

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVI Number 12 December 2022



## Editorial

Christmas is fast approaching and what better to start the Season of Good Cheer, Crier Crossword aficionados, than a crossword seasonally themed in

every single clue! Every one of them same theme — can you spot it?

Personally, I used to love Christmas when my mother did it — with just a little basket or two from the local shops, leading to a great feast with no fuss whatsoever and contrasting somewhat sharply with the waggon train of supermarket trolleys which seem to be required for this household, together with a yet another waggon load the day after Boxing Day.... oh well.

On the subject of Feasts, do read Ruth Scovil's WI Report in this month's issue. Lord Fairhaven of Anglesey Abbey never dined alone but put on four course dinner for his various guests, only problem is that they had exactly 1 hour to eat it, after which the butler turned on the BBC news and woe-betide anyone not finished!

Wulsin continues his hilarious Westminster Tales (see p. 12) — it appears some hitherto undiscovered Chaucer tells about a visionary holy Maid of Norfolk, one Dame Liz of Truss....

Meanwhile, the Great Heating Debate continues (see Letters, p 12, 14-15) and with 5 properties now connected as we go to print, all we can say is....SO FAR SO GOOD!

The January Crier will be a bit late as we wait until after Christmas to publish—copy date 29th December.

Wishing you All a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Caroline and James Matheson and all at the Crier Team

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Cover Picture: In Fordham Wood, needle felting by Annie Brown



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

## **Transport to Surgery**

In reply to S Richards' letter re getting to the surgery without buses: use your local car scheme (07833 960678). It's a government sponsored scheme run by volunteers, for just such eventualities. I speak for the Burwell scheme which I volunteer for, and journeys under five miles are charged £1.50, with each extra mile adding 30p. This goes into a general fund, from which volunteers are reimbursed at a later date. Efficient, friendly and fills a need.

Brenda Wilson

Dear Editors,

## Traffic Speed on Rogers Road.

In response to a request from residents, the PC have had the Speed Indicator Device on Rogers Road for 4 weeks from 16<sup>th</sup> October. In that time:

- it had recorded 6539 vehicles passing at an average speed of 19mph.
- The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 28.5 mph.
- Of those vehicles speeding, the average speed was 33mph and the top speed recorded (by one vehicle) was 50mph.

The full results have been posted on the PC website.

As you can see from the information collected, there was no evidence of a significant speeding problem on Rogers Road.

*Jude Griffiths* Clerk to Swaffham Prior Parish Council

Dear Editors,

## **Fact Checking**

Reading Alastair Everitt's report in the November issue of the Crier, and follow up letter from Heating scheme Guru Maggie Pratt, I was surprised that real time "fact Checking" has even permeated the pages of the Swaffham Crier. I had thought "fact checkers" and their attack on free speech was confined to the likes of Facebook and Twitter. I perused whether we might need Elon Musk to make a takeover bid to the Crier in his quest to restore free speech to Twitter and the likes. But after careful consideration, seeing him dressed as the "Devils Champion" complete with Baphomet emblem for a Halloween party, I decided maybe he is not a man to be trusted.

As with all "fact checkers" their goal is not to provide truth, but to try to prevent people from thinking and checking for themselves, quite often these "fact checkers" have been proved wrong over time (especially over this last couple of years) and so *their* "facts" are frequently edited. This is why we need the online harms bill, so there is nowhere else to go to check for yourselves, only the "governments" and the mainstream medias narrative, a bit like the way China does it, so nothing to worry about... So maybe we should do some "fact checking" of Maggie Pratt's response to her very privileged sneak preview of Alastair's report. Alastair did not state that any insulation improvement grant was from the heat network scheme. He just states that the housing associations have received £300,000 for insulation improvements, can Maggie refute this allegation? If the housing associations are receiving this amount, and it is tied to acceptance of the heat network scheme, it could well be seen as a bribe. Alastair also never claimed that the energy center was run from a diesel generator, he said " a diesel generator <u>has</u> been used for the electricity". Can Maggie confirm that the energy center has never used a diesel generator, even temporarily? (In my experience, temporary can run into months and years)

Maggie also states that the Housing Associations are signing up because they can see the value to this scheme to their residents and that they will be provided heat at a much lower cost than their current heating systems.

I would like Maggie to go into a bit more detail of this statement, is the value to the residents the heating scheme? Or is the value the improved insulation, new doors, windows, radiators, solar panels and cat flaps? (does this mean they will all have to get a cat if they don't already have one to make full use of these improvements? and why aren't the dogs being catered for?) Can she also provide cost breakdowns, average current and future that she must have used to prove her statement of lower costs.

I'll stick to Alastair's figures, as I have a distrust of gurus, especially climate ones, and no, I am not a "climate denier" there definitely has been, are, and always will be, various climates. A total of 320 houses in the village, 270 private, 50 association, and scheme costs of around £12 million, that equates to £37,500 per house, for every house in the village. Surely that money would have been better spent on each house, providing better insulation and better windows and doors where required, solar electric and solar heating for each house (again only where required, as some already have). Backed up with ground or air source, or maybe wood pellet heating for each house individually, again only where required.

Each house could have had a tailored system dependent on the most suitable application and preferences of the householder. This, I believe, would have ensured a much higher uptake, and included houses outside the area of the proposed scheme.

It may have come in at a much lower price, and would certainly have resulted in lower future costs for householders. These options, and maybe lots of others, should have been explored and debated to give a greater value to residents, and resulted in achieving the stated aim of a far higher number of energy efficient homes. Perhaps our "Climate Guru" can explain why these options were not explored.

But, of course, there would have been one big disadvantage with this approach, each house would have maintained it's independence from a centralised heating scheme, which is ultimately controlled by someone other than the householder. Especially if this is a blueprint for other villages where houses do not have a centralised heating provider.

