



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLV Number 10

October 2021



Editorial

This week, I travelled from Swaffham Prior to Quay at the stately speed of 55 mph and no-one attached themselves to my back bumper. Then I got to the A14, where I thought 60 mph would do the job, and strangely few motorists hurtled past me. It's the petrol crisis of course. I've been trying to drive at 55 mpg rather than a barely legal mph, and it looks like so has everyone-else too. Every cloud has a silver lining, and garages round here have been really friendly and helpful when rung and asked about petrol supplies, so fingers crossed, on to the next crisis now.

The village heat network installation is well underway, and you can read all about progress in Roadwork News (p. 5-6). Last week I met the very friendly gang of workers (are they all from Ireland?) trying to replace one of the huge tyres of their big digger where I learnt that a major problem has not only been the clunch, but the electricity supply cables which are very old, very, very brittle and very close to the surface. Also, that the cost of the project has now risen from 9 to 10 million (and counting!)

Don't miss our Centre Spread of the huge Great Eastern Steam Train that used to hurtle through the



gap in the Dyke where now we aimlessly wander in search of wild - f l o w e r s a n d

butterflies— imagine that great monster suddenly bearing down on us!

Don't forget Halloween this month! Snake Hall Farm are doing a Ghost Walk, and we will as usual be stocked up with the very best, most tasteless sweets that money can buy. We probably won't run to pumpkins, but we will put a lighted candle in the window, and we suggest you do the same if you too welcome trick and treaters. See you next month, next crisis...

Caroline Matheson

Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Julie's Recipes	10
On the Wild side	12
Eastr Anglian Air Ambulance	13
CROSSWORD	14
SP Photo Albums	16-17
Reading Group	18
Swaffham WI	21
Mothers' Union	21
CLIs Can & Trapp	22
Wicken Fen	24
Bon Mot	25
PC Notes	27
BVC Courses	28
FreeCycle	29
Church Services	31
Diary & Clubs	32

News, Views & Reviews

Roadwork News	5,23
Heating SP	6-8
Autism Consultation	8
Anyone for Bridge?	20
Beer Shortage	29

What's On

Quiz Night	7
Saving the Best till Last	30

Cover Picture: *St Cyriac's* by **Tegan Jepson**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

QUIZ NIGHT

Hello everyone, it's certainly has been a long time since our last quiz, two years in fact. Jenny and I hope you all got through the last eighteen months alright. For those who were affected by or who knew anyone who had Covid, we hope that you all are well now. It certainly has been a strange eighteen months so why not come and have some fun and join us on Saturday the 16th October at 7.30 for our quiz night in the village hall. We hope to see you there and it's the start of getting the quiz back again twice a year.

Lynne and Jenny

Dear Editors,

Snakehall Ghost Walk

We are pleased to say that The Prospects Trust will be hosting our Spooky Snakehall Ghost Walk around our organic farm site on 30th October. I hope you maybe able to promote this event locally as it's a fundraiser for our charity and the revenue we make from ticket sales and raffle tickets benefits all of our Co-workers, people with additional needs, who work and grow with us.

Maz Baker

See their poster on Page 11. Eds

Dear Editors,

Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour

I've been asked to send the link below for reporting (as a random example) drug use/dealing at the bus stop or riding of motorbikes in a dangerous manner through the village. Reports can be anonymous.

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/Neighbourhood-Policing/East-Cambs#concern>

Jude Griffiths
Clerk to the Parish Council

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Friday 24th September, 2021

You have all helped to raise the astounding amount of £1,050! That is incredible and I am so grateful to everyone who came, baked, bought and donated so we could achieve such a wonderful total. Thank you ALL very much for your support. We had lots of delicious cakes that people had made and which others were tempted to buy! Those who couldn't come on the day were kind enough to make donations. The number of baubles on the cake was 495, guessed by Shirley Wilkinson.

It was such a treat this year to return to our usual format for the Coffee Morning instead of only six people in each garden and nobody allowed to socialise inside! The result was that everyone mixed, had lots of time to chat and meet new people. It was a lovely atmosphere and felt more normal. We did have most of the windows open so we were trying to follow COVID precautions. However, in spite of the weather being warm and sunny, nobody wanted to sit outside!

As ever I couldn't have done all of the coffee morning without the excellent assistance of Margaret Joyce on the cake stall, Robin on the tombola and our, niece Yvonne who works for Macmillan, persuading you all to guess the number of baubles on the cake!

So a massive THANK YOU to each and everyone of you for spending so much money and raising such a huge sum. Macmillan Cancer Support will be so very grateful.

See you again next year on Friday 30th September - same time, same place!

Ruth Scovil



From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Great News! I didn't see the programme but I gather that BBC *Look East* has revealed that our local Ground Source Heating Scheme is to feature in the forthcoming COP26 conference. And our very own Josh Schumann, head of this CCC project, will be making the presentation. Swaffham Prior will now be attracting the attention of the whole world. If Josh wants to run through his presentation with our PC they may be able to make one or two helpful suggestions.



I thought I was doing “my bit” by using an electricity company providing 100% renewable electricity. What a con...

The Road Works continue. At the time of writing I am not sure whether anyone has yet been able to sign the agreement. People in favour appear to be divided into two main groups. Those with a bob-or-two, and storage space, are opting to keep their oil tanks and boilers – just in case. After all it is free to try out the new system. If the heat is inadequate, or the system is cancelled with one year's notice, they can easily reconnect the old system. They will have done “their bit” to save the planet. Those who are less flush, and with no

storage space, may have a more difficult decision to make.

I also thought I was doing “my bit” by using an electricity company providing 100% renewable electricity. **What a con.** In fact they are just purchasing ultra-cheap certificates that allow them to market their electricity as green. In my case it is £1.49 per customer. They buy Regos (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) certificates guaranteeing green energy. Looks like someone has created a pretty profitable new venture. 2 million customers means £2.5 million per annum for someone to buy land and plant some trees and print masses of Regos. Is this how it works? Does anyone know? Sounds a bit like Walker flogging clothing coupons in *Dad's Army*.

As far as our own scheme is concerned the latest news I have is that 100 people have had surveys, so the scheme is well on its way to reaching the 160 signings it requires. Just sixty to go – if all the 100 do sign up.

