



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVI Number 4

April 2022



Editorial

Last month, we published an article from the Village Hall Committee not only detailing the range of activities currently on offer at the Hall, but brimming with ideas for new things — everything from Baby Massage to Murder Mystery Nights. We are most fortunate to have this venue at the centre of our community, but these things do not run themselves! If you would like to help, show support, or just express your views about how things could be better, they're having a cheese and wine party on Monday, April 11th and then their AGM on Thursday, April 21st, when Chris and Mike Carrington will be standing down, so if there are no replacements by then, well — see their article on p. 5.

What is it about the words “community hub” that fill one with a subtle sense of dread? Probably its connection in our minds with super-efficient schemes where our buses whizz down the bypass instead of coming into the village and land us up in another concrete “hub”, Cambridge North Station, instead of inefficiently going into the centre of town, which is where we want to be. Anyway, there's a meeting in the Village Hall Car Park entitled “Community Bus Stops” on Wednesday, 6th April (see p.8) —we'll be away—and although we don't know what it will be about, it may be that our bus-stops are under threat — do attend if you can.

Dog walkers should not miss the News from Wicken Fen this month. Apparently, only the very best behaved dogs with the speediest recall are going to be allowed off-lead, and they're taking on Dog Rangers to police this policy. Our dog comes back at 60mph at least, so no problem there, it's just that it's usually 20 minutes later.

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Face To The Sun* embroidery by **Deborah Cutting**

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Go Potty with Red, |White and Blue!

As the jubilee celebrations are rapidly approaching, we thought it would be fun to have a display of red, white and blue plants- in gardens, pots, tubs and on window sills, where others can admire them.

So please get planning!

Plant up containers, but keep in a frost free place, till mid to late May, when they can be put out and burst into a blaze of patriotic colours.

Village Gardeners

Dear Editors,

Gilbert & Sullivan is back!

After two postponed years, we are delighted to be performing Gilbert and Sullivan's ever-popular operetta 'The Mikado', which featured in the 1999 film about their lives 'Topsy-Turvy'. Colourful and witty, this show includes many well-known songs, such as 'I've got a little list' (brought up to the 21st century!), 'Tit-willow', 'The flowers that bloom in the spring' and, of course, 'Three little maids from school are we'.

We look forward to seeing you!

Ruth Dennis

It's great to see you back! See page 11 for details. Eds

Dear Editors,

The Heating Scheme - Success at Last

I have so far avoided coming down on either side of the great shall we/shan't we debate about the village heating scheme but following the unexpectedly speedy and problem-free installation of the pipework which we've all been watching over the last few months, there's further good news in the Council's latest internal update on the project which has been leaked to certain select members of the press.

The unanticipated success of the installation means that they can report that the project is now close to being back on budget and they're able to start thinking ahead. In line with government thinking that the only way for the country to meet its carbon reduction targets is to invest heavily in nuclear energy, the next stage for the project will be to install a small nuclear reactor based on nuclear submarine technology.

If this gets funding, which they expect it will based on experience to date, and if it works, the next stage will be to phase out the solar panels. This will result in a much less obtrusive installation and remove one of the main objections to the scheme as it stands. In time, as they age and become uneconomical to maintain, the ground source heat pumps would also be phased out.

But this is only the start of their ambitions. Current nuclear technology relies on

expensive nuclear fuel and produces difficult to dispose of radioactive waste. Nuclear fusion gets round this problem by copying the sun, needing only Hydrogen as fuel and producing harmless Helium. Recent advances announced on the BBC news on 9 Feb have caught the eye of the project's sponsors who expect to be able to build on this and have the first practical application of nuclear fusion up and running in the village comfortably within the next ten years.

Anyone wanting to see the project update for themselves should be able to obtain it via a freedom of information request. It's the one, a special, dated April 1 2022.

James Matheson

STOP PRESS
VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Or our Village Hall may have to close

See over →

**QUIZ
NIGHT**

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 9 April

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

From our Reporter

Almost exactly eleven years ago, on April the 29th, the famous Swaffham Prior Street Party took place. This was to celebrate the wedding of William and Catherine, who in due course will become our king and queen. The idea was proposed by Emma Fletcher, a fairly recent arrival in the village. With what we now know as her characteristic energy, style, and effectiveness she rapidly pulled together a committee which regularly met in the Red Lion. And from the very start she had linked with Janet Willmott who was already well famed for getting things done. The result was an amazing joyous street party with the High Street closed off to fit in 73 tables, and over 600 villagers.



It was a great event and was recorded in a colourful 8x8 32 page booklet of photographs taken by Jon Mold (another recent arrival), with the text written by Charlie Fletcher. It is now a priceless publication recording the faces of hundreds of villagers in this remarkable event..

All this is a preamble to asking what we are doing to celebrate the Queen's historic Platinum Jubilee. Village life and activities over the past two or three years have been a little disrupted by Covid, uncertainty, lock down parties, and now the Ukraine War. Many events have gone amiss – the Feast, a number of Church activities, the Gay Bulleid Award, etc, though much has continued without delay thanks to the various organisations in the village. But that begs the question about the Jubilee celebrations. Hopes rose at the last PC meeting when an email was read out saying that the Village Hall was going to arrange something. Immediately Alan, Village Hall Chairman, jumped up and said this was not the case as the committee had no interest whatsoever in doing anything. So it looks as if we are going to have a very quiet Jubilee, though there are rumours there may be some very spirited bell ringing.