It would also have gone against the current Authoritarian mantra of "we're doing this, and we've decided it's for the greater good so never mind your individual views, suck it up and be quiet". Incidentally, for the 128 houses signed up for the scheme (78 private and 50 association) the costs work out at £93,780 per house, huge value for the taxpayer, wouldn't you agree!

I understood that originally the air source would only kick in on the coldest of winter days to help boost the system. But I have heard that the heating scheme has

"evolved" over time, and due to the extreme hardness of the clunch encountered during drilling (surely this problem must have been envisaged from the start) resulting in far fewer holes being bored, and at possibly lower depth? Meaning that the air source pumps will be used far more than originally intended, making it primarily an air source, rather than ground source scheme. I have no proof of this, and of course, it may be false and just idle gossip, I'm sure the "fact checkers" will clarify.

*Paul Northrop* Mill Hill Resident.

## **From our Reporter**

What a gem the CCC were last month, not only for this village but for a whole slew of other villages which otherwise would have been left without buses. And why wasn't Josh here revelling in his council's triumph. He certainly would have a got a few brownie points for this. Instead it was left to our ECDC representatives to

promote our needs and announce the CCC triumph. Even Matt Hancock in a very chummy letter to Jude gave his sympathy and support over our potential bus loss. And this he did before joining "I'm a Celebrity". No matter what one thinks about Matt, and who doesn't, he has performed superbly well on the show. From the news paper reports he has won the support of the other contestants and has come out top dog. He has in fact created a growing grudging respect and his £400,000 fee has been worth every penny to ITV because of increased number of viewers. Just imagine what Boris Johnson would



do for the show. He is very much of the same ilk as Matt and would be an even greater star. Worth double Matt, even a cool million fee I would have thought.

Now that we have got the Stephensons buses it is up to us to do our bit. The problem, as it has been for a very long time, is that insufficient people use the bus. How about this for an idea. There must be a fair number of oldies in the village who have a bus pass and only use it with the Park and Ride. Supposing we all took a regular bus journey six times a year (making 12 if you come back). Not much I know but "every little bit helps" as people constantly say. Take a trip, enjoy a coffee or lunch in the wonderful Italian atmosphere of the cafe in Emmanuel Street, or a classy cake in the John Lewis restaurant, or anywhere else. Enjoy Cambridge on a fine day and have gentle trip home. Form a Bus Pass Club? A dippy idea?

The *Crier* has made a highly successful stand for the little people. This was against Barclays Bank. In the past at some point the Parish Council had tremendous difficulty in amending the signatories for its account. This year the Village Hall Committee had a similar difficulty when appointing its new treasurer Keith Carter. It took two to three months. Later this year the *Crier* had the same problem when appointing Sharyn Robinson as its new Treasurer in September. It was a disaster. Undeterred, Sharyn bearded the Barclays manager in his den for fifty minutes. It transpired during the interview (interrogation?) that they were not able to sort out the problem, that their record keeping and data control was appalling and they may have shredded all her previous information. Sharyn was advised the best thing to do would be to start again and then wait up to six weeks for the mandate team to

authorise it. So Sharyn went into Lloyds and the account was transferred within weeks. Barclays and other big banks have had enormous profit increases this year with Barclays at the same time closing masses of branches and ending draft facilities for all those customers who have not used the facility in the last twelve months. They are intent on making everyone bank online. Windfall tax?

Our Parish Council was back at its best in October with a very full agenda covering so many of the questions with which the PC needs to deal. The minutes are worth looking at on the website. And in November we were reminded that the new elections are next May. Andrew Camps will be standing down after something like twenty or twenty five years. Apart from having served the village so well in so many ways he also has a rare talent. Not only was he an avid bird watcher but he is also talented bird imitator and can reproduce the most amazingly accurate renderings of the songs of at least five or six birds. Quite amazing. One day he may be persuaded to give a four minute performance in one of the churches, with the audience guessing the birds. More important is that this will now leave two vacancies on our PC. It is to be hoped volunteers will come forward.

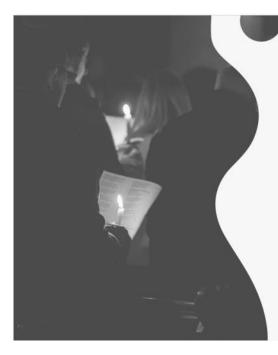
The PC still has to agree a date for the proposed visit to the House of Commons which is being arranged by Lucy Frazer. The train strikes have been a worry and a problem and possible dates are being requested for the new year. But surely there is no need for the railwaymen to disrupt any arrangement. The PC could hire a mini bus and this could be a very chummy way to travel with their thermos flasks and packets of sandwiches on their knees. And on their way back they could all sing songs. It would be a very jolly journey and remind them of the good old days. This could be a journey never to be forgotten.

Lucy has always offered her help to the village and has always been willing to come and talk to the PC. It is worth looking at her current website entry on "Climate Change and the Environment". In this she reveals that she has always supported the Heating Scheme right from the beginning. It was Lucy who was responsible for "arranging a meeting with the Minister for Business to obtain Government funding for this innovative project." She says it "*is the first of its kind in the country to take an entire village off oil heating*."

She is also a great supporter of increasing cycle routes. I think it would be of great benefit to the village if she agreed to come to an Open Meeting in the Village Hall to discuss both projects. She could have supporters and enthusiasts on the panel with her. Perhaps the PC will ask her about this. It could be a sell out. And nearly as popular as the meeting held a number of years ago to discuss the establishment of a large Travellers Site in Heath Road – on the very field where the Heating scheme is now situated.

One thing I always miss at this time of year is the sound of the rutting which used to come from the Deer Park in Marshall's grounds. It was a sound which always took us back and reminded us of an essential part of nature. But what we do now have (though not quite the same thing) is the bell-like "ching-ching" of the Bearded Tit in Wicken Fen. But it is neither a tit nor is it bearded. It is a Reedling and the male has not a beard, but just the most wonderful moustache. The bad news is that the lakes in Kenya have suffered from Climate Change and in one lake the flamingo population has declined from 850,000 in 2000 to 6,000 last year. Makes you think.