I have never shared the angst which so many feel about the new traffic sign at the bottom of Cage Hill. I also don't know the details of the concerns raised by George Hurrell but those have now been resolved. Meantime it seems our local hero Josh has been instrumental in enabling David to discuss the situation with the reluctant CCC Highways. The outcome is that the sign will be relocated to the bottom of Rogers Road. I suppose overlarge lorries will now need to turn up Rogers Road rather Cage Hill. This move means that the question of the ownership of the Cage Hill Green can go to sleep again.

Dissension at the allotments is in the news again. It is 8 or 9 years since the last allotment kerfuffle when allotments appeared on almost every PC agenda for four years. The PC had to put in an enormous amount of time and effort to try to sort out

the problem. Such was the bad feeling it resulted in that famous punch up in the *Red Lion*.

This time it concerns the water supply which is shared by the GAP (Garden Allotments Plot) renters and the horses owner. The allotment/horses tap/meter is over by the far hedge and not to be confused with the cemetery tap. To try to resolve any discord Steve for a fortnight measured the average amount of water used by the horses each week. This comes to 1400 litres leaving the GAP people using 1800 litres a week. The horses owner pays £10 per week. At present the GAP people pay nothing. It was proposed that the Clerk “politely” asks all the GAP renters for a voluntary £25 donation.

This seems a good deal. After all not all allotments allow hose pipes. One GAP renter even has an underground watering system. A member of the public had noticed and reported a hose pipe attached to the cemetery tap (not the one specified for GAP/horses, though on the same meter), and this hosepipe had been left “unmonitored”. It seems this is not unusual. Paul will look into a “no unattended hose pipe” clause in thr GAP agreement.

While this was going on it seems some GAP people resented the horses so much that they cut the horses hose pipe in half and also cut of the electricity supply for the electric fence. Can such nastiness exist. **Who would do something like that?** Here is what appears to be an idyllic village scene. Allotments next to a trio of lovely horses, all in the shadow of thr village church. Quite a pastoral scene. The allotment holders pay a tiny rent, get their water free, and are allowed to use hose pipes. We are told that Knitting can calm people. Maybe the GAP agreement should include a clause saying that GAP users should do three hours of knitting each week. Would that help?

Alastair Everitt

ROAD WORK NEWS

Digging the 20 yard trench down Station Road took an astonishing amount of time. Some recalculated the schedule and extended it to June 2022. But there is no need to worry. The problem was simple. The Survey had indicated “chalk”. The actuality was “clunch” with the result that a shovel on a digger was broken and the extra time taken.

So we can all relax. The only recent event is the accidental cut of an electricity cable which deprived ten houses of their favourite TV programme – but only for a bit.

(If anyone has interesting news about the Road Work please do let the Editors know)



Heating Swaffham Prior

October Project Update

Now is the time to get involved in the Swaffham Prior Heat Network:

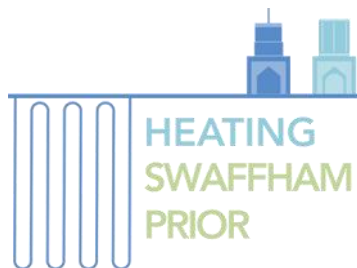
- Book an engineer's survey now so you don't miss the £0 connection fee deadline on 31st October.
- If you had an online or household survey in 2019 will still need a visit from an engineer to get a Heat Supply Agreement and sign-up to the project. If you haven't had an engineer's visit this Summer, please get in contact with the team ASAP.
- Sanctuary Housing and the heat network project will start engagement with their tenants this month, watch out for upcoming events and letters with further information.
- Over 30 Heat Supply Agreements have now been issued to households that have had surveys, keep watch on emails for yours!
- Construction work overall is progressing well, there were some delays in starting various road sections, but work in all three locations is now moving smoothly.
- The energy centre planning amendment has been submitted, and old barn demolished. The works site is now taking shape and activity here is picking up.
- ITV Anglia News and Cambridge News have recently featured the project, as an affordable alternative that avoids issues associated with the current gas crisis.
- Finally, the Swaffham Prior heat network will feature as a case study project for Cambridgeshire and the country at COP26. The COP26 conference will take place 29th October – 12th November in Glasgow.

Events

- Heat Supply Agreement Q&A sessions, bookable via www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk/signup/
- Sanctuary Housing tenant Q&A sessions, information to be issued by post

Contact Us

If you have any further questions about the project or would like to book a survey. Please contact us via info@heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk or 0345 0455210



And from Our Reporter...

Heating Scheme News

The Emma Fletcher and Mike Barker publicity machine has whirled into action again.

On Sunday 19th September *CambridgeshireLive*
had the following headline

SWAFFHAM PRIOR: How one Cambridge village is revolutionising its heating system

This was an interview with Emma and Mike by Lottie Limb

On Monday 20th September *Cambridge News* reprinted
the article with the front page filled with a picture of
Emma, Mike and the project manager of Pinnacle.

The headline of the article reproduced inside was:

Village is set to be the UK's most eco-friendly

Lottie: "More than half the village's 300 properties are set to be connected ... from March next year" (*Really?!!*)

Mike Barker: "Nobody really likes oil, it's messy and smelly, and you have a really big tank in your garden." (*Advice – If this annoys Mike then check and service the boiler and tank*) "While for others, having a system where the price is guaranteed has been a big selling point." (*The price is linked to the price of oil for four years and then it will be linked to the price of electricity. People are equally concerned that at any time the plug can be pulled on the whole scheme with a year's notice. Its future is not guaranteed*)

Lottie: "The next step is handing out supply agreements for people to sign. It's the first in England, so Mr Barker and Mrs Fletcher are having to write the terms and conditions themselves." (*The whole of this interview suggests that everything has been, and is down to the efforts of only Emma and Mike. There is no acknowledgement of the CCC team, or Janet Hall who appears to have worked her socks off talking to villagers and honestly answering questions when able. Surely CCC have a legal team looking at the agreement. How has the School been able to sign up without an agreement? It never goes amiss to acknowledge the help of others. To be fair, Emma and Mike did initiate the project and set it up when they first approached the PC in October 2016.*)

It would not have happened without them)

Emma: “It’s taken a lot of resilience and a lot of ploughing through the daily grind on the project, which will see the next communities behind us just whipping through.” *(Surely the one lesson to learn from this project is that it has not been easy. Why would other villages be easier? Will all other villages receive £9million? What are the CCCs plans and costings for other villages? What is the long term plan – if any?)*

Further information provided in a box on the side: “The £9million construction costs are being met with grants from the government BEIS, Cambridge County Council, and other partners.” *(How much is BEIS paying, how much is CCC contributing, and who are the other partners, and how much are they paying? We have a right to know, but may not be told. As Emma made clear to George Lamberty at the Zoom meeting, the funding is of no concern to us because we are not being charged anything. So keep out of it. How George’s wrath descended upon her! A bit of transparency would not go amiss. Why hide information?)*

Alastair Everitt

Autism Consultation

Autism is part of the lives of many people in our area and can affect many aspects of life, from school to healthcare, to employment and social lives.