BUT, and this is a “but” for which we should be grateful, Jacob Rees-Mogg has come along, with £120 million in his back pocket, to give us a series of Festival of Brexit events throughout the rest of the year. We are assured this will cheer us up. This Festival is to celebrate our achieving “freedom” from the European Union about which Boris Johnson boasted in his recent speech

Meantime I am still confused about our Village Notice Boards. After Jude's letter in the February *Crier* the Burwell History Society put up a notice about an event. And Christopher, handyman, still has his notice up which has been there for yonks. He also put an extra one on the Bus Notice Board though someone has since taken that down. Why doesn't he advertise in the *Crier* like Steven Newton who offers the same services and lives in Bulbeck? Where does Christopher live? And is Artist Natalie/Scrivens known to our local artists group? She has also been there for yonks. Though there are so many many complex almost insoluble problems in the world this one should be fairly simple. **What are the rules? Can anyone remove what they believe to be inessential “village news and information”? Or does only Jude decide? Am I the only one who wishes to know? Or doesn't it matter?**

Alastair Everitt

VILLAGE HALL NEWS - HELP URGENTLY NEEDED

This is a call to the village for some new blood to help run and manage the Village Hall.

The Management Committee has been short-handed for quite some time. Now, after 16 and 13 years of active membership respectively, our Bookings Clerk and Treasurer will be resigning from the Committee at the Village Hall AGM. Therefore, volunteers are urgently required for these roles as well as other vacant positions.

We really hope that, by the **AGM on 21st April (7.30pm, VH)**, some of you will have offered to take on at least some of the following responsibilities:

Treasurer	Manage VH accounts; make payments; (currently on Excel spreadsheet).	Essential
Assistant Treasurer	Send out booking forms; collect payments. (Excel and Word)	Can be done by Treasurer
Bookings Clerk	Maintain online calendars; liaise with hirers and Treasurer/Asst. Treasurer; arrange VH viewings.	Essential
Webmaster	Keep VH website updated (Google Sites)	Necessary
Maintenance Officer	Contact for maintenance issues. Liaise with trades for repairs, servicing, etc.	Necessary
Other	Become a Trustee, help with fundraising, VH viewings, etc.	Necessary

Please think whether you would like to help, and perhaps talk to others who might be interested. Our Bookings Clerk and Treasurer are very happy to talk to anyone about what is involved and more than willing to be available to help or give guidance during a handover period.

We will be holding a **Cheese and Wine Meeting** at the Village Hall on **Monday 11th April at 7.30 pm** for you to come and find out about the role of Trustee and what it involves. Lisa Chambers from ACRE (Actions with Communities in Rural England) will be attending to talk about the role of trustee and what this involves.

We do need to make one point clear: **UNLESS VOLUNTEERS COME FORWARD** it will be proposed at the AGM that **NO MORE BOOKINGS WILL BE TAKEN** and the **PROBABLE CLOSURE OF THE HALL**.

Alan Durrant,

Chairman, Swaffham Prior Village Hall Management Committee

Energy Centre update

New equipment is arriving at the Energy Centre and it is really starting to come together. Some of the equipment is very large as you can see in the photo below, which is of the expansion vessels which ensure the pressure is maintained through the system. It is really exciting to see the progress and we will arrange an open day of the inside of the Energy Centre once all the equipment is in place.



Energy Prices Escalating and Free connections

No doubt you have seen the escalating energy prices. If you sign up to the heat network you will have **guarenteed unit price for your heat supply for a full 12 months** as we only review our prices once a year. That gives you more control on budget planning.

It is not too late to sign up for a **FREE engineer survey** by contacting us on heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. We will contact you to arrange a date and a time for a qualified engineer to visit your home and the survey should only take one hour. This will determine how to connect your home to the heat network. After the visit, you will receive the Heat Supply Agreement detailing how the connection to your home will be made and the Terms and Conditions. There is no obligation to join and it is **FREE**, don't miss out!

Make sure you book a survey while the connection to the heat network is still FREE.

Customer Complaints – polite reminder

We have been made aware that some of the crew installing the heat network have had complaints and enquiries directed to them from local residents. This is a polite reminder that the crew are not able to handle these, and all complaints and enquiries should come through to the project manager on 0345 045 5210 and choose option 2. If you feel you need to escalate the complaint or enquiry please contact the council on the same number and choose option 1. This will ensure we deal with your com-

plaint or enquiry as quickly as possible.

Grant funding available

The County Council has grant funding to improve energy efficiency of Swaffham Prior homes. This can fund insulation upgrades and converting electrically heated homes to ‘wet’ central heating systems, so that you can connect to the Heat Network. For more info get in touch with us on heatingswaffham-prior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk if your household income is less than £30,000 per annum.

Also watch out for the advert in this edition of *The Crier* for more details.



