier to pick!

Ruth Scovil

At September's meeting of the Operational Services Committee one of the items on the agenda was a proposal for enforcement of car parking violations in the District. At the meeting it was announced that that item would be deferred for consideration by Full Council in October.

Operational Services Committee also approved the outdoor sports facilities and playing fields strategy which includes the aims of "securing provision, improvement and maintenance of outdoor sport and playing pitches across the district". This was in the same month that consultation closed on the Council's plans to demolish the Outdoor Activities centre at Mepal and replace it with a crematorium and burial site even though the Council's own consultation showed that most residents don't support the proposal.



The Committee heard a presentation from Newmarket Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) in which it was noted that requests for advice had increased, notably for advice around benefits and tax credits, debts, employment and relationships. That audits of the services and governance of Newmarket CAB had rated it as good. East Cambs funds the Newmarket CAB funded CAWS for around £23k per year.

Finance & Assets Committee considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy Update. This assumes that Council tax will rise by £5 (for a Band 4, and in proportion for other Bands) each year from 2022 and that inflation will be 2% (although the Bank of England is predicting 4%) and still notes that in order to set a legal budget for 2022/23 East Cambs will need to deliver:

- Efficiencies in the cost of service delivery
- Reductions in service levels
- Increased income from fees and charges
- Increased commercialisation via its trading companies

One of the cost reductions which we fear the Aministration may impose is the grant to Newmarket CAB, putting its services to local residents at risk, and thereby removing an independent advice service.

To give you some idea of the comparative savings required: the planned increase in Council Tax is about 3.5%, and the ECDC income from Council Tax is about £4.5 million; interestingly, the Parish precept is just over half of the income that ECDC receives in Council Tax (and the Council receives other taxes and grants, so the income from Council Tax is about a third of its total income); the savings required in three years' time is almost £4 million.

Our next Councillors' Surgery and meet your Councillors will be on Wednesday 1 December 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

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Covid Booster Jabs: These are being arranged nationally and you will receive an invitation letter when yours is due. You will need to book an appointment either via 119 or on line for a local site such as the Grafton Centre or Chesterton Bowls Club. Do not ring the surgery for an appointment.

Calls into the practice: The practice has seen a significant increase to the number of calls being received in practice. On Monday 11 October the practice received over 1,100 calls. The usual call rate for a Monday is approx. 350. This means 1/6th of the practices' patients tried to call in one day.

In order to ensure that the practice's clinical team can continue to offer safe and timely care to all patients in the face of this unprecedented demand, please consider whether an appointment is necessary, or if one of the services below may be more appropriate.

Pharmacies can provide over the counter medications for hay fever, insect bites, colds, sore throats and much more along with general advice for minor ailments.

The Minor Injuries Unit in Ely is available if you think you need an x-ray or have minor cuts and bruises which need dressing.

Please contact your local dentist in relation to dental issues, we cannot prescribe medications for dental problems.

Patients are also able to refer themselves to Physiotherapy Services and to the Psychological Wellbeing service without seeing a GP – details available on the surgery website bottishammedicalpractice@ .

111 are available for general advice and will guide you to the right service if you're unsure where you need to go.

Please note the practice is offering pre-bookable appointments for routine appointments with on the day appointments now only for acute and emergency care.

The practice has seen an increase in aggressive behaviour towards staff. This will not be tolerated under any circumstances. All staff are doing their very best to help all patients who make contact with the practice.

Next meeting: If you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. Next regular meeting November 24th at 2pm.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

On the Wildside

Quack goes the duck! By Saffra Monteiro



I think it's easy to take our wildlife for granted! Especially when you see them all the time like the humble duck swimming along the river. So I thought we could take a moment to remind ourselves just how awesome the quacking ducks in the fens are. The Mallard or wild duck as they are also known is the species of duck we most commonly see on our waterways in England. The males are unmistakable, with a glossy bottle-green head and a white collar that demarcates the head from the purple-tinged brown breast, grey-brown wings, and a pale grey belly. The female mallard is predominantly mottled, with each individual feather showing sharp contrast from buff to very dark brown, a coloration shared by most female dabbling ducks. The female lays eight to 13 creamy white spotless eggs in the nesting season. Incubation takes 27 to 28 days and fledging takes 50 to 60 days. The ducklings are fully capable of swimming as soon as they hatch.