The national guidance “Implementing and Rewarding Lives” and “Think Autism” puts a statutory duty on local authorities and health services to have in place plans in relation to the provision of service for people with autism.

It states that local authorities and NHS bodies need to work in collaboration with local partners to take forward the key priorities in Think Autism.

This strategy for people with autism in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been brought together by children, young people, adults and family carers together with professionals from a wide range of local partners from across the region, to give an overview of joint ambitions and priorities. We want to take time now to ensure that this co-produced strategy meets the needs of all people with autism across our area and gain the views of local people on the principles and priorities identified.

For more information and details of how to share your views [visit our website](#).

This consultation runs from Tuesday 7 September 2021, until Tuesday 19 October 2021.

Communications and Engagement Team

Gemini House, Bartholomew's Walk, Cambridgeshire Business Park, Angel Drove, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4EA.

www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk
capccg.contact@nhs.net

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 16 October

Tickets £6 each. To book a table, contact



Jenny Brand
(01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand
(01638) 741960



Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses !!

Proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

JULIES RECIPES FOR OCTOBER

Halloween & Bonfire Night Double Sausage & Bean Casserole with cheese toasted crumbs

3 tbsp olive oil	400g can chopped tomatoes
8 pork sausages	2 x 400g cans of cannellini beans
100g cooking chorizo sliced	drained
1 large onion, finely chopped	50g crust- less white bread torn into
2 bay leaves	chunks
1 tbsp tomato puree	15g parmesan, finely grated
½ tsp light brown muscovado sugar	2 tbsp thyme leaves
1 tbsp red wine vinegar	

1.Heat the oven to 220c. Heat 1 tbsp in a frying pan and fry the sausages for 10 mins until brown, remove from the pan and then cook the chorizo for 3-4 mins. Add the onions and bay and cook for 5 mins until the onions are soft.

2.Stir in the tomato puree and scatter over the sugar. Turn up the heat and cook for another 2 mins until sticky and jammy, then splash in the vinegar and simmer for 1 min more. Tip in the tomatoes and beans and stir and bring to a simmer. Finally mix in the sausages and pour over any juices. Put into a oven proof dish and bake in the oven for 30 mins.

3. To make the crumbs. Tip the bread and parmesan into a food processor and blitz to a chunky texture, also adding half the thyme. Scatter the crumbs onto a baking tray drizzled with the remaining oil and bake until the crumbs are crisp and golden. When the casserole is ready then scatter over the top with the rest of the thyme. Serves 4-6

Chipotle Red Pepper Soup

4 red peppers, cut into small pieces	1 tsp ground coriander
1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for drizzling	1 tbsp chipotle paste
Butter for frying	350g ripe tomatoes, roughly chopped
2 large onions, finely chopped	400ml veg stock, 1 stock cube
3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced	1 tsp light brown muscovado sugar
1 tbsp smoked paprika	½ small bunch fresh basil

Heat the oven to 240c. Tip the peppers onto a baking tray, drizzle over the olive oil, season well and roast for 20 mins until tender and lightly charred.

Meanwhile melt a knob of butter into a pan and fry onions until soft and lightly caramelised. Add the garlic, spices and chipotle paste and fry for 2 mins until fragrant. Add the tomatoes, stock and sugar and the roasted peppers. Bring to the boil and simmer and cook for 10 mins.

Remove the pan from the heat, then blitz the soup using a hand blender, taste for seasoning and add more chipotle paste if you want more spice. Divide into bowls and scatter over some basil to serve.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

SPOOKY SNAKEHALL 21 SAT 30 OCTOBER 2021 HANDS OFF OUR GHOSTS

THE PROSPECTS TRUST'S FARM FRIGHT NIGHT IS BACK WITH A BANG

DARE YOU WALK OUR FIELDS IN THE DARK?

TIMED SLOTS 6:30 TO 9:30 PM

TICKETS £12.50 (£8 CO-WORKERS OR CONCESSIONS)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spooky-snakehall-farm-fright-night-2021-tickets-170123902171>



**THE PROSPECTS TRUST AT SNAKEHALL FARM
SWAFFHAM ROAD - REACH - CAMBRIDGE - CB25 0HZ
WWW.PROSPECTSTRUST.ORG.UK**

On the Wild Side

Like a Moth to a flame by Saffra Monteiro

I love moths! I know a lot of folk are either for moths or against- they get a lot of bad press with people saying their the ugly version of a butterfly or weird because they come out at night but personally, I think their even more beautiful then butterflies and deserve our love and respect.

The word "moth" may conjure up images of drab brown insects sticking to your screen door on a summer night. But there's much more to these mostly-nocturnal fliers than meets the eye. So let's get all you moth anti folk, pro moths! - Did you know there are over 180,000 different kinds and they can be found on every continent – except the Antarctic! Butterflies and moths are part of the same group of insects, known as 'Lepidoptera'. To tell them apart, butterflies fly in bright sunshine, while moths are most active at night. Moths Outnumber Butterflies by a 9 to 1 Ratio! We tend to think of moths as creatures of the



night, but this isn't always the case. Some moths are quite active during daylight hours. Moths evolved long before butterflies; moth fossils have been found that may be 190 million years old. While moths are notorious for eating clothing, most species do not, and some moth adults do not even eat at all. Some moths are farmed for their economic value. The most notable of these is the silkworm, the larva of the domesticated moth *Bombyx mori*. It is farmed for the silk with which it builds its cocoon. As of 2002, the silk industry produces more than 130 million kilograms of raw silk.