Roadworks

Unfortunately, there was a delay to the re-opening of Cage Hill. We wanted to update you on what has caused the delay and to give you an idea of the challenges of working to retrofit pipework in a village with a long history, such as Swaffham Prior. During our excavation we discovered a surface water drain installed at the same level that our pipework needed to be installed at. We did not have precise details as to the position or depth of this pipework until it was uncovered. This is quite typical for places that have had many services installed by different companies dating back decades. To avoid re-routing our pipework and having to close Cage Hill, we needed instead to divert the surface water drain. This needed to be designed, reviewed, and approved by all stakeholders including ourselves, our installer, Bouygues, and Cambridgeshire County Council. Everyone worked collaboratively to get this work signed off as quickly as we could. Materials needed for the approved diversion were delivered to site on Friday 25th February and we now expect all works on Cage Hill to be completed by Friday 11th March.



Energy Centre Open Day 30 March at 5.30pm

We are having an Open Day on 30 March at 5.30pm, look out for details on the local Swaffham Prior Facebook Notice Board. Anyone is welcome to come on a ‘Wellie Walk’ of the site to see the grounds around the Energy Centre and we will take you out to the field to show you where the boreholes are being drilled, below is an image of what the equipment looks like. This is a chance for you to come out and have a look at the progress.

Don’t forget to join the growing number signing up to the scheme and contact us on heatingswaffham-prior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for a **no obligation** engineer survey.

Maggie Pratt

CINEMA AT NEWMARKET

The Cinema at Newmarket was formed at the beginning of 2004 with the intention of showing a film in Newmarket one Sunday and Monday each month.

The pandemic brought an end to the shows in March 2020, however, The Cinema at Newmarket is going to start showing a film again in April at The Stable, 65 High Street, Newmarket. The film at 7.30pm on Sunday and Monday April 24th and 25th will be *The Rainbow Jacket (A)* which was originally released in 1954. Made by Ealing Studios this drama is about a champion jockey who has been suspended from racing so decides to mentor a young apprentice. Some of the film was shot at locations in and around Newmarket.

The film at 7.30pm on Sunday and Monday May 15th and 16th is going to be *Nomadland (12A)* which was the winner of the best motion picture at the Oscars last year. This drama follows a recently widowed woman who becomes a modern-day nomad in the American West.

On Sunday and Monday June 19th and 20th the film will be the 2019 version of the popular musical *The Lion King (PG)*

For further information about the film nights please see www.cinemaatnewmarket.co.uk or call either 01638 601866 or 666810

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Annual General Meeting: Our AGM is to be held on Zoom at 6pm on 27th April 2022. The speaker will be Ali McCarthy, Social Prescriber for the Practice. If you would like to join us at the AGM please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. *Please note the change of time for this meeting.*

Regular Meetings: 25th May 2022 at 2pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting please email our chairman at the address above who will send you a meeting invite.

***Bottisham Medical Practice
Patients Participation Group***



**Community
BUS STOPS**

We will be in:
Swaffham Prior

At Swaffham Prior Village Hall car park, High St,
Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD
ON:

**WEDNESDAY 6th April
1:30PM - 3:00PM**

Find out about more community hub locations here:
www.eastcambs.gov.uk/housing/community-hubs
You can also contact us to find out more at:
01353 66 55 55
communityadvice@eastcambs.gov.uk

JULIE'S RECIPES FOR APRIL

Feta and black olive crusted rack of lamb

2 racks of lamb (6 cutlets on each)
1 tbsp mint jelly
100g rosemary and garlic breadcrumbs, (shop bought or make your own)
Small bunch of flat-leaf parsley, chopped
Zest of 1 lemon
55g of jar pitted black olives, chopped
50g feta cheese, crumbed
1 tbsp olive oil

1. Heat the oven to 200C. Brush the lamb racks with the mint jelly.
2. Mix up finely chopped rosemary and garlic with the breadcrumbs, then add parsley, lemon zest, olives, feta and olive oil. Mix well together and press onto the lamb racks.
3. Transfer to a greased baking tray and roast for 30-40 mins, or a little longer if you want it well done. Rest for 10 mins before carving.

Serves 6

Hot cross bun bread and butter pudding

4 hot cross buns, sliced in half
2 medium eggs
½ tsp vanilla extract
15g castor sugar
25g butter
300ml milk
150ml single cream
1 tsp finely grated lemon zest

1. Preheat the oven to 180C, Grease a 1 litre baking dish with a little butter.
2. Spread the halves of the buns with the remaining butter and cut them in half diagonally. Arrange them in the prepared dish.
3. Whisk the vanilla extract, sugar and eggs together.
4. Gently heat the milk and cream in a pan until warm, remove from the heat and stir in the egg mixture until the sugar has dissolved.
5. Pour the warm egg mixture over the buns and leave to soak for 15 mins.
6. Sprinkle the lemon zest over the top.
7. Bake in the oven for 25-30 mins until puffed up and golden brown. Serve at once.

Serves 4.

Out on the Wildside

As Lady like as a Lady Bird!