Alastair Everitt



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE ANGLESEY GROUP OF CHURCHES

#### Sunday 4 December

4pm Countdown to Christmas, Worship in the Village Hall, Quy

#### Sunday 11 December

10.30am Christingle Family Worship, Swaffham Prior - also on Zoom

#### Sunday 18 December

3pm	Carol Service, Quy
4.30pm	Carol Service, Swaffham Prior
6.30pm	Carol Service, Swaffham Bulbeck

#### Thursday 21 December

10.30am Carol Service, Lode

#### Friday 23 December

10am	Crib Service with Toddler Group, Lode
3pm	Crib Service, Swaffham Prior
6pm	Open Air Carol Service, Bottisham

Saturday 24 December - Christmas Eve 11.30pm Holy Communion, Bottisham & Swaffham Bulbeck

#### Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day

Bam	Early Communion, Quy
10am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior



## St Mary's Church Swaffham Prior Christingle Family Service

- Sunday 11 December at 10.30am
- Make a traditional Christingle as part
  of the service
- Please give in support of the work of the Children's Society
- All welcome!





Swaffham Prior Village Hall Christmas Carol Singing 17<sup>th</sup> December 6:00 – 8:30 Mulled Wine & Mince Pies All Are Welcome



## Newmarket Cinema

Our Monday film shows for the first 3 months of 2023 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket are:

Jan 16th - The Duke (12A) Feb 20th - Operation Mincemeat (12A) Mar 20th - The Admirable Crichton (U)

Door open at 6.45pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is  $\pounds 6$  which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats, please ring 07756 853714.



## **CRIER COVER PICTURE**

Annie Brown who is a member of Prior Arts Group has provided a December cover picture for the Crier.

She & her husband have a flock of sheep at Fordham and the felt is made by Annie from their fleeces.



## She did it all

Our much loved vicar is retiring. She has been the driving force of the Anglesey Benefice for ten years, always there, always doing something; difficult to catch on the phone but always available if needed; inspiring but accessible. I remember very clearly as part of the interviewing panel at Quy, thinking she was the outstanding candidate (the only woman) and desperately hoping everyone else would agree. She has been a blessing throughout her time with us though it hasn't been easy for her: coming from a single, large, urban parish to five diverse, rural parishes and bonding them into a more or less single unit has been a tremendous achievement. It took a considerable amount of effort on her part to do so, but the pattern of services we have now has become settled. This has resulted in the villages getting to know each other better, to feel more a part of the wider church, and hopefully a little less parochial. We must not lose that. Her sermons have always been thoughtful and inspirational - (I wish she would print them so we can have a second go at them!), her christenings delightful, her funerals to die for!

Throughout her time with us she has reached out to the people around her; through her school work here and in Swaffham Bulbeck; with mothers and toddlers in Lode; with the film group for secondary youngsters; her regular

visits to care homes in the Benefice, in fact to all those who had need of her, bringing her very special qualities of compassion and empathy to bear.

In all her time with us she has managed to maintain her own interests, passions and hobbies: home, horse, birds and of course, hens. Her final service will be here at Swaffham Prior on 22nd January. How she will be missed! We wish her and Jonathon every good wish in their retirement.

Brenda Wilson Churchwarden

## **BON MOT NUMBER 133**

"Ella Fitzgerald reminds us that the world is full of pain, but we should take things lightly when we can." Kamila Shamsie (1973 – )

# Maggie and Me

A few months ago I lamented that Maggie Pratt no longer wrote in the *Crier*. But what a joy in last month's *Crier* when she returned and took me to task for "a lot of factually incorrect information".

I can only hold up my hands and plead guilty. I said there were 50 Housing Association properties. There are only 49. I said that  $\pounds 300,000$  was available to improve the insulation of properties. In fact there there is  $\pounds 350,000$ . I also got it wrong about the diesel fumes. It seems the diesel generator has never been used which just shows how easy it is to confuse diesel fumes with other rural aromas.

I do not plead guilty to misrepresenting the grant funding for insulation upgrades. This scheme was first announced in the January Crier this year and as presented it certainly suggested that the grant and housing associations were connected. Since then, and very very recently, there has been a government revision of the rules because so few had taken up the offer to insulate their houses. And we must remember that we have the worst insulated housing stock in Europe by far. We are leaking carbon emissions in massive doses. The  $\pm 34,500$  income limit is new – so new in fact that the village only received the CCC leaflet in mid-November, long after the Crier with Maggie' comments came out. So, Maggie, I do not think you have played with a straight bat here. You did not provide all in the information in the leaflet. You did not say it is only open to people who sign up to the Heating Scheme. A bit of bribery or arm twisting? You did not say whether someone renting from a housing association can be counted as a privately rented home with the landlord paying one third of the costs – attractive to a housing association. This could be a matter of interpretation. More important you do not say whether the £34,500 income limit is available to anyone not connected to the Heating Scheme. Or is this just yet another Heating Scheme rewriting of the story

Meanwhile all the 5/6 houses in Cage Hill on which work started in mid-September now have heat flowing through the pipes since mid-November. Just in time for the cold spell. Tom Duckmanton, who has much HS2 experience, is now managing the connections to the signed up houses. The order of work is 1) Greenhead, Tothill and Adams Roads. 2) High Street. 3)Lower End and the Beeches. 4) Rogers Road, Fosters Lane and Allix Grove. 5) Fairview Grove and Mill Hill.

This will give the signed up people some idea when they will be connected, especially if we are told how many non-Housing Association houses have signed up in all the roads. Will you do this Maggie?

Alastair Everitt

## **Organ for Sale**

I am looking for a good home for a Wersi Spectra DX700 T CD organ and bench. Any reasonable offer considered. Buyer must collect. Please contact Mary Preece on 01449 771360 or email

## News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

## Winter wildlife

Water levels are starting to rise on the reserve following a long period of very dry weather. We're hoping that we'll soon start to see numbers of wildfowl increase on the wetter areas of Baker's, Burwell and Tubney Fens. Look out for whooper swans on Baker's Fen and winter thrushes feeding on the last of the autumn berries around the reserve.