Moths have an amazing sense of smell and we don't often think of moths as pollinators, perhaps because we aren't outside in the dark watching them work. But While butterflies get all the credit, there are plenty of moths moving pollen from flower to flower. Some moths don't even have mouths! They emerge from their cocoons ready to mate, and content to die soon afterward. Since they won't be around for very long, they can get by on the energy they stored as caterpillars. If you don't plan on eating, there's really no point in developing a fully-functioning mouth. And did you know that months have some pretty cool ways of avoiding getting eaten- When everything in your world is intent on eating you, you've got to get a little creative to stay alive. Moths employ all kinds of interesting tricks to avoid predation. Some are masterful mimics, such as caterpillars that look like twigs and adult moths that blend in with tree bark. Others use "startle markings," like the underwing moths that flash brightly colored hindwings to distract pursuing predators. Tiger moths produce ultrasonic clicking sounds that confuse sonar-guided bats.

And I know your all asking the really important question- why are moths drawn to light? Or in the case of the old saying “like a moth to a flame?” well....insects are drawn to bright lights because they confuse the animals' navigational systems. It's a familiar sight, especially in the summertime: moths and other insects gathered around lights like lamps. Sadly, Often, creatures entrained in such a glow get eaten by predators or overheat.

So there you have it! The most splendid moth! Now who can so I've not managed to change your mind?

Saffra Monteiro

East Anglian Air Ambulance Ongoing Fund-Raising

Regular readers of this magazine will be well aware of the operation of East Anglian air Ambulance and its role in saving lives across the region, and sometimes beyond. In the last issue I reported on the 30th June landmark of achieving true 24/7 capability – by RRV and now, at last, by helicopter. A lot of people, not least of which our crews, support staff and you - our ‘on the ground’ supporters, have put a huge amount of effort into this. However, having now been operating at this level for three months the message remains the same – we need to encourage support wherever it can be found.

The Covid 19 pandemic has stretched our Nation's financial resources to an extent probably never before seen outside wartime – and now playing ‘catch-up’ ! EAAA too needs to replenish reserves through continuing to draw upon the generosity of everyone – individual and corporate.



Wherever you are employed, please ask the question – if we have a ‘charity fund’ please can we support EAAA through it ? And if you don't why not start one with us ?

On the personal front – please keep on dropping your small change into the Red Collection Boxes at lots of tills – if your shop does not have one ask for the retailers support, and please let me know. I'll do the rest.

Also if you are over 18, why not sign up to our Weekly Lottery – each ‘chance’ is just £1 per week.

An increasingly important ‘income stream’ is from ‘Gifts in Wills’. If your major benefactors are your family please seek their support in this endeavour but, whatever your circumstances, please include East Anglian Air Ambulance in your beneficiaries – please.

One last note – EAAA is always looking for new volunteers and now is a good time to become involved. To find out how you might help to make a difference please do contact – www.eaaa.org.uk/volunteer, or email info@eaaa.org.uk, or telephone 03450 669 999.

Together – We Save Lives.

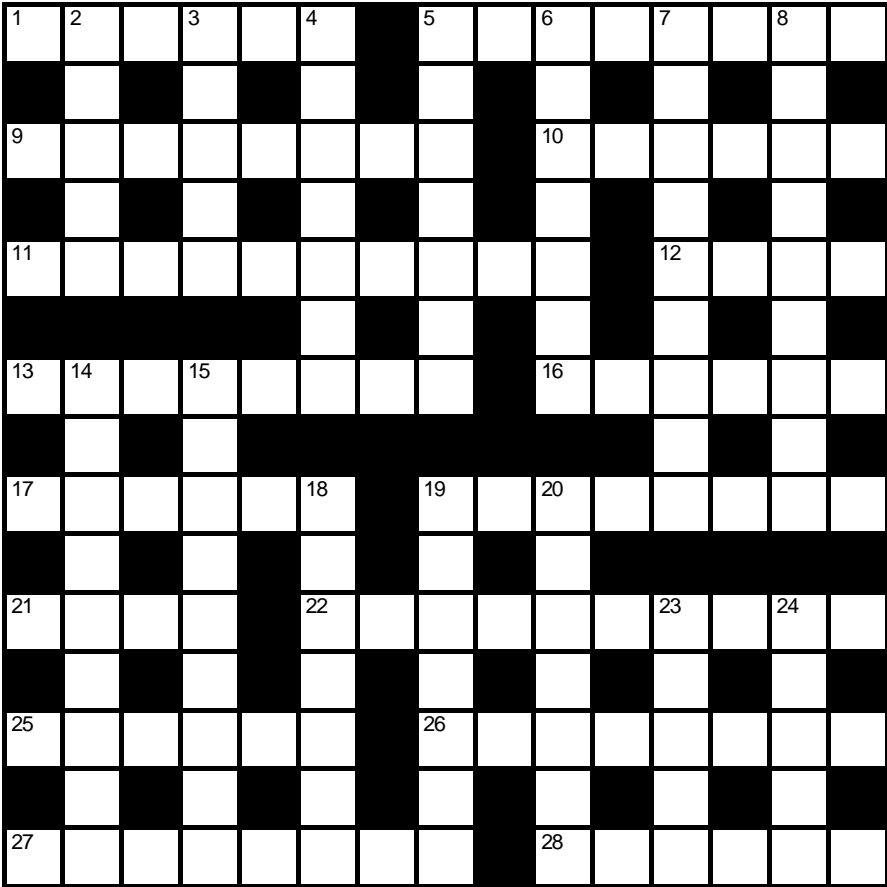
Michael White

Crossword Number 188

Compiled by **OUNCE**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th October 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 Scout about for building material (6)
- 5 Like Father, I'm leaving disrupted parliament (8)
- 9 TUC man is team leader following one in Paris with charged particle (8)
- 10 Salary starts in November; counting on money earned? (6)
- 11 Go against rules? No, never act badly! (10)
- 12 Water movement fastened we hear (4)
- 13 Minor wound for sailor when artist is back on (8)
- 16 Correspondence on lost semolina pudding (6)
- 17 Marched helter-skelter in Dorset (6)
- 19 Wood not returned as fish food (8)
- 21 Crooked grass (4)
- 22 Uneducated consul hoed ground (10)
- 25 Resulted when girl swallowed by last (6)
- 26 Teetotal king in tangled craft (8)
- 27 Sea creature or holy man in good light? (8)
- 28 Left back in charge of cancer say (6)
- 6 Many initially retire broken from this old ship? (7)
- 7 People follow this course (9)
- 8 Scaly creature is llama Dior designed (9)
- 14 Head under spread for type of squash (9)
- 15 Order gold button, right? Incorrect (5,4)
- 18 Key copper joins a party or country (7)
- 19 Quiet fool! B, for example, opens all locks (7)
- 20 Unbeliever hides in flat. He is taken out (7)
- 23 Surpass duck. Perform supporting posh cat's tail (5)
- 24 Boredom felt when car's stolen and insurance poor (5)