I thought I would do this month's article on the rather eye catching and beautiful-lady bird! So let's start with something I reckon a lot of you are wondering- why are they called lady birds? The name ladybird comes from the Middle Ages. The beetles were called the "beetle of Our Lady" because, at that time, the Virgin Mary was often depicted in paintings wearing red clothing. Mary was often depicted wearing a red cloak in early paintings, and the spots of the seven-spot ladybird (the most common in Europe) were said to symbolise her seven joys and seven sorrows. In the United States, the name was adapted to *ladybug*. The collective name for ladybirds is the Coccinellidae, which has its origins in the Latin word *coccineus* meaning 'scarlet'. The majority of coccinellid species are generally considered beneficial insects, because many species prey on herbivorous hemipterans such as aphids or scale insects, which are agricultural pests.

Many cultures consider ladybirds lucky and have nursery rhymes or local names for the insects that reflect this. For instance, the Turkish name for the insect is *uğur böceği*, literally meaning 'good luck bug'. In many countries, including Russia, Turkey, and Italy, the sight of a coccinellid is either a call to make a wish or a sign that a wish will soon be granted. There are simply so many cool facts about lady birds and while they are extremely common, they are certainly memorable, with their distinct spotted patterns and bold bright colors. We think of lady birds as bugs but as they belong to the beetle family, this means they're not actually bugs at all! We've all done it, you go to remove a lady bird from the house and get covered in a smelly yellow substance, what is that? Well, lady bird's bleed from their knees when they feel threatened, weird right? Startle a lady bird, and its foul-smelling hemolymph will seep from its leg joints, leaving yellow stains on the surface below. Potential predators may be deterred by the vile mix of alkaloids, and equally repulsed by the sight of a seemingly sickly beetle.

Their wonderful patterns aren't just to look pretty- Insect-eating birds and other animals learn to avoid meals that come in red and black, and are more likely to steer clear of lady birds for lunch. **Over its lifetime, a lady bird may consume as**

many as 5,000 aphids! Did you also know that lady bird larvae resemble tiny alligators, with elongated bodies and bumpy skin. Lady birds also hibernate- you may have discovered clusters of them if you've ever moved items around in the winter in a shed. As days get shorter and temperatures fall, lady birds seek shelter behind bark, under leaves, or in other protected locations. Thousands of lady birds may gather in the same location, taking advantage of the collective warmth of a colony. Contrary to popular opinion- you cannot tell a lady birds age from counting its spots. The spots on its back have nothing whatsoever to do with its age, fun as it may be to count them.

To tell you the truth, lady birds are actually very un-lady like, they even practice cannibalism! When food is scarce they will eat each other, yikes! Despite this, they still hold a special place in our natural environment and remain one of the most recognizable and known bugs (or should I say beetle!).

Saffra Monteiro



SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE

proudly presents:

'THE MIKADO'

by W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan

Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th June 2022

Evening performances at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinée at 2.30pm

Doors open 45' before each performance

Downing Farm, Station Road, Swaffham Bulbeck,
Cambridge CB25 0NW

Ticket prices Wednesday £9, Thursday £10, Friday and Saturday £12, matinée £8
via our website www.sbsummertheatre.com; e-mail sbst.tickets@gmail.com

or call 07708 577570

On-site parking; facilities for wheelchair users; licensed bar

For further information (not tickets) contact
Ruth Dennis on 01638 730659 or by e-mail via the website

The Swaffhams' WI

In March we held our Annual Meeting which was well attended. The President, Secretary and Treasurer all agreed to serve for another year which is always a huge relief!! We were very sorry that Shirley Wilkins had decided to stand down from the committee after many years, she will be greatly missed, but as a member she will continue to offer help and advice when we need her. After the business, we enjoyed some delicious refreshments and then continued the evening with a beetle drive which was great fun. In April the meeting will be on Monday 25th, so as not to clash with Easter Monday, at the usual time of 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Kindra Jones talking about costumes through the ages. Visitors are welcome (£3.50) So why not come along and see what a friendly group we are.

Pat Cook



VILLAGE GARDENERS

We didn't have a meeting in March as the speaker couldn't come. The speaker on 19th April is Mike Petit, his topic: Pickwick's Gardening Scrapbook. All are very welcome.

Margaret Joyce



Foster Lane and Fairview Grove trenching in the sunshine. Fairview Grove's steel mesh support has been cut, and so there are concerns for its integrity—see PC Notes

The Sealwoman's Gift

By Sally Magnusson

Four hundred years ago, 400 people from Iceland were kidnapped by pirates (corsairs in the story - I thought that was a make of car), and taken to north Africa to be sold as slaves. One of them was a pastor. With him were his wife and three children. The pastor was sent home later to raise a ransom for their release. It took over 10 years for that to be achieved.