## **Christmas and New Year Opening Hours**

Wicken Fen is open every day except Christmas Day. The Visitor Centre is open from 10am to 4:30pm, and the Docky Hut Café from 10am to 4pm.

Join us over the festive season for some peace and tranquillity, and to enjoy time with family and friends. There are lots of options for nature walks – our Visitor Centre team will be happy to help suggest the best route for your visit.

## Festive Winter Woodland Trail

You may remember our popular 12 Days of Christmas trail from a couple of years ago, which featured amazing displays created from natural materials by our volunteers. We're creating another trail this year featuring woodland wildlife, so do join us over the festive period to enjoy fun, family activities and quirky characters along the Woodland Walk route.

The trail is free (admission fees apply for non-National Trust members) and will be open from Saturday 26 November throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

## **Volunteer opportunities**

We are planning a volunteer recruitment day on Saturday 28 January – keep the date if you're interested in volunteering at Wicken Fen. We will be recruiting for roles including: cottage and fen workshop volunteers, family discovery guides, walk leaders and outreach talks volunteers. Keep an eye out for further information on our website and social media channels.

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website <u>www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen</u> Details of our events can be found on our website at <u>https://</u> <u>www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on</u>



## The Westminster Tales II The prologue to the Visionary's Tale

A hooly maid of Norfolk rode with us A visionary call'd Dame Liz of Truss. In habit of her ordre she profess'd Devotion to Seint Margareth the blest, Of whom she oft a hooly vision hadde – Tho' sondry folk concluded she was madde. Of deepest azure was her wimple's hue; She wore a mantel of the brightest blue And on her cote of armes was proud to show A lettuce quarter'd with a pussy-bow. But whan she preched, she nas no orator The peple deemed her sermons but a bore – With eyes that blinked and swivell'd in her hed She pauséd lenger far than aught she said And held al Europe author of our woes But knew nat if the Frenssh were friends or foes. So fain was she to preche unto the quire She reck'd nat tho' the chirche be set-afyre. So tendre-herted was she of the pore That for theyre soules' sakes she took theyre store And on the ricche bestowed it at gret cost For rich men's soules she knew alredy lost. A hobbie-horse she rode on, wond'rous thynne, With ribbes al sticking out and flanks sunk inne That stumbled in its plodding as it went And wolde nat face the way that it was meant. In troth it was a purblind hobbling hack That for each froward step took ten steppes bak Wherefor she rood side-saddel half-a-day Then turn'd around to face the other way. Upon the same nag rood her Chancellour Until she kicked him off into the myre. As she about Westmynster gan to ryde, Al sodeynly her hors lay down and dyed. No wonder is it, if the sooth be told Ye knowe a truss sore bolleaux doth uphold. Wulsin



## SWORD, SCEPTRE AND SAINTHOOD

#### A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ROYAL PICTURES SPECIAL AUTUMN DAY SCHOOL

How does the largest and most outstanding private collection of art in the world illustrate the evolution of the monarchy over 500 years into our modern era?

Like any family album, the paintings they collected and commissioned reflects



what British rulers have done, what they looked like but also how they wished to be remembered and what they most valued.

This short course pays homage to the genealogy of our late Queen Elizabeth II

Thursday January 5th at Swaffham Prior Village Hall 11.15 a.m. - 3.45 p.m.

## go to arthistoryincambs.com





## **HEATING SCHEME NEWS**

## Special visit to the Energy Centre



The residents of the first property connected to the heat network came for a special tour of the Energy Centre on 14 November. We had lots of questions on how the system worked and our budding young engineer had a play on the computer to see what was happening live on screen. He loved looking at the status updates to see how each part of the system was functioning and was telling our contractor what he was seeing on screen. Our visitors were surprised at all the equipment and thought the building would be much bigger considering it will supply heat and hot water to the whole village.

They said: "We love that we no longer can smell the flue oil and we get plenty

of heat and hot water, we even have to top up with some cold water for night-time baths so they are not too hot. The system is also so quiet, and we are so happy we connected to the heat network."

#### **Connections to the heat network**

We now have five properties connected to the heat network and receiving heat. Our latest connected customer said: "We have now had two days of the new heating system. I can only say it has worked perfectly. Also, the installers were very pleasant to have around and have done a very good job."

#### **Connection cost increases**

This is a reminder that the free connection is ending soon. We have kept the free connection for our customers a bit longer so that customers who have not signed up yet can have the opportunity to see the heating system work. Now that heat is on, the connection costs will increase from:

1 January 2023 – connection costs will be **£500** if you sign up after this date

1 April 2023 – Connection costs will be **£1000** if you sign up after this date

If you have a Heat Supply Agreement and have not signed up yet make sure you do before the price increase.

#### Government visit and tour

The Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) came for a tour of the village and Energy Centre to see what has been achieved so far along with one of the first pilot homes to receive heat. They were



really impressed with the site, heat at connected properties and asked loads of questions. They thanked the team for organising the visit and all the hard work to get the project to where it is today.

## Public footpath opened 1 November 2022

The public footpath across the borehole field opened on 1 November. All the diversion signs have been taken down; please be aware it is still very muddy.

Maggie Pratt





Young Engineer checking things out at the Energy Centre

## Julie's Christmas recipes

## **Fruity Christmas Pudding**

150g raisins 150g sultanas 75g currants 125g mixed peel Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon Grated zest and juice of 1 orange 4 tbsp brandy 125g soft brown sugar 125g shredded vegetable suet 125g fresh white breadcrumbs 50g plain flour 2 tsp mixed spice 125g chopped mixed nuts 3 eggs, beaten 2 tbsp treacle

1.Mix the first 7 ingredients together and leave for a few hours for the fruit to soak.