Down

- 2 Old pest returns to dance (5)
- 3 Appoint Tory leader to follow hen-house (2-3)
- 4 Maori soldier crumpled folded paper (7)
- 5 Hound's tooth say, found in cowpat tern flew over (7)

Solution to crossword no. 187

D	E	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T	S	T	O	R	E
I		I	O		I	E		I	R		N			
S	O	A	P	B	O	X		W	I	N	N	I	N	G
C	N	I		U		S		G	N		L			
O	N	I	O	N		P	E	P	E	R	O	N	I	
M		S	H			A			C		S			
B	O	T	T	O	M	S	U	P		S	L	O	S	H
O				O		U	E		H				L	
B	A	L	E	D		P	E	R	C	A	P	I	T	A
U		E				E			R		W		N	
L	I	V	E	W	I	R	E	S		P	R	O	N	G
A		E		R		B		T		N		J		U
T	O	R	N	A	D	O		A	M	E	R	I	C	A
E		E		T		W		I		S		M		G
D	U	T	C	H	E	L	M	D	I	S	E	A	S	E

We congratulate Sue Jackson, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Colin Dailly, Julian Luttrell, Robert Nunn, Dainin O'Dowd, Sue Richards and Trish Whitehead.

Swaffham Prior Vill
Great Eastern Li

Photographed by Thom



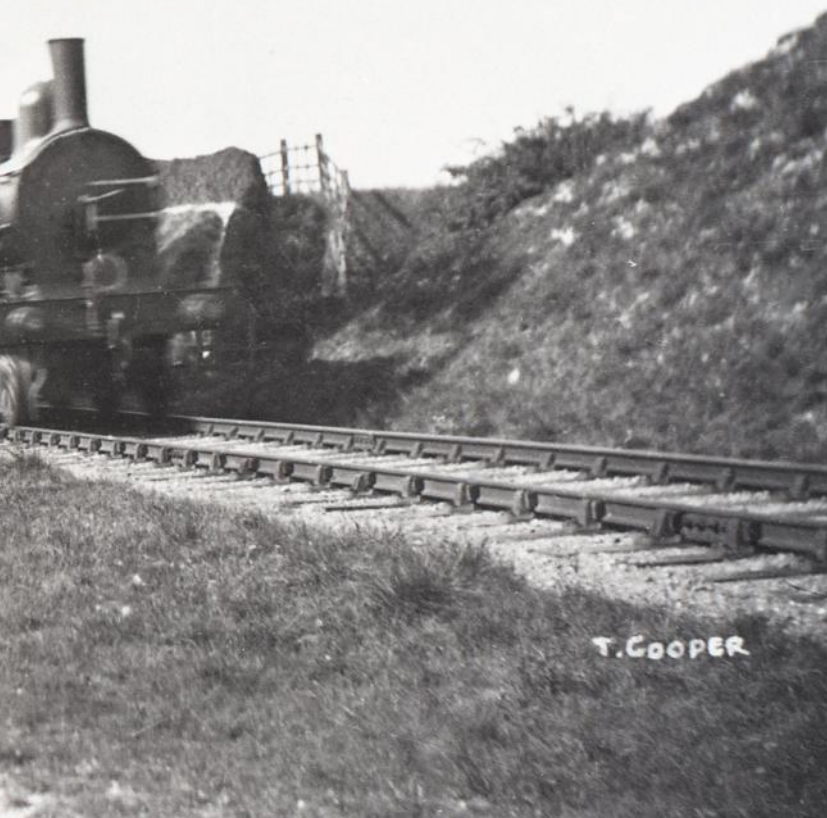
Until June 1964 passenger trains ran from Cambridge to Mildenhall, with stations at villages along the way including Swaffham Prior.

The line was built by the Great Eastern Railway and the first section from Barnwell Junction, Cambridge to Fordham was opened in 1884. The Fordham to Mildenhall section opened the following year. Thomas Cooper stood beside the track to capture this photograph of the train passing through the gap in the Devil's Dyke as it steamed along towards Burwell. You can just about see the road bridge to Reach behind the train.

The railway was closed under the Beeching cuts of the early 1960s and the rails, signals and signal boxes dismantled. The route of the old railway still survives in various locations not far from the village, and some sections

ine Steam Train

as Cooper, early 1900s



have become public footpaths: the section from the Reach road bridge to the Devil's Dyke shown here in Thomas Cooper's photograph; the old rail bridge (now almost overgrown with trees and shrubs) that crosses the Swaffham Bulbeck Lode downstream from Cow Bridge, near Commercial End; a stretch of the old cinder track that runs between Lode and Quay behind Anglesey Abbey.

CeliaTyler

References

Cambridgeshire Collection, Local Studies Library - free public access

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

http://www.disused-stations.org.uk/features/mildenhall_branch

The Reading Group Reads...

REDHEAD BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

By Anne Tyler

We've read quite a few Anne Tyler novels, mostly very much enjoyed, so REDHEAD BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, was our latest choice. (the Redhead, is in fact a red water hydrant, that our protagonist, without his glasses, passes daily on his run. Like the rest of his life- a bit out of focus.) In her usual style, she immediately takes us into the lives of ordinary, unremarkable people. Meet Micah Mortimer, mid 40's, tall, skinny, scruffily clothed and shod, once a family star at college, now a loner with four older, noisy, adoring sisters, all waitresses like their mother and who, to Micah's horror, live in relentless chaos.