Unlike most of the animals we look at-The mallard is considered to be a species of least concern by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. And Unlike many waterfowl, mallards are considered an invasive species in some regions. It is a very adaptable species, being able to live and even thrive in urban areas which may have supported more localized, sensitive species of waterfowl before development. However despite this, I feel they are very much part of our country side view and it just wouldn't be the same without the ducks on the river pond.

In terms of predators- In addition to human hunting, mallards of all ages (but especially young ones) and in all locations must contend with a wide diversity of predators including owls, snakes and large fish but the most prolific natural predators of adult mallards are foxes (which most often pick off brooding females) and the faster or larger birds of prey, e.g. peregrine falcons will also take ducks.

Mallards have had a long relationship with humans. Almost all domestic duck breeds derive from the mallard, with the exception of a few Muscovy breeds. They were first domesticated in Southeast Asia at least 4,000 years ago, during the Neolithic Age, and were also farmed by the Romans in Europe, and the Malays in Asia. As the domestic duck and the mallard are the same species as each other, It is common for mallards to mate with domestic ducks and produce hybrid offspring that are fully fertile.

And now for some quick fun facts: Ducks are mostly aquatic birds living in both fresh water and sea water and found on every continent except for Antarctica. A male duck is called a drake, a female duck a hen, and a baby duck a duckling. A common urban legend is that a ducks quack does not echo. This has however, been proven to be false. Ducks have featured as popular cartoon characters over the years, such as Walt Disney's Donald Duck and Warner Brothers, Daffy Duck. Mallard ducks live 5 to 10 years in the wild and 8+ years in captivity.

So there you have the duck! Or as I like to put it as I walk past the river... QUACK goes the duck! Enjoy them and let's not take any bit of our wildlife for granted.

Saffra Monteiro



**Moving the
fencing in Adam's
Road**

Crossword Number 189

Compiled by **BYWELL**

Clues with * have no definition, but answers are associated with a revolutionary figure. Send your answers to the editors by 18th November 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.

1		2		3		4			5	6		7		8
								9						
10						11								
12										13				
	14							15				16		
17														
18						19		20						
														21
22		23				24								
25										26				
27							28							

Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Across

- 1 Clash when push comes to shove?
The opposite! (3-2-3)
- 5 In a bad way, hence safety first on
Tyrolean slopes (6)
- 10 A bit less than wary (3,2)
- 11 Local transport operations by
foreigners as navigator grows old (9)
- 12 Smooth ale, if badly served, can be
disgusting (9)
- 13 Submission found in ledger (5)
- 14 Sloppy kiss swallows very loud
floaters (6)
- 15 Nothingness right after chewing
tahini (4,3)
- 18 Briefly dressed for summer weather -
not quite (2,5)
- 20 Before admitting poet is dulled by
exhaustion (6)
- 22 Let loose in auntie's housing (5)
- 24 Unbounded, Yvonne hides freely
somewhere in Brabant (9)
- 25 Biscuit regurgitated into air bag lid (9)
- 26 Bird's part in Allegretto (5)
- 27 A place for oases in Ankara hasn't
gone westward (6)
- 28 Counts copper as covering three
points, then three more (8)
- 4 Television personalities, Carson
particularly hot in the middle (7)
- 6 *Charité is cobbled together, as
could these be (9,6)
- 7 See 20
- 8 Those who try to put points before
speakers (8)
- 9 Missing muscles - an area of
medicine (6)
- 16 Ant bears drivers on highway
competing with ships (9)
- 17 Uncovers the fourth buried in form
of sludge (8)
- 19 I escape from foolish liberty more
than once (6)
- 20/7 *Fibre with nothing artificial (7,5)
- 21 Joins college, fails to finish exam (6)
- 23 *Light from semiconductor chip (5)

Solution to crossword no. 188

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

Down

- 1 Re-motivating us. Let's fight! (6)
- 2 *Unfinished skewy fugal
arrangement (3,6)
- 3 *Strong presentation of Nth B-movie
offer (5,2,8)

We congratulate Dainon O'Dowd, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Robert Nunn, Sue Richards, Lesley Daly and Trish Whitehead.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER SPEEDS TEAM



About the team

- We are funded by the OPCC.
- Formed of officers from the Cambridgeshire Special Constabulary.
- Cover North and South of the county.
- Part of the Vision Zero partnership, working alongside other emergency services and agencies.
- Aim to have zero road fatalities on Cambridgeshire's roads by 2040.