2.In another bowl put all the dry ingredients together.

3. Whisk the eggs and the treacle and add to the dry ingredient mixture and stir well, then add the fruit mixture.

4.Spoon the mixture into 1.4ltr pudding basin, cover with greaseproof paper and then foil, pleated to allow for expansion during steaming. Tie with strong string. Steam for 3 hours.

## **Christmas Pudding Semi-Freddo**

3 eggs separated 200g golden caster sugar 450g mascarpone cheese 250g mixed glace fruit, chopped 300g left over Christmas pudding crumbled 2 tbsp brandy cocoa powder for dusting

1, Beat the egg yolks and 125g of the sugar until pale and thick, Beat the mascarpone with the rest of the sugar, then add to the egg yolk mixture. Fold in the fruit, pudding and brandy.

2. Beat the egg whites until stiff and fold into the mixture. Spoon the mixture into a clingfilm lined loaf tin, cover with clingfilm and freeze. Unmould and leave for 20 mins at room temperature before serving, dust with cocoa.

Serves 8.

## Simple left over Christmas pudding ice cream

250g Christmas pudding

500ml tub vanilla ice cream

Simply break the pudding into chunks and put on a baking tray and toast until slightly crunchy. Set aside to cool.

Leave the ice cream to soften for a few minutes, then turn into a bowl and quickly stir in the pudding. Turn back into empty ice cream and freeze until firm. Serves 6



## **Mothers'** Union

For our October meeting we held a Harvest social and autumn bring and buy stall. After our time of worship, Julie Sale gave feedback from the Autumn Diocesan Day she had attended in Milton on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. Reporting that task group leaders updated members on current news, and it was encouraging to

hear that 15 families had enjoyed 'Away from it all' holidays this year. The main focus of the day was on Re-imaging MU. Looking at what we need to do both locally and nationally to ensure that Mothers' Union can continue for many years to come. Members worked in groups to discuss modernisation, relevance, building relationships and living with faith.

Our social activity for the afternoon was a Harvest Bible guiz, and the bring and buy raised £41.

From 25<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December Mothers' Union joins with over 6,000 organisations from 187 countries in support of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence and Abuse. Raising awareness of, and call for an end to, genderbased violence and abuse in all forms and in all societies.

Our meeting in December will be held a week earlier than usual on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December. After a short Advent service, we will be making a Christmas decoration followed by tea and mince pies. Please note this will be held in Fassage Hall, Lode. You are most welcome to join us.

We wish all readers Peace and Joy this Christmas.

## The Swaffhams' WI

Our very own Brenda Doe was the speaker at our meeting in November. She has lived much of her life on the Fen. married **SPIRING WOMEN** into an old Fen family, and told us some fascinating tales of Fen life from previous centuries and more recently. She also read a

spooky ghost story that has been passed down in her family for many years. Brenda has an extraordinary collection of old farming and fen artefacts and there was one of her fiendish quizzes where we had to guess what these were to finish the evening. We have been joined by some new members and are looking forward to our Christmas party on the 12th December.

## Hilary Grant

## VILLAGE GARDENERS



We had a very interesting talk by Helen Ackroyd on The History of Anglesey Abbey at our last meeting. In 1135 Augustinian monks built a wooden structure and provided health care for locals and travellers. They replaced the wood with Burwell stone 100 years later. The monks continued to live there for 400 years until the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII.

Madingley Hall was built using the stone from Anglesey Abbey. In 1609 a Jacobean house was built on the site. Thomas Hobson, of Hobson's Conduit in Cambridge, bought it for his son and daughter-in-law. The next occupants were the Downing family who gave their name to Downing College.

Urban Broughton inherited a great deal of money from his father who was a very good businessman and in the early 1890s he lived in Fairhaven in the United States. He married an American called Cara. In 1906 Huddlestone was born, followed by Henry in 1901. The family moved to London, were extremely wealthy and in 1929 Urban was made Lord Fairhaven. He died before he could be invested but the Royal Family, unusually, passed it onto Huddlestone. He had been to Harrow, then Sandhurst after which he was stationed at Windsor Castle until he left the army in 1925. Henry married in 1932 and sold his share of the house to his brother who never married and lived there for the rest of his life. There was no laundry room at the house. The linen was sent to Saffron Walden for laundering. However, every week Lord Fairhaven's valet packed up his master's shirts in a brown paper parcel, placed it in a wicker laundry basket and took it to Cambridge station. It was then sent by train to his mother's house at Windsor! He had so many suits that he never needed to have suits cleaned. The National Trust discovered hundreds of pairs of socks!

Lord Fairhaven wore a carnation every day, coloured in the day, white for the evening. The Queen Mother stayed there in 1948 when she went to Cambridge to receive an honorary doctorate. Her bedroom is now known as the Elizabeth room. Lord Fairhaven acquired many things for the house including two beautiful chandeliers from George II's palace in Hanover. In 1934 Waterloo bridge was collapsing. Women built a new one during the Second World War and it was built on time and in budget. In 1937 Lord Fairhaven bought all the wood from the original bridge which was very old elm.

He was generous in supporting local charities including Lode cricket club. He never liked to dine alone in the evening but he was very particular about time. The local vicar and his wife, academics from Cambridge and members of the racing fraternity in Newmarket were some of those invited to join him for dinner. Guests were greeted by the butler at the front door at 7.45pm. They were given a glass of gin and grapefruit with salt around the rim known as Salt Dog, upstairs; 8.00pm dinner was served downstairs in the dining room; 8.03pm the butler served the food. There were four courses to be finished by 8.59pm as at 9.00pm the butler turned the wireless on for the news. Everybody retired to the Oak room for drinks after dinner. Lord Fairhaven died on 20th August, 1966, just ten days short of his 70th birthday. The National Trust, with some reluctance, took on the running of Anglesey Abbey then.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th January, 2023 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall when Sharka Baxter will give a talk entitled "Born to Garden".