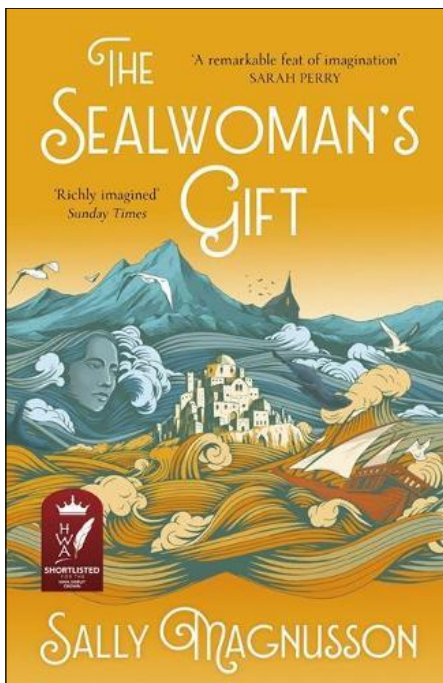
Not all of them chose to return. That is fact. What Sally Magnusson has done is to take this basic information, and in a remarkable feat of imagination, weave a fascinating story, filling in the gaps and fleshing out the characters in an entirely convincing way.

She has a gift for description: you can almost feel the harshness of the winters on their island off the coast of Iceland; the misery of the cold and the damp and the dark of the winter; and then the contrast with Algiers, with its colour, its warmth, its materials and where the washing dries in the sunshine. So many contrasts: protestant Christianity and Islam; duty and pleasure; the place of women: the relationships between the sexes. All of this is woven through with storytelling (think Sheherezade - Is this the sealwoman's gift?) and the development of relationships.

It is a beautifully written book although it does take a bit of time to get used to the unfamiliar names and pronunciation. You are drawn into the characters; what will happen to them, how will they react to their new situation, to their losses: are their gains? Will their characters change? Why do some choose not to return when Olafur gains the ransom? What happens to those who do return? How will they react to their old familiar situation in the light of their knowledge of a very different life? How do they deal with leaving some behind? How will they resume their relationships? Will they find peace?

Sally Magnusson has fleshed out the bones of the facts into a deeply moving and satisfying story, with well drawn characters and vivid locations. A good discussion was had, with small details drawn out by different people to add to one's own view. Well worth reading. Next month's book is "Apeirogon" by Colum McCann

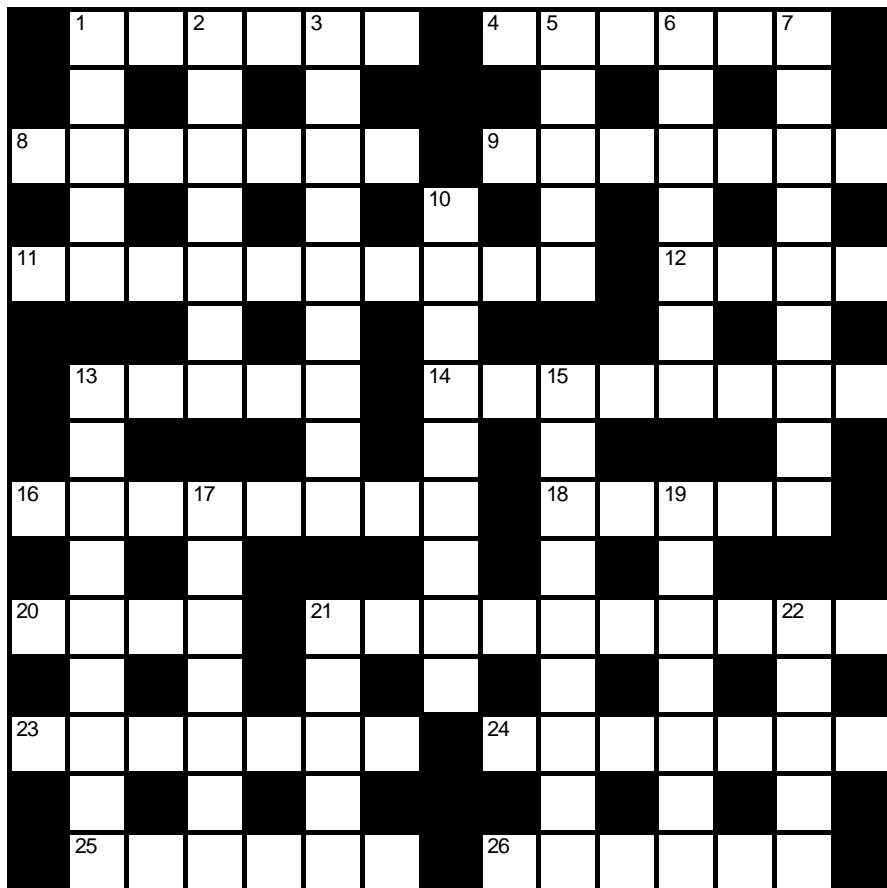
Brenda Wilson



Crossword Number 194

Compiled by **BYWELL**

* Clues contain no definition, but answers are of a type. Except for one which, according to our PM, **definitely** isn't. Send your answers to the editors by 18th April 2022. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a meal for two at the Red Lion—contact the pub manager for full details. Emailed solutions are acceptable but please include “CROSSWORD” and the crossword number in the header



Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Across

- 1 Was first placed in exotic snail family (2-4)
- 4 Mushroom for cooking with mostly rice (6)
- 8 Port that can be consumed from the left and from the right (7)
- 9 Calling favourite volcano in the afternoon; starting to erupt (3,4)
- 11 Enjoy rum for a change with an artisan (10)
- 12 Work found in Octopussy scene (4)
- 13 Values turn out strangely to prevent loss (5)
- 14 * Move deceptively, almost in between the poles to begin with (4,4)
- 16 Little swimmers continue with their scheming about chessman (8)
- 18 Set up some full-wave rectifiers (5)
- 20 Chance what's left with ends (4)
- 21 Write beautifully an arrangement for Gallic harp (10)
- 23 Record gets stuck as these bring 'streaming' to a halt? (7)
- 24 Expression of appreciation after famous Argentinian oratorio (7)
- 25 * Do we test things here? Yes, but the other way round (6)
- 26 Man is one, and yet no man is one too (6)
- 5 * Alternative evolution of genre (5)
- 6 Divorcee's manoeuvre to sever communication (4,3)
- 7 * One leading the millennium - his heart is in a Scottish island (9)
- 10 Aldi head contemplating early closing, in a funny way (9)
- 13 Allows bad arrangement on the dining table (5,4)
- 15 Want to be born a princess with a strip of land (9)
- 17 Beautification! pet surrounded by broken bones (4,3)
- 19 First upland area is redistributed to land mass (7)
- 21 See 22
- 22/21 * Oddly missing: Opel taxi's decoy BMW roundel (5,5)

Solution to crossword no. 193

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

We congratulate Mary Joyner, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Robert Nunn, Dainin O'Dowd and Trish Whitehead.

Down

- 1 Final stage of insect in grim agony (5)
- 2 * Broadcast letters in Braille (7)
- 3 * Glorious day in our north-eastern county (4,5)

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Boats and bikes

It feels like we are ready for spring, and with our boat trips starting up for the year, and cycle hire opening, both from 19 March, we have outdoor activities to enjoy at the Fen as a new way to explore the nature reserve. We will be running our boat trips Wednesday – Sunday, and cycle hire will be open 7 days a week. Boats are back to 12 passengers on each trip, and we are planning a regular schedule of Wednesdays – Fridays at 12 and 2pm, and weekends 11.30am, 1pm and 2.15pm. Times may change depending on staff and volunteer availability, so do call us to check if you are planning your visit around these.

Spring wildlife

As the season turns of course, activity for the wildlife on the Fen is all about the arrival of migratory birds, nesting, young animals and other signs of spring. Some of the species on different areas of the Fen, including Burwell Fen, are rare, and vulnerable to disturbance. While the paths are great for dog walks, we would like to remind everyone that dogs should be kept under close control – and that really means if your dog does not instantly recall, it should be on a short lead. Even well-behaved dogs are perceived by birds as predators, so please ensure your dog stays on the path with you and doesn't run off into fields or through reeds and into water. We are looking forward to hearing cuckoos again, but their breeding success relies upon the reed warbler nests not getting knocked out of the reeds – of course the reed warblers would prefer that too!

Volunteer opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to start with us as Dog Rangers – to chat to dog owners, let people know the best routes, where dog bins are, how to walk your dog around grazing animals, and also encourage responsible dog walking for everyone's benefit. If you are a regular user of our site, and interested in joining the Wicken Fen team in this role, please contact isabel.sedgwick@nationaltrust.org.uk – being a National Trust volunteer

is a great way to get to know your local places and help with their conservation and upkeep.

Events

Easter Egg Trail

Join us for an Easter adventure in nature at Wicken Fen. Discover our family-friendly trail with fun activities for you to do along the way. Complete the trail and earn your Rainforest Alliance chocolate egg at the



Reed Warbler—photo by Rob Coleman

end. 9 to 18 April 2022, from 10am last entry 4pm. No booking necessary, £3 per child. Normal admission applies.

Owl Pellet Detectives

Delve into the fascinating world of owl pellets to discover what's on the menu for the owls at Wicken Fen! Wednesday 6 April 2022. Suitable for ages 5+, £6 per child (1 hour session). Booking essential, online.

Painting the Fens

For the budding artist this is a great opportunity to get some expert guidance and learn the basic watercolour skills. Tuesday 12 April 2022. Suitable for ages 6+, £9 per child (2 hour session). Booking essential, online.

Mucky Pups

Outdoor adventures at Wicken Fen, for pre-school children who enjoy getting grubby. Friday 1 April and Friday 6 May 2022. Suitable for ages 2-5 years, £6.50 (1.5 hour session). Booking essential, online.

For the latest information and online events booking, please visit our website

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Julia Hammond

Community Enterprise Project in East Cambridgeshire

Community Catalysts are working with Cambridgeshire County Council to support people in East Cambridgeshire interested in becoming sole traders or small community enterprises offering a range of care, support and activities for older and disabled people at home and in the community. **Local people helping other local people.** How they do that is entirely their choice - as a sole trader or maybe with friends they set up a co-operative or social enterprise.

Having a focus on Ely, Littleport, Soham and Burwell but the East Cambs villages, including Sutton will also be part of the project as vulnerable groups face the rural challenges of care and support.