What we do

- We identify areas which are deemed high risk or speeding hotspots and target them.
- Use both education and enforcement for drivers.
- Take information from local CSW groups and MVAS signs which provide data.
- Mostly focus on speeding issues, but also target ASB driving, drink driving and other driving offences.
- Conduct operations in hotspot areas.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Reduce the number of road fatalities to zero by 2040.
- Target ASB driving.
- Educate and enforce drivers on road offences.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Please send all MVAS data to:

speedwatch@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Please have the heading showing the area which it is in.

Example – Burwell MVAS Data 10/09

Any other enquiries, please use the online reporting tool at:

[Vehicle related reporting](#)

VISIONZERO
PARTNERSHIP
Delivering Safer Roads for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

BON MOT NUMBER 122

“The British people have always been generous to refugees. This is a source of great national pride and will never change.

Priti Patel (1972 –)

East Anglian Air Ambulance

East Anglian Air Ambulance continues to see an incredible response to appeals and raffles, from our ever-supportive East Anglian community – Thank You one and all.

An important contribution to these results has been the time and effort put in by volunteers across all four counties.

Despite the privations imposed to counter Covid-19, careful management of finances has enabled EAAA to continue normal operations. Also, and significantly, we have the facility and confidence to press on with 24/7 HEMS despite the challenging environment that is facing all charities.



Helicopters - To remind you, EAAA operates two highly capable H145 helicopters out of Cambridge and Norwich bases. These helicopters enable a multi-pilot operation with the capacity to carry a doctor, a CCP, and an observer when required. This crew constitution still affords a payload of 250kgs with a flight time endurance of two hours and, importantly, the ability to reach anywhere in the region within 25 minutes.

Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs) – These are used when it is quicker to travel to the patient by road or when a helicopter is unavailable due to servicing, bad weather, etc. Each RRV carries the same complement of crew and equipment affording an alternative way of getting to patients.

Crew – Our doctors are specialists in pre-hospital emergency medicine and are often consultants in anaesthesia or trauma. CCPs are from the East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST) and have received additional training in pre-hospital care. Babcock Mission Critical Services provide our highly skilled pilots, who not only deliver our crews safely to the patient but also provide extra manpower, communication, security and next event planning at scene.

However, looking forward, we are still in uncertain times financially as our ability to fundraise in traditional ways continues to be extremely unpredictable and challenging. Also, we cannot rely upon ongoing cost savings in areas such as our lottery and events. The pandemic has effectively deprived us of over a year of growth in income versus expenditure – and,

mindful of this, it is incumbent upon us all to redouble our efforts to raise funds to ensure the continuation of the Life Saving work that East Anglian Air Ambulance, our Air Ambulance, performs, through collection boxes, events, legacies and our lottery.

To participate in the **EAAA Winter Raffle 2021**, please go to – **eaaa.raffleentry.org.uk** – for your chance to win £5,000 or £1,000, £500, £250(2) or one of ten £50 prizes. Remember, no direct regular government funding is received so, taking part in our Winter Raffle is a wonderful way to help EAAA save more lives. Thank you.

Michael White

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 14th October 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Swaffham Prior Village Hall committee room.

Cllr Covill chaired a meeting at which 6 parish councillors and 2 members of the public were present.

Reports

ECDC – Cllr Charlotte Cane emphasised the concern of herself and Cllr John Trapp regarding the future of the Newmarket Citizen’s Advice Bureau and its potential replacement by a ECDC bus that travels around the villages – she mentioned being unconvinced that the bus could provide all the services that the CAB can. Cllr Cane also noted the need for £4 million worth of savings required in three years time, which must necessitate increased charges and cuts to services.

Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Report left by Cllr Greenfield. - the modification needed for the distance element of the sign (1.5 miles changed to 1 mile) has been done and the works to relocate the sign was scheduled for 14th October (it was confirmed that this has been done). Also, the PC website has been updated to provide the relevant form and correspondence details for anyone wanting/needing a temporary exemption from the Traffic Restriction Order.

Cllr Latchford had circulated a suggested amendment to the Garden Allotment Plot regulations regarding hosepipe use. He had also contacted Wave to confirm that the PC does not pay for sewerage, only for water used.

To discuss the addition of a third metered tap by the Garden Allotment Plots to supply the horses.