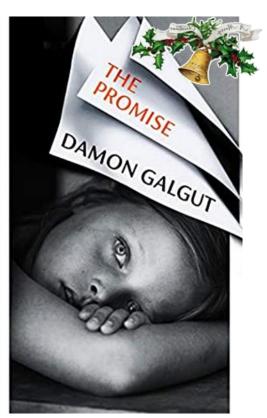
**Ruth Scovil** 

## The Reading Group Reads.... The Promise By Damon Galgut

For our meeting on November  $2^{nd}$ , we read *The Promise* by Damon Galgut, winner of the Booker Prize in 2021.

The Promise charts the decline and fall of a white South African family, told over four decades and four funerals. At the start of the novel, the family is gathering for Ma's funeral. Just before her death, Ma is overheard extracting a promise that, Salome, black housemaid for many years, should own her own house. Somehow, as each decade passes, that promise remains unfulfilled.

The failure, firstly of the father, to keep his word seems to fall like a curse on the family as we follow his children down the decades. As the South African world changes over the years, we see the children struggle. There is bigotry and adultery, rioting and a car-jacking.



This book provoked an interesting discussion as we were divided as to what we thought about it. Some of us found it a depressing read, some enjoyed the way it was written with interjections from the author, others felt the characterisation and description was shallow. But we all felt we learned something of what it must have been like to live through those changing times in South Africa and were glad to have read it.

**Roz Chalmers** 

## **Books for next year:**

January 4th The Shack by William Young February 1st Kai Lung Unrolls His Mat by Ernest Bramah March 1st The Midnight Library by Matt Haig April 5<sup>th</sup> Strange Weather in Tokyo by Hiromi Kawasaki New members or visitors are always welcome.





## From our District Councillors Charlotte Cane & John Trapp

#### Transport

Thanks to a lot of local people and the Ato-B1102 group the number 11 and 12 buses have been 'saved' at least until the end of March. However, we still need to persuade Stephensons and the Combined Authority to reinstate Bottisham on the number 11 route. We also need to address ticket charging and some other matters. But at least we have the buses. We are aware that the buses have not always run and have sometimes not kept to timetable – indeed the timetables are not yet displayed at all stops. That must be incredibly frustrating for people who need to get to work etc, but



we must give Stephensons time to get used to running the new routes which they were only asked to tender for a few weeks ago.

Public transport should be reliable and affordable so that all of us can get to work, visit friends, attend appointments, and enjoy our leisure time. Unfortunately, there is a confusing structure of responsibility – the Combined Authority is meant to be responsible, but the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership and the County Council also have a major say and none of them have adequate funds for the investment needed, nor are their combined funds sufficient. Earlier this year the Government rejected a bus improvement funding bid from the Combined Authority. Two causes of this rejection have been identified. The first was that the Department for Transport had applied a deprivation score, which did not help our cause as a high growth area. We agree that deprivation has to be tackled, but so does the increasing pressure on our transport system caused by our high growth. The second was the Government's view that the application had shown insufficient commitment to bus priority schemes, active travel and road charging. Bus priority schemes and cycle paths are expensive to deliver on rural roads. In other words, to achieve what everyone wants we need significant investment from central Government.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership's consultation is open and closes at midday on 23 December - <u>GCP Making Connections 2022 | Consult Cambridgeshire</u> (engagementhq.com). It is offering significantly improved services for most of us, paid for through a road charge for driving in Cambridge. It will have a major impact on these villages, especially on those who commute in Cambridge for work or study. We have some hard copies of the document which we have asked local shops etc to display for those without web access. Please contact us if you would like a copy.

#### Cost of Living Help

The East Cambs Housing and Community Advice Team will be visiting our area regularly to advise on Housing, Welfare Benefits, Energy, Debt and Money. Bottisham was recently added to the regular schedule at our request and we are still pressing for the Advice Bus to visit other villages. In the meantime, please either go to Burwell or Bottisham or call the team on 01353 665555.

Burwell, Mandeville Hall every Thursday from 10.00am-12 noon.

Bottisham, Sports & Social Club every Thursday from 1.00pm-3.00pm

#### Waste Collections Over Christmas

To allow the crews to enjoy a Christmas break, the collection dates will be changed across Christmas.

Collections due on Monday 26 December will be collected on Wednesday 28 December

Collections due on Tuesday 27 December will be collected on Thursday 29 December

Collections due on Monday 2 January will be collected on Wednesday 4 January Collections due on Tuesday 3 January will be collected on Thursday 5 January Collections due on Monday 9 January will be collected on Tuesday 10 January Collections normally due on Tuesday 10 January will be collected on Wednesday 11 January

#### **Councillors' Surgery**

For January and February, we will be holding our Councillors' Surgeries by zoom, to save people coming out in the cold and the dark. Our next Surgery Zoom will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17 January – Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196. Or you can contact us directly at any time – <u>charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk</u>, 07976 607512; jhn.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01223 812120

And finally Seasons Greetings to all readers.

## News from Bottisham Patients' Participation Group

**Flu Vaccinations – Medical staff are concerned at the lack of uptake** Please contact the Practice for flu vaccinations, the details of who is eligible is in the following link. Those not eligible under the NHS can have them done privately.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-

programme-plan/national-flu-immunisation-programme-2022-to-2023-letter

## From our Social Prescriber "NAAFI Break"

ALL veterans are welcome to come along and meet likeminded veterans

10 till 11am Wednesday 14 December at Anglesey Abbey to meet in the café.

Come along, meet new faces and feel connected within our community.

Gary in a Help for Heroes T Shirt looks forward to welcoming you. **Prescriptions – Bank Holiday:** Please ensure that you order your repeat prescriptions in time and have enough to cover you for the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

**The Patient Participation Group:** We are looking for new members to join the committee, all patients of this Practice are eligible. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved

**Regular Meetings:** Next meeting is Wednesday 25 January 2023 at 2pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting please email our chairman at <u>s.j.gilson@btinternet.com</u> who will send you a meeting invite.