He lives in a basement flat "probably not very cheery", with a totally unvarying routine, everything timetabled on a daily or weekly schedule. His 7.15 am run, his coffee making, his cleaning and his duties putting out the trash for his neighbours, one of whom, to Micah's annoyance, never folds up his cardboard as requested.

There have been a few women in his life but all those relationships have ended sadly. He now has Cassie in his life, a teacher, very much admired by his sisters. They spend scheduled time together, but live apart.

He's now Tech Hermit and runs a one man business, repairing computers- we meet throughout the book a very varied selection of his clients and glimpse into their lives.

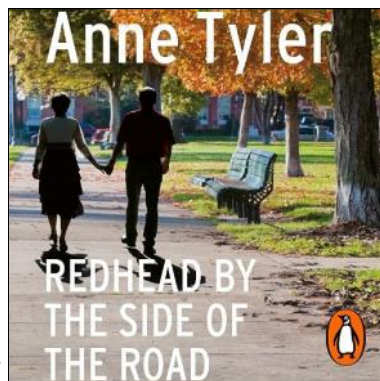
But suddenly, two events happen that change the order of things and certainly his life.

A teenager, Brink, turns up at his door, who having run away from college, after cheating in exams, has decided that Micah might be his Father- he's seen college photos of his mother and lives with her and his step father.

He isn't of course, but Micah allows him to stay, making him promise he'll contact his parents. At the same time Cassie thinks she's got to leave her flat, tells Micah, expecting he'll offer to put her up. He rather heartlessly suggests that she can sleep in her car, as currently there's no space. Cassie, ends their relationship, much to the bewilderment of Micah.

Eventually of course, Brink is reunited with his parents, thanks to Micah, but not before his past relationship with Laura, Brink's mother, is brought into sharp focus and we learn that it was Micah who was the heartless one.

Micah now feels totally alone, he has no one, and has no words, no way of telling Cassie he'd like her back. He's driven to re-assess his thoughts about his broken relationships. He'd wanted everything to be perfect, but that had brought him nothing.



But happily, he suddenly makes a totally unscheduled, last gasp journey, in the hopes of seeing Cassie at her school in the middle of the day. He gets tangled up with her class, but It works. Their problem is resolved.

Next month we are reading ANNA OF THE FIVE TOWNS- by Arnold Bennett.

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Masks: The guidance from PHE is for both staff and patients to continue to wear masks in healthcare setting. We would ask that all patients please continue to wear a mask when they attend to the surgery in order to protect them, other patients and our staff.

Blood Samples: Due to a shortage of equipment your GP may discuss with you postponing routine / non urgent blood tests.

WAITING FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT ADDENBROOKES HOSPITAL?

If your GP has referred you to Addenbrookes Hospital there are a number of ways you may receive your appointment.

If there are available appointments for GPs to book into at Addenbrookes Hospital, we will provide you with a letter confirming your appointment. This letter will include a reference number and a password so you can change or cancel your appointment online or by phone directly with the hospital.

If there are no available appointments for GPs to book into at Addenbrookes Hospital or you have been referred to a triage service for further assessment, you will either receive a letter direct from them confirming an appointment or a letter from the hospital asking you to phone to make an appointment.

Due to increased demand on all services there are longer wait times to receive routine appointments. Should you be concerned you have not received an appointment at the hospital when the GP has confirmed they will refer, please contact the Appointment Team at Addenbrookes Hospital:-

New appointments - 01223 274593

Return appointments - 01223 274900

Alternatively, please email: callhandling-patientcontact@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

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



ANYONE FOR BRIDGE?

If you;

- **Have not played Bridge for a long time,**
- **Would like to learn how to play Bridge,**
- **Have just moved into the area,**
- **Want to learn how to play before going onto further education,**
- **Would like to play, but have no partner,**
- **Want to play social Bridge in a welcoming environment,**

Then Burwell Bridge Club would like to hear from you!

Contact

**Alan Williams (01638) 743 897 alanhwilliams@hotmail.co.uk
or Ian Oldfield (01638) 742820 ian.oldfield2@ntlworld.com
Or just turn up on the night**

Day	Every Wednesday
Time	7-9pm
Place	Trinity Church Hall (at the rear of the Church near Lloyds chemist)
Cost	£2.00 per session

**Burwell
Bridge
Club**

The Swaffhams' WI

The W.I. could finally meet and have a 'proper' meeting in the village hall. Our speaker was Angela Collins, whose talk - a Puppet's Tale- was extraordinary, very funny and a bittersweet story of her life.

She had, on leaving school trained to be a hairdresser, then changed to making jeans for Lee Cooper and then decided, mainly to cheer up her husband who was on dialysis, to start making puppets. Creativity seemed to have been in her family, as her father was the first people to work out, how to attach a motor to a sewing machine- Singers included.

She made dozens of puppets from recycled materials, many of which she's brought in a huge suitcase for us to meet. She and her husband developed shows and built a puppet theatre .They started in a small way - school fetes, garden parties and agricultural shows and became widely known. One of the biggest shows was in Liverpool for their year of culture, when as she said, John, Paul, George and Ringo, the Diddy Men and the Liver Birds all became puppets!

Of course during the pandemic, all this fun had to cease and her income dried up. However, having overcome other awful problems in her life, she's shaken herself off and had started a small fabric/ haberdashery business at Barton le Clay in Bedfordshire, where she's currently working on a project for Jasper Conran.

Our next meeting is on October 18th, when Judith Large from the Hedgehog hospital in Shepreth, will be our speaker.

All welcome

Margaret Joyce



Mothers' Union

Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

Having had our first gathering post pandemic to celebrate the 145th anniversary of Mothers' Union in August with a short service followed by tea and cake. We look forward to continuing with a short programme of meetings to the end of the year. At the time of writing, we look forward to Richard Ayres giving a slide show of the gardens at Kirtling Tower at our September meeting in Lode Church. This being very appropriate as the Church will be decorated for Harvest Festival with colourful floral arrangements and harvest produce.

Our meetings will take place on the third Thursday of October and November and second Thursday in December at 2.30pm. venue to be confirmed. You are most welcome to join us. Please contact me nearer the time for venue confirmation.

Ann Langran
01223 812797



The Council leadership is reviewing the funding for the Newmarket Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). We are concerned that the funding might be cut. The Newmarket CAB provides support and advice to people across the South of the District. Importantly, this advice is seen as independent of the Council. Whilst the Council may be able to offer similar support, it will not be seen as independent and it will not be as readily accessible as Newmarket CAB.

The two planning applications have now been published in respect of the council leadership's crematorium on the site of the Mepal Outdoor Centre. Unfortunately, the timescales for commenting are tight, and will have expired by the time you read this. As it is such a major local development and will take away a much-valued outdoor activity centre, it would have been good if a longer consultation period had been allowed.

21/01054/DEM is an application to demolish all buildings at the former Mepal Outdoor Centre. The application is made by a demolition firm in Nuneaton. It was submitted on 16 July, when it was envisaged that the demolition would take place in the first half of August. However, the application was not published until late in August, and now has a determination deadline of 22 September.

Meanwhile, 21/01216/F3M is an application for 'construction of a crematorium and associated service and administration building, function building, memorial garden, natural burial areas, pet cemetery, car parking, new vehicular access from the A142 north of the site and landscaping'. The original planning statement prepared by the applicant's agent, Nexus Planning, stated that the applicant was East Cambs Trading Co Ltd, the council's trading arm. A Councillor colleague questioned this and it was hastily changed to East Cambridgeshire District Council. This is worrying evidence of how blurred the boundaries are between the Council and its commercial trading arm. The consultation expiry date for the construction application is Tuesday 21 September and the determination deadline is Thursday 18 November.

Attempts by the council leadership to find ways to avoid implementing civil parking enforcement (CPE) continue to founder. Almost everywhere else in England, 'civil' enforcement of on-street parking is carried out by the council not the police—but East Cambridgeshire's current leadership is adamant it will not take this on. To avoid introducing CPE like everyone else, East Cambs has tried:

- offering to pay for a designated PCSO to enforce street parking enforcement—but this was vetoed by the Chief Constable following the recent cut in PCSO numbers.



- using the national Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) to give police powers to accredited individuals, including council staff - but legal advice to the council said that if any council staff were involved this could create a conflict of interest.

These were already obvious issues which had been raised at the time these ideas were proposed, and it has taken a year to get nowhere. The latest recommendation to use community 'Police Service Volunteers' to issue fixed penalty notices, was pulled from the Committee on the day of the meeting and will now go to full Council on 21 October.

To help us all cut down on waste going to landfill, the Council has set up an A-Z of what can be reused or recycled, you can find the A-Z at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/wasteA-Z>

Our next Councillors' Surgery will be on Monday 25th October at 6.30pm by Zoom. Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196.



Work on the Heating Scheme in progress by the school, The clunch has been a difficulty, as so too the (very) old electricity power cables, which are brittle and very near the surface. Photo by Peter Rand.

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

‘Footprints’ Community Engagement Project

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

Join us for our Vision Festival on Saturday 2 October, where we will be showcasing project activities and volunteer opportunities. We’ll also be celebrating the Wicken Fen Vision with special guided walks and boat trips - don’t leave it too late to book as last time we sold out quickly – see <https://bit.ly/VisionFestival>

There are also plans for tree planting and community archaeology in the wider areas of the reserve. These activities will take place in November. If you’re involved with a school or community group that would like to get involved, please email julia.hammond@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information.

Cycle Centre news

Our Cycle Hire team are offering free sessions for you, if you are nervous about cycling, or have never ridden a bike, or not for a long time anyway. These Return to Ride sessions will be taking place on Fridays 1st, 8th and 15th October, at 11am. We’ll cover the basics, including how to do a safety check, control and balance on a bike, fitting a helmet, and end with a short ride. We will restrict numbers, so give the

Autumn misty morning on Sedge Fen by Glynis Pierson



team a call if you are interested to join, for 1, 2 or all 3 dates. We are being supported by Sport England, so if you need to borrow one of our hire bikes, the normal hire charge will not apply if you are signed up.

We will have further sessions in November on Basic Cycle Maintenance, on Saturdays 6th and 13th. Again these are free, but we need names up front as places are limited. And on Fridays from 26th November to 10th December, why not join us for a guided Ride Out event, exploring some of the cycle paths and routes around the Vision area with our team. Again, thanks to Sport England funding, these are free for participants (including use of our bikes) but we need your names so we can manage numbers.

Wicken Wednesday Walk

And don't forget... every Wednesday at 10am there is a social Wicken Wednesday Walk of about 1 hour, or just over, meeting up in the car park. No need to book for this, just turn up ready to stride out around one of our selected routes on the wider reserve or round Wicken village, with the guides and the rest of the group.

For families, at the Fen...

We have various autumnal family activities at the Fen this October. All month there will be a Funky Feet trail to follow round the boardwalk, challenges for you to step out like our animals. For half-term, we are offering the chance to sign up for one of our Bird Box building sessions, on either Monday 25th or Wednesday 27th October. Please call us to reserve a space at our hand-on workshop and for details; £8 per box. And there will be an Autumn Adventure event, on Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th, games and fun themed around leaves, and nuts, with craft too, featuring some of our wildlife favourites. Again, call us for reserving a place, and for more details.

BREAKING NEWS! We've just heard that Father Christmas will be back at the Fen this Christmas! Keep an eye on our website as booking details will be released shortly.

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

BON MOT NUMBER 121

**"If there were such a thing as absolute truth
the debate would lose its lustre."**

Penelope Lively (1933 -)

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday, 9th September 2021, 7.30pm

In the Village Hall Committee Room

Cllr Covill chaired a meeting at which 8 parish councillors and 2 members of the public were present.

Public participation for items on the agenda

Mr Michael Limb asked why retrospective permission was being requested for two grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial? SKP explained that occasionally permission had to be granted after the funeral had taken place, to prevent delays to the process that families could find upsetting.

A member of the public noted that a hosepipe had been observed running from the cemetery tap to the Garden Allotment plots, with the tap on and left unmonitored, and that this is not a new practice. Cllr Kent-Phillips clarified that both the GAP and cemetery taps are on the same meter.

Reports

ECDC representative Cllr Charlotte Cane had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Cllr Cane drew particular attention to the review of ECDC payments to Newmarket Citizen's Advice Bureau, worried that the loss of the Newmarket CAB and taking of that work 'in house' could lead to loss of national funds available to CABs but not to ECDC and also a perceived lack of independence.

Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Cllr Greenfield noted that he had been following up with the Highways Agency regarding the moving of the TRO sign. The sign is being updated before being moved to its new position. Cllr Greenfield suggested that details of how to obtain a TRO exemption, the relevant form to download and where to send it be made available on the PC website.

To review/adjust the budget for 2021/22

Cllr Kent-Phillips proposed that the precept remain at the same level, that the grass cutting budget be raised by £600 and the general maintenance budget lowered by £1000; this was agreed.

Cllr Greenfield suggested that when payments have been committed to but not made at the end of the financial year, these be labelled 'Accruals' in the accounts. After discussion, it was agreed that this change would be made for the next financial year.

To hear a further report on the use of water from the cemetery tap.

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that he had met with the horse owner, calculated the amount of water required by the horses and taken regular readings from the meter for 14 days. This allowed SKP to calculate that on average the horses used 1400 litres per week, and the Garden Allotment Plots (GAPs) used 1800 litres. At present the PC pays £1.49 per 1000 litres. SKP agreed with the horse owner that they will pay £10 per month to the PC which will cover the cost of the water

used by the horses – the Clerk to confirm this in writing.

At present, the GAP renters pay nothing towards the water bill. Cllr Kent-Phillips proposed that the Clerk write to the GAP renters asking politely for a voluntary £25.00 contribution towards the cost of the water bill for this year; this was agreed.

Cllr Latchford agreed to look into adding a ‘no unattended hosepipes’ clause into the GAP contract for 2022-23 and also to look into the removal of sewerage costs from the water bill.

It was noted that two acts of vandalism against the horses had taken place – the hose used to fill the horse water containers had been cut in half and the electricity supply cut to the electric fence.

To hear a request from the Village Hall for work on the Village Hall footpath

After discussion, it was agreed to return to this next month when additional quotes for the use of steel edging had been obtained and the condition of the path had been studied by the councillors.

To hear a report on the pop-up campsite

It was agreed that the Clerk write to the ECDC enforcement officer, noting that the 55 days of permitted use were past and could the matter please be followed up.

To review the length of time a grant of exclusive right of burial lasts.

The PC discussed the need for sensitivity balanced against the need for up-to-date contact details being maintained and it was agreed that the grants will continue to be issued for 100 year periods.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact all active Grants that have run for 75 years or more to check that contact details are still correct, with the aim of eventually updating all contacts and then rechecking every 5 years.

Parish Councillors’ Reports

The PC discussed numerous complaints from parishioners about anti-social behaviour in the village, including riding of trail bikes in a dangerous manner and without appropriate safety gear, drug misuse at the bus stop and intimidating behaviour towards both adults and children. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact East Cambs Police requesting support. Cllr Cane volunteered to pass on the details of the Liaison Officer for East Cambs.

Cllr Kent-Phillips confirmed that the Highways Agency are aware of both the damage to posts on the B1102 and the overgrown streetlight.

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, 14th October 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



Bottisham Village College

Adult Learning

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

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

**Astronomy
Calligraphy
Cinematography
Dressmaking
French Beginners
Spanish Beginners
Indian Cookery
Italian Cookery
Introduction to Counselling
Painting and Drawing – Mixed Media
Patchwork and Quilting
Pottery and Ceramics
Stained Glass
Tai Chi for Relaxation
RHS Horticulture
Yoga**

Maths GCSE in One Year (FREE*)

***for adults who do not have a Maths GCSE Grade C(4) or above**

For full details please visit our website:

www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

Tel: 01223 811372 email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org

Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or Twitter: @CommunityEdBott



Best to be on the safe side....

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

Dark brown wood coffee table (3 panel glass top and shelf, 140cm long x 24 cm wide); Light pine colour corner TV unit (with drawer and shelves, 90 x 15cm); Lightweight Vax vacuum-cleaner (hardly used); Box of Scalextric straight + curved track (+other items, e.g. vehicles that need new pieces); 12 x various watt low energy lightbulbs (bayonet). Marian, 01223 812010 (please leave name and number on the answer phone)

Exercise bike. Karen 01223 813124; Dishwasher, Jonathan 07765 593123 or 01223 813124

Full size Roland keyboard and legs. c. 25 yrs old. 2 keys and the playback function not working. Lucy, 01223 811192.

Acoustic guitar suitable for a beginner (will require new strings). Gill 01223 812876

Wanted:

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

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

ANGLESEY GROUP OF PARISHES

Holy Trinity, Bottisham; St Mary's, Quay; St James', Lode;
St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck; St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Services in October

Sunday 3 October

9am	Online service	on Zoom
	Village Worship	Quay Village Hall
10.30am	Holy Communion	Bottisham
12.30pm	Baptism	Bottisham
3pm	Pet Service	Bottisham

Wednesday 6 October

8 pm	C by C (a contemplative service)	on Zoom
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Sunday 10 October

9am	Holy Communion	Quay
10.30am	Family Worship	Swaffham Prior, also on Zoom

Sunday 17 October

9am	Online service	on Zoom
	Morning Prayer	Quay
10.30am	Holy Communion	Swaffham Bulbeck
	Morning Prayer	Bottisham
12/12.30pm	Baptism	Swaffham Bulbeck

Sunday 24 October

9am	Online service	on Zoom
10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Swaffham Prior

Sunday 31 October

9am	Online service	on Zoom
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lode
3pm	All Souls'	Lode

Every Thursday

10.30am	Holy Communion	Lode
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If you would like to receive our weekly mailshot with noticesheet and other information, and for more details on any of the above, please be in touch:
admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Keep in touch: Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches

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

Website: www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Email: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Dates for Your Diary October 2021

Wed	6	Book Club (venue/time tbd) [18]
Thu	14	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH [27]
Fri	15	
Sat	16	Quiz Night, VH, 7.30pm [9]
Sun	17	
Mon	18	WI, 7.30pm, VH [21]
Thu	21	Mothers' Union, 2.30 pm venue to be confirmed [21]
Fri	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	25	Councillors' Surgery, 6.30pm, Zoom [23]
Sat	30	Snake Hall Ghost Walk, 6.30—9.30 (timed slots) [11]
Sun	31	SP Heating Scheme—deadline for signing up free [6]
November		
Sat	13	Art Lecture, 2-4pm, VH [30]

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