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that the horse owner had offered to pay for a tap from the Garden Allotment Plot tap into the next field, with a proper attachment, with a meter. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted concern that it may set a precedent as what was originally a tap for filling vases at the cemetery, now had a second tap to the Garden Allotment Plots and a third tap proposed for the horse field. Cllr Kent-Phillips had documented repeated use of a bleeding hosepipe by a named renter from the cemetery tap. Cllr Latchford suggested further clauses to the Garden Allotment Plot regulations as necessary, e.g. a temporary clause giving permission to the horse owner to use the GAP tap only, accounted and paid for separately.

The Clerk is to check the rules on the CAPALC Allotment course in November, contact the horse owner explaining that the PC will formalise the funded use of the cemetery tap to give her official permission but feel that supplying another tap is not necessary.

Garden Allotment Plot regulations are to be discussed further at the December meeting, after the Clerk has completed the relevant CAPALC course.

To discuss the need for repairs to ttrack from Greenhead Road to the cemetery

Cllr Camps noted that potholes were forming at the Greenhead Road end of Coopers Lane. The PC decided to return to the issue in the Spring.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk had contacted Inspector Shane Fasey regarding anti-social behaviour in the village as requested. A link to a website for reporting such behaviour had been forwarded to the Crier and put onto the local Facebook page.

The GAP renters had been contacted regarding a voluntary contribution towards the high water costs. Two had agreed to donate. One had questioned where the water was going as 'a cool year and blight meant that not much water was used'.

The Clerk had working on contacting owners of active grants for grave plots with 25 years or less to go. There are 151 such grants, many with minimal address details.

The Clerk questioned whether it was worth writing to such addresses, for example, multiple people whose address was High Street, Swaffham Prior. Clerk to circulate owners names and addresses to PC in confidence to try to identify potential contacts and contact the Crier asking potential owners to get in touch.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Greenfield had left a report that was read out by the Clerk. Highways had confirmed that all routine maintenance on the B1102 between Cage Hill and Rogers Road has been suspended until the Heat Project is finished. Replacing/repair of bollards on B1102 should be completed by the end of the first week of November.

Cllr Greenfield noted that black bag distribution should take place before the end of October

Cllr Latchford noted that many parishioners had been asking for an update on what was happening with the heating scheme. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the permissions for road closures had been extended to April. Digging through clunch has

proved difficult and the cost of digging work has risen to £10 million. Cllr Kent-Phillips stated that none had signed up yet, that the fibreoptic cables were not going in, that 100 surveys had been undertaken with a deadline at the end of the month.

Cllr Covill noted four fly-tipping events in the fen, all reported.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that a large firework display is due to take place on 6th November at Burwell Cricket Club; the B1102 is likely to be busy at the time. Clerk to write to the Crier asking that people are made aware if fireworks displays are going ahead, to minimise distress to pets

Clerk to order a wreath for November.

Open Question Time

A member of the public pointed out the Garden Allotment Plots are different from allotments, the land they are on is on loan from the cemetery.

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, 11th November 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

PS. Please would people let their neighbours and fellow villagers know if they intend to let off fireworks. It would let owners of nervous pets to be prepared. Thanks on behalf of the Parish Council.

John Norris Remembers:

St Cyriacs' Building

(written in late 1980s)

The church of St Cyriac's was a complete mess in 1958 when I first saw it. The walls were covered in ivy, which had established itself in the walls and formed a green sheath over most of the building. The roots had been cut off many times but this plant makes others where the moisture is, so it survived by water from the brickwork and even the gutters.

Many of the parapet stones had been dislodged by the frosts and indeed three had fallen to the floor. The window mullions, or frames for the glazing, were in very bad condition, being either rotten or had fallen out, and there was not a sign of any glass.

The inside of the building looked like a demolition job. The ceiling had fallen down in many places, leaving heaps of plaster on the floor. The rafters had rotted away due to the bad design of the roof gutters and hung down in a very dangerous manner. Round the walls on the inside of the church were the remains of the box pews. Most of them still in tact, with their doors and seats still in place. The walls inside these box pews were covered with a red and black tapestry which had remained in very good condition considering the openness to the weather.

About this time, Mr Hewitt had replaced the clock face with new figures, which were to last some thirty years, having been renewed again last year. The bells were rung on special occasions and were operational. Both these village facilities were looked after by Mr Sheldrick as they are today. Fifty steps every day to wind the clock and fifty steps back down again, quite a record I should think. We owe him a hearty vote of thanks for this devotion to his task.