We hope you have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

## **Crossword Number 201**

## Compiled by **BYWELL**

All answers are thematic, which should help with the more recondite entries. Send your answers to the editors by 18th December 2022. The sender of the first correct solution out of the hat will be awarded a *Winner's Certificate*. Emailed solutions are acceptable but please include "CROSSWORD" and the crossword number in the header.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11		12	13	14		15	
16		17	18		19		20
21	22		23			24	
25		26		27	28		
29			30	31	32		
33					34		

Name:	
Address:	
Tel:	

#### Across

- 1 Violin displayed in dramatic scenery (5)
- 4 Principal arrangement to charm Rita (9)
- 9 Greek character plays mother as paths may cross (7)
- 10 Reversing drivers spoil the first public transport (7)
- 11 Cast-iron case for being out of bed (5)
- 13 Act like me in 2001 epic conclusion (5)
- 15 Some flash Harry told to be quiet (3)
- 16 I deliberately write it like this (3)
- 17 Musical contributor to the finest arrangements (5)
- 19 Supporters of sails found on the forest floor, Bob (5)
- 21 Bones found regularly in swan carcass (5)
- 23 One treatise followed another we hear (5)
- 24 Some martial art regularly displayed by St David (3)
- 25 Creativity in removing extremists from party (3)
- 26 She comes back in with a Rastafarian (5)
- 28 Thai resettled with me, and left part of Hispaniola (5)
- 29 Dresses are hidden in centre of Dortmund's system of government (7)
- 31 Cathar is said to be secreting spicy paste (7)
- Reform movement taps painters and decorators for example (9)
- 34 Fog is in the hills (5)

#### Down

- 1 Antiquarians collapse into catharsis (9)
- 2 A nerveless second letter from the East (7)
- 3 'Tis nowadays in the middle of Whitsun (3)
- 4 Unwholesome atmosphere is intrinsic to William I as monarch (5)
- 5 Tasteless goods in a stately home (3)

- 6 Sacrificial offering turned around like me (5)
- 7 Bigots make a mess of croissant on leaving (7)
- 8 Unpleasantly stern, and nothing odd in the air is why (5)
- 12 God's expression of gratitude to a religious man (5)
- 14 My first song: "Seas in the Sky" (5)
- 18 Motorists hold races inside then run for essential oil (5)
- 19 Agree a matrimonial prospect (5)
- 20 Sabres cut tail off rodents held up by Indian music makers (9)
- 22 Cat hair recycled into early Greek lyre (7)
- 24 Drinking needs this to swallow alphabetic triple (7)
- 25 'Room at the Top' was written in Greece (5)
- 26 Bob and me in therapy keep this on to stay calm (5)
- 27 Landscaped ditches sought by comedians (2-3)
- 30 More Spanish mothers (3)
- 32 Grimy centre part of wheel (3)

#### Solution to crossword no. 200



We congratulate Jenny Brand, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Sue Jackson, Robert Nunn, Martyn and Debby Clark, and Trish Whitehead.

## Notes from the Parish November Meeting

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

22/01199/FUL Construction of ground floor extension and associated works. 27 Fairview Grove, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB25 0LB No comments or objections.

#### Purchase of a dog poo bin for beside the playground

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact East Cambridgeshire District Council to ask if they would empty another bin, what type of bin should be purchased and that if the total cost was under £200, to go ahead with getting it.

#### Purchase of new playground equipment

The Clerk confirmed that the application for a grant from Mick George had been turned down. Cllr Kent-Phillips had approached the Sports and Social Club and they are considering putting in half the costs. Cllr Latchford volunteered to research and apply for other grants, including the ECDC Facilities Improvement grant.

#### Parking issues at the junction of Station Road and the High Street

It was noted that these issues have been discussed repeatedly over the years and that the problem is due not to lack of rules regarding keeping the junction clear, but to lack of enforcement e.g. parking opposite or within 10m (32 feet) of a junction is already forbidden under rule 243 of the Highway Code. It was agreed that no action be taken and the PC only return to the issue if new evidence arises.

#### Consider quotes for a new website

The Clerk advised that at present the PC website did not reach required accessibility standards.

The three quotes received were felt to be too expensive and so Cllr Kent-Phillips undertook to bring the current website up to standard.

The Clerk also noted that guidance recommended the use of council emails to ensure a clear division between personal and council business/contact. The councillors preferred to continue using personal emails for council business/contact.

#### Repairing/replacing the speed awareness signs on Mill Hill

An email received from the Highways Agency stated that the signs in question were the responsibility of the PC. Cllr Kent-Phillips volunteered to research the cost of replacement speed awareness signs for the next meeting.

#### **Report on Heating Scheme**

A report was circulated to the PC and made available to the public on the website prior to the meeting.

In response to questions, Cllr Greenfield confirmed that 4 houses had joined the scheme and a fifth was in the process of being connected, that power was to be supplied from the Burwell solar farm, via a separate cable as there was not capacity

from the mains and that the heating was being supplied by air source pumps at present. Cllr Greenfield is to check and report back on the total cost of the heating scheme, how the back-up boilers work and the number of sign-ups needed for the scheme to break even.

## **Clerk's Report**

Notice of the memorial inspection had been put up on the noticeboard, website and in the Crier.

Letters regarding the threatened bus routes had been sent to Lucy Frazer MP, Dr Nik Johnson and Matt Hancock MP – only Mr Hancock's office had replied.

## **Parish Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that the Speed Indicator Device had been up for a month on Rogers Road. It had recorded 6539 vehicles passing at an average speed of 19mph. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 28.5 mph. Of those vehicles speeding, the average speed was 33mph and the top speed recorded (by one vehicle) was 50mph. The full results are posted on the PC website and the Clerk is to write to the member of the public who raised this issue and also to the Crier, explaining that there was no evidence of a significant speeding problem on Rogers Road.

Cllr Latchford had responded on behalf of the PC to the Sustrans cycle route consultation.