We have a local Catalyst, working with all the amazing groups, communities' teams and area connectors. The project will offer free support, helping folks to help their neighbours and understand how to run their own enterprise well whilst providing the best care and support. We are also able to advise small groups and organisations already established with developing or diversifying their business.

At Community Catalysts we've done this for over 10 years, with many successful projects up and down the country. We have seen that with Covid that continuity of support is even more important, difficult times have shown even more that people want to help others in their community.

For more information contact your local Catalyst, Anna Tuck on; anna.tuck@communitycatalysts or phone 07881 297 330

www.communitycatalysts.co.uk

Facebook – www.facebook.com/CommCatsEastCambs

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting

The March meeting of the Parish Council took place, chaired by Cllr Covill and attended by five parish councillors and 4 members of the public.

Correspondence for consideration/circulation.

An Email from ECDC regarding bin day changes from Thursday to Tuesday from 29th March onwards.

An Email saying that the Jubilee party will be taken on by the Village Hall committee plus others. Cllr Durrant clarified that due to lack of interest, there were currently no plans for a Jubilee celebration.

An Email regarding closure of part of High Street and diversion from 20th to 22nd April inclusive, for work by BT.

Address from Mr George Hurrell and discussion of his proposal regarding development of Laundry Lane.

Mr Hurrell introduced himself and outlined his connections to Swaffham Prior. He explained that he and the owner of the horse field wished to avoid mistakes made in the last planning application which had been withdrawn as they felt the developers had put together an unsuitable application which was unlikely to be passed. As a consequence of this, Mr Hurrell expressed the wish to spend time consulting with the PC and parishioners, to produce a scheme that provided housing the village wanted at a time it was wanted.

As a result of questioning by Councillors, it was established that:

- Mr Hurrell was representing both himself and the owner of the horse paddock.
- Mr Hurrell owned the access way only.
- The proposed development was open to ideas, such as self-build plots and more Community Land Trust houses
- The original intention to have access to the development from the High Street was felt to be problematic and access from the B1102 would be preferable, particularly if this involved a roundabout which could help address the issue of speed through the village.
- Mr Hurrell had spoken to Tim Doe of the Scouts and if part of the Scout Field was lost, was prepared to offer land elsewhere to replace it.
- Laundry Lane was not proposed as access as it is a bridleway and there was no wish to compromise the footpath.
- The lack of sewerage and water supplies were issues to be addressed by the developers.
- The rules regarding the setting of the Grade 1 listed church would have to be taken into account.

Mr Hurrell concluded that as a next step, he wanted to hear from the PC and the village what they would want as a development, that there was no rush as the intention was to take time to get it right and that he will look into access from the B1102.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk noted two incidents of fallen or unstable trees over footpaths. Andy Martin is to remove the trees blocking the footpath to the horse field and the Clerk to write to the owner of the tree leaning over the footpath between Cage Hill and Fairview Grove to make them aware.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the Burwell litter pickers had cleared the verges along the B1102 from Burwell to Swaffham Bulbeck. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Burwell litter picking group to express the PC's appreciation.

Open Question Time

A member of the public expressed concern that the road on Fairview Grove may not be reinstated suitably after it has been dug up for the Heating Scheme – the steel mesh within the concrete road is being cut which will affect the integrity of the road.

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 April 2022 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Fairview Grove - the steel mesh within the concrete road is being cut which will affect the integrity of the road

Jude Griffiths

Clerk to the Parish Council.

Tel 745 106

Email swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com



Reach Fair
By Royal Charter since 1201

Monday 2 May 2022
12 noon to 5pm

www.reachfair.org.uk
Reach CB25 0JD



East Anglian Air Ambulance

As a 24/7 operation, EAAA is always looking for new ways to improve its service when taking a mobile intensive care unit to the scene of an incident. We are now eagerly awaiting the return of the Cambridge based ‘Anglia Two’ aircraft to the flight line, currently undergoing transformation from four rotor blades to five.

This modification significantly reduces vibrations within the helicopter which means that the crew can undertake more life saving interventions. It is a smoother ride for patients with painful break injuries, and increases the weight that can be carried meaning that we can more easily transport a loved one with the patient when required.

Spring Raffle ! It is that time of year again and EAAA is pleased to announce the launch of our Spring Raffle 2022. The Spring Raffle is a HUGELY important part of the EAAA calendar. Last Spring, we raised over £210,000 from ticket sales and donations, and this year a top prize of £3,000 and a dozen others are ‘up for grabs’. If you are signed up to receive post from us, your pack, containing Raffle tickets and entry form, may well already have arrived. If you are not signed up to receive post, please do play on-line at “eaaa.raffleentry.org.uk”. Tickets are £1 each, you must be over 18 to participate and the entry closing date is Friday 6th May with the draw being held on 13th.

At the end of February we said goodbye to one of our long-serving pilots, Captain Rich Anderson. Rich joined EAAA as a co-pilot in 2015/16 and quickly established himself as one of the kindest smiley members of the crew. Since then, Rich became Captain, married and now has two gorgeous children – we wish you well in your new role Rich.

Warning ! Aircraft of all descriptions, including helicopters, can pose serious danger to people in close proximity. Should you encounter an incident where an Air Ambulance is in attendance, please give it a wide berth to avoid collision or being affected by the downdraught from its rotor – stay clear and stay safe. “Helicopter Distancing” !

To all who, one way or another, support EAAA – a heartfelt ‘thank you’ from all involved in this wonderful charity – pleased keep up the good work. If anyone has a potential site for one of our red collection boxes, or knows of one, please contact us. Despite cash transactions reducing in number, we continue to derive a significant income from these boxes.

Together – we save lives.

Michael White



BON MOT NUMBER 127

“Britain is the only country in the world
where money buys the right to
to be a legislator. Conservatives, Labour
and Liberal Democrats have all put big donors
into the House of Lords.”

Denis MacShane (1948 -)

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

6 medium sized rockery rockets for collection. Ann 01223 811280

2ft x 4ft three drawer office desk; 2ft 6ins x 5ft three drawer office desk. Steve
07917 697259

Five wardrobes, one bureau/cupboard, one chest of drawers, two open bookcases,
one glass fronted cabinet (which was also used for books), and a computer desk/
table and 2 DVD carousels. Michael 01223 573969

Krups Nespresso machine. Unused for a year or so, still looks good. Cleaned/ de-
scaled recently but not tested for coffee making as we no longer have any pods!
Footprint approx. 28cm x 16 cm. Annie on 07783 645573

Wanted:

All items for community project

Contact Jackie 01223 813815

Kitchen scales

Frying Pan

The Council budget for 2022/23 was passed on 22 February, including a Council Tax freeze to recognise the cost of living challenges facing many residents. We supported the Council Tax freeze and proposed an amendment to devolve the Rural Services Delivery Grant of £169,000 to Parish Councils, and to allocate £10,000 to investigate options for Civil Parking Enforcement, to address the problems caused by illegal parking around the district. This would have been funded by joining the Combined Authority's Community-Led Housing Support service, saving the costs of providing it in-house and drawing on the extensive experience of ACRE in community engagement. We also proposed to cut the £25,000 (33 per cent) proposed increase to the Council's PR budget. This amendment was defeated. East Cambs is a relatively small part of the total Council Tax bill, which includes tax for the County Council, Police, Fire services and Parish Council, so our Council Tax bills will increase from April, even though East Cambs' element will not increase.



We also unanimously passed a motion thanking residents in East Cambs for their exemplary behaviour during the lockdown periods, during which very few Fixed Penalty Notices were given to our residents for breaching Covid Lockdown rules and volunteers helped those in need. We also thanked health professionals and all those in public office and leadership positions who worked hard to lead by example. The administration deleted the section which would have shared the severe disappointment of many East Cambs residents that this leadership and responsibility had not been demonstrated by the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson

At this meeting, the questions from the public revolved around actions to address the Climate Emergency. One asked about the provision of electric vehicle charging points and highlighted how few points there were in East Cambs and that many of those had not been working for several months. Another asked for the Council to bring pressure on the Local Authority Pension scheme to disinvest from fossil fuels.

Our bin days changed at the end of March to make the routes more efficient and save 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. Our normal collection days are Tuesday, but this will change temporarily around Easter and the May Bank Holiday. So our April/May collections are Tuesday 5 April, Monday 11 April, Wednesday 20 April, Tuesday 26 April and Wednesday 4 May.

Our next Councillors' Surgery is on Wednesday 27 April at 6.30, by Zoom. Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196.

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 April 2022**

Sunday 3 April

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham
4pm Village Worship, Village Hall, Quay

Wednesday 6 April

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

Sunday 10 April – Palm Sunday

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

Thursday 14 April – Maundy Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Friday 15 April – Good Friday

10am Open Air Service, Quay (in church if wet)
7pm Meditation for Good Friday, Bottisham

Sunday 17 April – Easter Sunday

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

Sunday 24 April

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

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Vicar: Rev'd Sue Giles, The Vicarage, 86 High Street, Bottisham CB25 9BA Tel:
01223 812726; suethevic@btinternet.com

All are welcome to services in any church in the group.

Please be in touch if you would like a lift to a service.

Check <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7378/benefice> for current information;
or email admin@angleseygroupofparishes.co.uk, (also the address to request the Zoom link).

Dates for Your Diary April 2022

Fri	1	Mucky Pups, Wicken Fen [17]
Wed	6	Owl Pellet Detectives, Wicken Fen [17] Bus Stop Meeting, VH Car Park, 1.30pm—3pm [8]
Sat	9	Quiz Night, 7.30pm [3]
Mon	11	Village Hall Cheese & Wine Meeting, 7.30pm [5]
Thu	14	PC Meeting, VH. 7.30pm [19]
Tue	19	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [14]
Thu	21	Village Hall AGM, VH, 7.30pm [5]
Fri	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Sun/ Mon	24/ 25	Cinema at Newmarket, 7:30pm [8]
Mon	25	WI, 7.30pm, VH [14]
Wed	27	Bottisham Patients' Participation Group, Zoom, 6pm [8] ECDC Councillors' Surgery, Zoom, 6:30pm [22]

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