In 1958 the village church in Reach was struck by lightning, and quite severe damage was caused to the fabric. During the restoration, whilst the builders were there, it was thought appropriate to build a lobby by the main door to retain some heat in the winter and to move the organ pipes from

John Norris was a prolific contributor to this magazine during his lifetime under the title *John Norris Remembers*, and here we reproduce an article about the restoration of St Cyriac's church.

the little instrument near the chancel to a platform on top of this new addition. What should they use to make this lobby? What about the old box pews from the old church in Swaffham Prior.

So it was that demolition started once again. Saturdays were the days when the pews were taken away to be used in Reach and the rest of the week the place was a playground for youngsters. They did a splendid job, for it was not long before the floors were disturbed, the graffiti appeared on the walls and even more plaster fell from the ceiling.

This state of affairs continued until 1972, when the Redundant Churches Commission was asked to take over the responsibility of this building as our Parochial Council could not afford any repairs after all the work on St Mary's. After all the necessary enquiries had been made, the Commission accepted the responsibility and asked for an architect's report. This was duly prepared and after deliberations in London they considered the 1812 structure hardly worthy of restoration, especially as its condition was so bad.

The decision was made that the building should be reduced to the stone foundations and that the tower be made secure. We wrote expressing our dismay at this idea and suggested a visit by the Commissioners.

On seeing the church under consideration with another close by, they quickly changed their minds and obviously appreciated the damage the removal of one of the churches would cause. They did not appreciate from the architect's report that there were two churches.

The work was soon put in hand, the ivy stripped and the walls repaired. A new roof put on using reclaimed timber and slates. The mullions in the windows were originally made of oak, that being cheaper in 1812 than stone, the preferred material. Today however, stone is cheaper than oak so some of the windows have oak mullions, whilst others, which were beyond repair, are of stone.

The pews in the other church came from St Cyriac's, as did the pulpit. The font was taken to Reach at some time and is one of the nicest pieces in that church.

In recent times the Commission have placed an altar and an organ in the building and our local charities have provided tables and chairs so that the building can be useful, but it is still a church so any function held there must be appropriate. We all ought to be grateful that this restoration has taken place and treat the building with the respect it deserves.

John Norris

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:

3 drawer pedestal (1 filing, 2 smaller drawers for stationary) cabinet for under a desk. Jane 01223 811592

Baby buggy. Relatively lightweight and in very good condition. Complete, with rain canopy. Anne 01223 813963

Spherical Pendant Lamp, 35cm. Unique and striking design. Brand new. (Assembled but never installed). Please google 'Ikea PS 2014' for details. Anne 01223 813963

A double futon mattress. Lucy 07776292746
900 x 900 white stone shower tray (barely used). David 07708 851958

TP Explorer metal children's climbing frame. Slide with extender, jungle run, and fabric playhouse. Good used condition - plenty of life left in it. Collection only from Lower End. Call Annie on 07783 645573.

Wanted:

Dog crate, medium size, metal. folding, Robin, 01223 811632

Demijohns, glass, for home wine making, Robin, 01223 811632

Stairgate, to stop dog going out of front door., Robin 01223 811632

Armchair suitable for elderly (i.e. higher seat level and not too soft). Jun 01223 813362



**Shaggy Inkcaps
growing by the
side of the Lode
on White Fen**

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Wednesday 3 November

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

Sunday 7 November – Third Sunday before Advent; Red/Green

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

Sunday 14 November – Remembrance Sunday; Red/Green

9am Online service on Zoom
10.50am RBL Service, Bottisham
Remembrance Service, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 21 November – Christ the King; Red/White

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

Sunday 28 November - Advent Sunday; Purple

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Prior
6pm Advent by Candlelight, Swaffham Bulbeck

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Subject to current Covid restrictions

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

Dates for Your Diary November 2021

Tue	9	Book Club, Catie Whiteley's, 6pm [14]
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	13	Saving the best till last, VH, 2-4pm [6]
Mon	15	WI, 7.30pm, VH [16]
Tue	16	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [17]
Thu	18	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, venue to be confirmed [16] Crier Crossword deadline [22]
Tue	23	Crier Copy Deadline
Dec		
Wed	1	ECDC Councillors' Surgery, 6:30pm, Zoom [19]
Sat/ Sun	4,5	Mother Christmas at the Fen [14]

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