Cllr Covill noted that 2 incidents of fly tipping had been cleared from the fen, and that he is giving up his landline – to be replaced on the PC website with a new mobile number.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that elections are due in May and that would have to be taken into account in the budget. Cllr Camps noted that he would not be standing as a Parish Councillor in May.

Jude Griffiths Clerk to the Parish Council

# FREECYCLE

Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail (junthompson44@gmail.com) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow).

Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues.

## Offers

Numerous cardboard boxes useful for storage or removals. Mainly medium sized, some large, some tall. Michael 01223 756538

Fire Guard/Iron grate for open fire. 18" x 12". Peter-John, 01223 811211 or peter.tribe@hotmail.co.uk

## Wanted:

Old Veolia ECDC recycling box(es) (ideal for storing plastic plant pots!) . Robert or Nicky 01223 813592



## **Services in December**

## Sunday 4 December – Second Sunday in Advent

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham
4pm Countdown to Christmas, Worship in the Village Hall, Quy

## Sunday 11 December – Third Sunday in Advent

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

#### Sunday 18 December – Fourth Sunday in Advent

9am Online service on Zoom						
10.30am	Holy Communion, Lode					
10.30am	Morning Prayer, Bottisham					
3pm Carol Se	3pm Carol Service, Quy					
4.30pm	Carol Service, Swaffham Prior					
6.30pm	Carol Service, Swaffham Bulbeck					

## **Thursday 21 December**

10.30am Carol Service, Lode

## Friday 23 December

10amCrib Service with Toddler Group, Lode3pm Crib Service, Swaffham Prior6pm Open Air Carol Service, Bottisham

## Saturday 24 December – Christmas Eve

11.30pm Holy Communion, Bottisham & Swaffham Bulbeck

## Sunday 25 December – Christmas Day

8am Early Communion, Quy 10am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

#### Sunday 1 January 2023 - First Sunday after Christmas

9am Online service on Zoom10.30amHoly Communion, Bottisham4pm Village Worship, Quy Village Hall

#### Each Thursday (except 29 December)

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

## All services subject to any Covid restrictions; please check http:// www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7378/benefice

for current information; or email <u>admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u>, which is also the address to request Z**26**m link for online services

# December

Swaffham Prior Village Hall - Are you looking to celebrate a special occasion with a party; start a new group or just need more space for your existing one. For availability, prices or to make a booking go to www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk. For everything else call Philip Blackburn on 07501230256

2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	
	Tai Chi & Tea for All           10:30 - 12:00 -           Contact Fara on           07919857617           Tai Chi Chaun for           Beginners           17:30 - 19:00           Contact Fara on           07919857617	14:00 - 16:00 Contact deborah.monteiro @btinternet.com <u>SF-Fit Pitates</u> 17:00 - 19:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008	Art History Class 10:00 - 12:00 Contact deborah.monteiro @btinternet.com	Slimming World two groups. @ 17:30 & 19:00 Contact Sharon on 07760192638	Eastern Counties <u>Trai Chi for All</u> 10:00 - 12:00 Contact Sharyn on 0774017917 <u>Keep - Fit (to music)</u> 17:00 - 18:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008	
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	Tai Chi & Tea for All 10:30 - 12:00 - Contact Fara on 07919857617 Tai Chi Chaun for Beginners 17:30 - 19:00 Contact Fara on 07919857617	Art History Class 14:00 - 16:00 Contact deborah.monteiro @btinternet.com <u>SF-Fit Pilates</u> 17:00 - 19:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008	Art History Class 10:00 - 12:00 Contact deborah.monteiro @btinternet.com	Slimming World two groups. @ 17:30 & 19:00 Contact Sharon on 07760192638	Eastern Counties Tai Chi for All 10:00 - 12:00 Contact Sharyn on 0774017917 Keep - Fit (to music) 17:00 - 18:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	<u>T'ai Chi &amp; Tea for All</u> 10:30 -12:00 - Contact Fara on 07919857617 <u>T'ai Chi Chaun for</u> <u>Beginners</u> 17:30 - 19:00 Contact Fara on 07919857617 <u>WI Meeting 18:30 -</u> 21:30 Contact Margaret on 01638 744390	SF-Fit Pilates 17:00 - 19:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008	Art History Class 10:00 - 12:00 Contact deborah.monteiro @btinternet.com	Slimming World two groups. @ 17:30 & 19:00 Contact Sharon on 07760192638	Eastern Counties Trai Chi for All 10:00 - 12:00 Contact Sharyn on 0774017947 Keep - Fit (to music) 17:00 - 18:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008	Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Carols - For Everyone, 18:00 - 20:30, All Welcome
18	19	20	21	22	23	2
	Tai Chi & Tea for All 10:30 -12:00 - Contact Fara on 07919857617 Tai Chi Chaun for <u>Beginners</u> 17:30 - 19:00 Contact Fara on 07919857617	SF-Fit Pilates 17:00 - 19:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008		Slimming World two groups. @ 17:30 & 19:00 Contact Sharon on 07760192638	Keen - Fit (to music) 17:00 - 18:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008	



Dates for Your Diary December 2022



Wed	7	Bookclub, 6pm, location tbd [19]
Thu	8	Mothers' Union, Fassage Hall, Lode [17] PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH [24]
Sun	11	Christingle, St Mary's, 10.30pm [6]
Mon	12	WI Christmas Party, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	17	Village Carol Singing, VH, 6.30—8.30pm [7]
Sun	18	Carol Service, St Mary's, 4.30pm [6]
Fri	23	Crib Service, St Mary's, 3pm [6]
Sun	25	CHRISTMAS DAY Holy Communion, 10am, St Mary's [6]
Mon	26	Boxing Day Hockey, 10.45, The Denny [8]
Thu	29	Crier Copy Deadline Recycling [21]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Place	
FOSPS			2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083			
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	Kent House
Village Gardeners	Ruth Scovil	743720	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall