



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

It's February. That means Valentines Day, and as Julie says in her delightful Valentine's recipes: *First shuck your oysters*. Oysters? Shuck? If only! It'll probably just be chocolates again at our house, and we'll confine our culinary expertise to the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. But if anyone does have a go with the oysters, please write in and tell us.

It's a bit of skimpy Crier this month, mostly because the Parish Council did not have their usual meeting because they could not get a quorum this month. And for various reasons it's been a bit quiet on the "Foreign" News Desk — our sympathies go to our regular Renew contributor, Alan Brand, who will be back next month.

Meanwhile, it's so good to see St Mary's Events back. See their schedule on page 4 — they're going to be putting on a quiz each month this year. We're not sure about the Walk to Bethlehem though!

You can also read Julian Luttrell's fascinating article in this months edition about the way Victorians and Edwardians died. Julian runs a website called Tree Sleuths which will track your ancestry for you and in the course of his researches comes across many death

certificates which make for very interesting reading.

Lastly, the mystery of the disappearing article on Village

Noticeboards has finally been solved — see Letters! See you at the Oyster counter in Waitrose — or maybe not!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: Radishes by Paul Abbott



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

That Article

Regarding Alastair's concerns over censorship, Ross Clark's article on the Heating Scheme has been mentioned in the Crier, on the village Facebook page, appeared on both noticeboards repeatedly and was even printed in full in a funny little back-water paper called 'The Daily Mail'. Its removal from the village noticeboard was in order to make room for other village news and information.

Jude Griffiths

Clerk to the Swaffham Prior Parish Council

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Dear Editors,

Open Gardens

I am writing to let you know that we are opening our garden under the National Gardens Scheme for charity this year and the date has been set for the weekend of 4th and 5th June. Unfortunately, this was all arranged well before we knew that the Queen's Platinum celebrations were also happening over that weekend!

We have been told to expect a number of people over the two days (from 10am to 6pm each day) so there will be visitors cars parked along Lower End.

More information can be found by going to ngs.org and selecting "find a garden".

Catherine Dickens



All go with the Heating Scheme at Rogers Road, see page 4 for the latest update

St Mary's Swaffham Prior – Social Events 2022

After a quiet few years due to Covid, we are hoping to reintroduce some fun and fundraising events to the village. Old favourites return – Quiz Nights, Strawberry Teas, Dog Show and Harvest Supper, but we also hope to have some new events for all the family – a whole year of quizzes, Treasure Hunt etc. And, to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, a Royal Rogation Lunch...! Details on all these to follow, and, of course, dates may change depending on Covid restrictions. All are welcome to take part in any event – please keep an eye on The Crier and village Facebook page for information, or get in touch on admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

April 2022 – April 2023

Saturday 9 April

Sunday 22 May

Sunday 26 June

Sunday 17 July

Saturday 3/10 September

Saturday 1 October

Saturday 15 October

Friday 25 November

November/December

A Year of Quizzing – a quiz each month for a whole year!

Quiz Night – up to 6 in a team in the Village Hall

Royal Rogation Lunch – Coronation Chicken and Platinum Pudding to eat in or takeaway

Family Treasure Hunt – solve the clues to find your way to the Pimms reward!

Strawberry Teas – scones, strawberries and cream in a shady garden

Dog Show – fun classes for all dogs as part of the Harvest Show

Harvest Supper – the pudding highlight of the year! With Fairtrade raffle

Quiz Night – get the team back together in the Village Hall

Christmas Coffee Morning – coffee, cakes, craft and raffle in aid of local good causes

Walk to Bethlehem – sponsored walk



Film Church

For Year 6s and above

Fortnightly in Lode, Sundays 5.30-7pm

January 30; February 13 and 27; March 13 and 27 (Covid permitting)

Games, Film, Discussion

Please email: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

for more information

Village Heating Scheme

Energy Centre Update

The Energy Centre is really taking shape and the cladding has been completed on the outside of the building. Equipment has also started to arrive and is being installed. This photo is of an evaporator that will connect to the Air Source Heat Pump.

Even though we have faced challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, supply of materials, we are on track to connect the first homes in Spring. More details will be shared soon on when homes can connect from Spring onwards.



Roadworks

The installation of the heat network continues to progress well. Cage Hill and Green Head Road will be completed in mid February. The work on Allix Grove, Fosters Lane and Fairview Grove will start in February and we will post letters to those residents affected with exact dates.

There will be four way traffic lights at the top of Cage Hill and Mill Hill for one week which we have scheduled for half term when traffic is lighter so that it causes the least disruption to residents. From mid February to Mid April there will be two-way traffic lights while the network is installed down Mill Hill, we do not anticipate the same traffic disruption as before (as this will be two way rather than the 4 way system that was there before). We will be actively monitoring the traffic management system and will make adjustments if necessary.

Oil Boilers banned from 2026 – Government Consultation

The heat network scheme could not have come at a better time for Swaffham Prior residents since installation of new oil boilers in homes could be banned from 2026, and as soon as 2024 in non-domestic buildings, as part of the Government's move towards net zero carbon emissions. Government consulted on this proposal from 19 October 2021 to 12 January 2022.

The Swaffham Prior heating scheme is designed specially for village homes. It will deliver high temperature heating and hot water just as you receive from your systems now, but without the carbon emissions. The reason this is important is that many homes cannot take individual Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) and provide heating and hot water at the temperature you need because individual ASHP are mainly designed for low temperature heat and homes that are very energy efficient.

Maggie Pratt

...and from our Reporter

There is a rumour in the village that half of the 49 houses signed up to the Heating Scheme are part of the Cambridge Housing Society and Sanctuary Housing stock. Some of this stock may be unsuitable or have unconvinced tenants. To overcome this the Heating Group has managed to find another tranche of money, and now have nearly £400,000 to upgrade 20 homes. That is £20,000 per house. What a bonus for Cambridge and Sanctuary Housing. £400,000 has just dropped into their laps.

But there is a snag. The scheme could shut down with a two year notice – and the reasons could be many as detailed in the Agreement. It must be the only £13 million scheme which does not give any kind of guarantee. Surely there should be an absolute minimum of ten years, preferably twenty. Of course if you had kept your oil boiler and oil tank it will be very simple to return to the old system if the Scheme did fold. You have had it for nothing, received a couple of brownie points for defeating climate change, and then can easily return to normal.

This £13million project must by now have a business plan. Why not tell us how many signings are needed to make it viable, What is the amount of carbon emissions saved from, say, 120 houses? This information must now be available as completion is so near. Why leave us in the dark? Later, questions will be asked about CCC's plans for the rest of Cambridgeshire; they must already be working on this. We must remember that ours is just a pioneer scheme on which the whole of Cambridgeshire will be based.

As the January PC Meeting was cancelled we do not have the latest Heating Scheme details from David. Neither do we hear what Steve may have unearthed. Still it is all hotting up with the diggers working furiously to complete their work, and we look forward to the first house being connected on March 31st. Let's hope the champagne bottles be popping at a CCC party.

Now let's spare a word for the poor air heat pumps which have regularly got a bashing from the Heating Group. Their Myth-Buster Two gave them a real blast with

eight reasons why no-one should touch them. Yet many in the village are very happy with the Air Heat Pumps they have had installed. For £13million the whole village could be well insulated, fitted with air source heat pumps, and still leave millions in the bank. And with guarantees!

Meanwhile in early January Gareth Davies, head of the National Audit Office, has taken the government to task for spending billions of pounds on projects never properly evaluated. He says “What we have found by auditing government's

work is that many of the interventions carried out by government are either not evaluated robustly or not evaluated at all. This means that government is not learning from its successes or failures.” Or, as Michael Gove once said “There can be a tendency in government where you get ‘Vanity of Authorship’”. That is “I launched this programme and I’ll defend it come what may.” Is this what has happened with this scheme?

These are the interesting and vital questions, and not whether it will work. Of course it will work. It is not high technology; It is not like the James Webb Space Telescope which has been recently launched. But is it affordable? That is the key question. Ross Clark maintains and shows that even if all 300 house signed up it is still not affordable. And you don’t need to be a trained financier to know this. If anyone wishes to read him you will need to google something like “Ross Clark articles, Daily Mail, December 2021.”

This is probably all a little too serious for a dark February day so why not take a little journey. Some may have explored Heath Road, as suggested last month, and it is hoped they went to the end where they would have met the A14. That is the extent of the parish boundary going East. Take a trip the other way, by walking, cycling or by car. This time I do suggest by car for the full joy, and if you have children do take them. They will have an unforgettable experience. People new to the village should certainly do this and also older residents who have not travelled there for some time.

So, go down Station Road and continue along Whiteway Drove. Follow this around until you came to a cross road and then turn right for Reach. Travel through

“ as Michael Gove once said “There can be a tendency in government where you get ‘Vanity of Authorship...”

BON MOT NUMBER 125

**“A party is a party, not a work event.
They know it, we know it, your uncle’s
hairdresser's cousin’s aunt Sally knows it.”**

Clare Foges (1981 -)

Julies Valentines recipes

Oysters with chilli & ginger dressing

12 oysters, shucked
1 garlic clove
Thumb sized piece of ginger, finely chopped
2 tbsp mirin (rice wine)
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 red chilli, finely chopped
2 tbsp sesame oil
Chives, finely chopped to serve

Shuck your oysters, or open carefully with a flat knife.

To make the sauce, mix all the ingredients together in a small bowl.
Drizzle the sauce over the oysters, then sprinkle with chopped chives.

Fillet steak with red wine balsamic reduction

2 fillet steaks
Salt & pepper
4 tbsp balsamic vinegar
4 tbsp dry red wine

Sprinkle salt and pepper on both sides of each steak.

Heat a frying pan over a medium heat, place the steaks into the hot pan and cook for 1 minute on each side or until browned, reduce the heat and add the balsamic vinegar and the red wine. Cover and cook for 4 minutes on each side, basting with sauce when you turn the steaks over.

Remove the steaks to a warm plates and spoon over the balsamic/wine to glaze and serve immediately.

How did Victorians and Edwardians die?

One of the most entertaining things about family tree research is seeing some of the weird and wonderful things written in official documents. The “Cause of Death” section on older death certificates is a gold mine for this, particularly from periods when doctors were not as well trained as they are today.

There are some classic examples of the genre that have achieved legendary status: “Indiscreet use of laudanum”, “Frightened to death by a riotous mob”, “Extreme filthiness,” “Eating his own hair,” and the spectacular “Killed by standing too near a cow and a bull.” Funny though these may be, I have yet to actually meet one in the flesh as it were. So what follows is a short summary of some remarkable causes of death that I have seen in my work.

Some cases can only be adequately explained if we assume the doctor could not distinguish between what might cause death and what could not. One of these comes from close to home: according to his death certificate, my own great great grandfather died of “Chronic gout”, which is not something with a reputation of being lethal. Mind you some gout sufferers may well have wished they were dead.

At times doctors weren’t very sure of what the cause of death was but didn’t want to admit they didn’t know so they put together vague guesses, probably hoping nobody would look too closely. While researching a family in Ireland in 1890s Dublin I stumbled upon a rich seam of these, people who had died from “Probably Phthisis”, “General Debility”, and “Infirmity.”

Clearly doctors sometimes didn’t like to be asked to do an impossible job, and their frustration shows through. In 1915 a 15 year old boy died from “Pneumonia whilst a patient at the Hospital where he was operated upon for left inguinal hernia there being no satisfactory evidence to show cause of the condition of pneumonia or of hernia.” Or they suspected foul play but couldn’t bring themselves to say it - one man’s certificate says “Violent congestion of brain from injuries to head, no evidence of how caused.”

Sadly it was also common to read “Accidental suffocation while in bed with the parents” as the cause of death on an infant’s certificate.

How did some of the more outrageous deaths come about? To start with, people’s homes were dangerous places in the days before antibiotics. A 70 year old man died of “Toxaemia following cellulitis of the left leg caused by an accidental fall down the cellar steps.”

And Victorian era occupations could be very risky leading to some causes of death that are not common now.

When you think about deaths of Victorian era chimney sweeps you might be forgiven for thinking they died of falls, or becoming trapped or even burned. But believe it or not, 29% of deaths of chimney sweeps were caused by scrotal cancer as a result of continual exposure of the scrotum to coal soot.

The famous Bow Match Girls were continually exposed to fumes from the phosphorus used to make match heads, which led over time to their teeth glowing green in the dark, and this was sadly followed by a slow death from brain damage and or-

gan failure.

One 19 year old artificial flower maker who died in 1861 had to dust the flowers she made with a green, arsenic-laced powder. Unsurprisingly, she died an awful, violent death — convulsing, vomiting and foaming at the mouth, with her fingernails and the whites of her eye having turned green, and arsenic subsequently found throughout her stomach, liver and lungs.

Making beer seems safe enough, but involves boiling the mash, which then needs to cool. Today this takes place in a safe environment. But in Ipswich in 1879, poor four year old Edith Emma Skinner died from “falling into a tub of scalding beer.”

Not all Victorian deaths were common then but rare now. Sometimes the reverse is the case. In 1896 Bridget Driscoll ensured enduring fame by being the first pedestrian to be killed in a collision with a motor car in Great Britain. At her inquest the coroner said he hoped “such a thing would never happen again.”

On a final note, if all else failed and they simply could not work out the cause of death, they could always rely on a “Visitation of God.”

Julian Luttrell

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Cambridgeshire <http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cambridge> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said ‘There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cambridgeshire (part of the Walking in England website – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you’.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

On the Wildside

Natures Guardian or Natures foe?



Spring is just around the corner but our global climate is changing and as we look towards the rest of a new year, do we need to start asking ourselves some serious questions? Are we a nature guardian or a Foe? I know I normally focus on animals for these articles but I've decided to go a bit off piste this time as it's something extremely close to my heart and I'm hoping close to yours too.

Many years ago, our ancestors would live in peaceful harmony with Mother Nature, striking a balance where by humans could live, while the earth could still thrive! These times are sadly long gone and the human race has become greedy, stripping our plentiful earth of so much. Claiming to be of a higher order than the rest of the world around us has caused a huge imbalance and our planet is now moving towards a climate disaster for which only us humans will be to blame. There are many out there who in their own small way are doing something to try and combat our impact on our planet, but is it too late? Unfortunately I look around and I see the vast majority of our community has become desensitized to what it means to care for our world and to be a nature guardian rather than its enemy. I want you to stop and really think, because if we don't change our ways now then It really will be too late, not just for our planet but maybe for us humans too. What little changes can you do?

So you might be reading this and thinking my views are very harsh? So I'll give some examples of what I see- our domestic gardens were once filled with plants and trees and REAL GRASS, yet increasingly I see narrow minded folk chopping down trees for no more reason than they don't want the hassle of having it or it ruins their view! Many front gardens in our villages, once covered in real grass, have now been got rid off in favor of low maintenance gravel, pebble covered grounds or even the dreaded fake grass! Plants and flowers are deemed as weeds and needlessly pulled up or sprayed with chemicals that then in turn, kill wildlife and poison animals like hedgehogs! Since when did we become so selfish? Why is it okay to decimate other living organisms around us purely because a piece of signed paper states that the land is yours? In the last few months, I have seen a number of gorgeous old mature gardens in our villages ruined by thoughtless naive owners who seem to have no understanding or respect for what else lives in our world.

We are given everything and this in turn has made us spoilt and self righteous. People bring me hedgehogs that have been poisoned or injured by their own means and say "it was in our garden so nothing we could do". Take responsibility for your

actions! Stop using chemicals, keep an area of the garden wild and keep your pets away from it, stop cutting trees that owls and many other types of wildlife need to survive. There are so many simple ways we can be in better harmony with nature so why aren't more of us taking these steps? Some small ways you can improve- don't root up plants like they are pieces of litter, they are living beings and have more right to be there than you do. Keep your area litter free, don't use chemicals, plant more plants, put out food and water sources for starving wildlife and create homes for the bugs, ponds and homes for hedgehogs. Try to recycle (it's really not that hard), don't leave all your lights on and waste energy- don't waste water (we are lucky to have clean water, others around the world don't have that luxury! And lastly, try to respect the world as you would want to be respected, stop and think next time before you decide to decimate habitats (even a 4 meter piece of real grass is still important to our world). So I ask again, are you a nature guardian or a foe?

Saffra Monteiro



**Heating
Scheme Works
progressing—
the drill, the
energy centre
and the trench
down Lower
End.**



The Swaffhams' WI

The speaker at the January meeting was Rob Needle who is an Ambassador for The Children's Society and manager of their book shop in Sawston. The Society was founded in the late nineteenth century by Edward Rudolf, a Sunday school teacher who put forward a plan to the Church of England for children's homes as an alternative to the large workhouses. The new organisation was registered as the Church of England Central Home for Waifs and Strays. This name remained until 1946. Today the Society focuses on vulnerable children and young people aged 10 to 18. They campaign for social justice and lobby to change legislation and welfare provision. It was a very interesting talk and showed how much need there still is to help this vulnerable group who have felt more isolated through the recent years of lockdown. The talk was followed by refreshments and social time, something we have all been missing in recent months.

Next month's meeting will be on February 21st at 7.30 in the village hall. The speaker is yet to be confirmed. New members are always welcome to come and join our friendly group.

Pat Cook



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Margaret Nimmo-Smith gave an interesting talk, with slides, on Ferns and Foliage Plants. There are a huge number of ferns, some more suited to dry shade while others prefer damper conditions. They also grow in a variety of types of soil from acid to lime and free draining to clay. Maidenhair ferns do well in a sink or paving and loves lime, growing to just 3"-4" high in the shade. Some ferns are propagated by splitting which consequently makes them more expensive. The fronds on ferns have been likened to ladies in bonnets having a chat! Some ferns, like *Polypodium vulgare* produces its fronds in late autumn, thereby extending the season of interest. The largest fern, the Royal Fern grows to an impressive 12 feet, but be warned, it's very slow growing! Many ferns are deciduous but some are evergreen.

The Foliage part of the talk covered many familiar garden plants, a large number with variegated leaves like *Hemerocallis*, *Phlox*, *Pulmonaria* and even a *Brunnera*. It's also possible to find variegated lily of the valley, *Solomon's Seal* and *Dicentra Formosa* which is only about 6"-9" high but spreads and is long lasting. Lovers of *Hostas* might be interested to know that blue leaved ones are less popular with the slugs.

There were many questions to be asked afterwards and that was followed by a welcome hot drink and slice or two of home made cake!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th February 8.00pm when Dr Gwenda Kyd will be giving a talk titled *Bach Flower Remedies and their Source Plants*. You are all very welcome.

Ruth Scovil

The Reading Group Reads...

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall

By Anne Brontë



It was time for another classic for Book Club in early January, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Brontë. This is the story of a remarkably modern story of a woman's struggle for independence. A mysterious widow Helen Graham arrives at the desolate and run-down Wildfell Hall. The local community is immediately suspicious of her and gossip abounds. But we see our narrator, Gilbert Markham, rapidly becoming infatuated with her. Anne tries to keep her distance and finally flees, after giving Gilbert her diary to read.

This diary forms the core of the book in which Helen reveals that Graham is not her real surname, and that she is not a widow. She has broken the law and fled from her still-living husband, taking her child with her, and now she is living in hiding under an assumed name, penniless and earning her own living as an artist, guarding against the day that her husband finds her and takes her away again.

We read how she fell in love with charming, handsome, flighty Arthur Huntingdon, who woos the over-serious Helen by his willingness to laugh at everything, including her. Once married, we learn how Huntingdon becomes abusive and cruel, humiliating Helen who initially believes that she will be able to reform him through the strength and moral purity of her love. Some of us had difficulty with the lengthy pages of her diary devoted to this struggle. Eventually Helen transforms from idealistic and infatuated young bride to an embittered survivor who finally flees, breaking the law and social convention.



The scenes of Huntingdon's dissipation are vivid, and the gradual way his behaviour changes from mild play to vicious abuse feels completely modern and realistic. They feel as though they are drawn directly from life, with minute attention to detail, and they probably were. Branwell Brontë, brother to the famous sisters, was an alcoholic and opium addict.

The book provoked discussions of modern-day scenarios of abuse and control and of what it is that enables the abusers and inhibits the abused. Somehow problems remains for some over 170 years after this book was written.

Roz Chalmers

Young Volunteers take on Fundraising Challenge

A group of teenage volunteers are taking on a fundraising challenge to help support victims of serious road traffic collisions in the county.

Members of Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Volunteer Police Cadets will be completing a marathon distance throughout February to support the Road Victim's Trust (RVT).

The cadets and their leaders can choose how they complete the distance, whether it's a mile a day or ambitiously going for the 26.2 miles in one go.

The charity provides support for the bereaved and people otherwise affected by road death or life changing injuries.

The cadet scheme aims to encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship amongst its members. The cadets are aged 13 to 18, with groups currently running in Cambridge City, East Cambs, Fenland, Peterborough, Huntingdon and St Neots/Cambsourne.

The cadets help to promote a practical understanding of policing amongst young people and support local policing priorities.

PC Emma Wilkinson, who is cadet coordinator, said: "I've been really inspired by the enthusiasm the cadets have shown for this challenge.

"When they learnt more about the work of the Road Victims Trust they were keen to support them in any way they could.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to raise money and awareness for the Road Victims Trust. The work they do is incredibly important, and all donations will be gratefully received!"

Billy Cunningham, who is a cadet sergeant in Fenland, said: "This is such a great opportunity for cadets and staff to get involved in to raise money for a really good cause.

"The Road Victims Trust are miracle workers and offer incredible support and services to victims and families who have lost loved ones as a result of serious road traffic collisions".

Mark Turner, Chief Executive of the Road Victims Trust, added: "The RVT work in partnership with the collaborated Roads Policing Units across Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. We enjoy a tremendous working relationship with all officers, staff, and volunteers.

"This fundraising initiative by the police cadets is a wonderful example of how young people can give support to a charity, who in turn, support so many local people whose lives have been devastated by a road death.

"We are extremely proud and privileged to receive the friendship and help from Cambs police cadets".

You can support the cadets by [visiting their fundraising page](#).





East
Cambridgeshire
District Council
www.eastcambs.gov.uk

From our District Councillors
Charlotte Cane &
John Trapp

Congratulations to the Bottisham Cresset on its 500th edition. And congratulations to all the magazine teams for keeping your magazines going year in year out – with interesting articles and keeping everyone informed and delivering them to every local household.

We hope that Green Waste Collections re-started from 28 January, with two new HGV drivers joining the team. We have been questioned about our statement in last month's article that 'Councillor Julia Huffer, as Chair of the Committee, decided that it was acceptable for the green waste to be cancelled for this period.' We said this because Schedule 4, Section 3 of the agreement between ECDC and ECSS provides:

'The scope of services to be delivered is set out in the Service Specifications for waste and street cleansing and these can only be amended with the endorsement of the Chair of Regulatory Services (or equivalent) for general operational matters and the Regulatory Services Committee for matters of policy relating to the delivery of services.'

In line with this, Councillor Huffer was briefed and endorsed the cancellation of green waste collections for the period. She could have held ECSS to delivering the service, she could have asked them to bring forward alternative proposals, she could have held a special meeting of Operational Services Committee to discuss the options, but she endorsed the amendment to suspend the Green Waste collection. In answer to our questions, Cllr Huffer explained that she accepted this reduction in service to protect the health of the workforce; that to demand a reduction in costs would be petty in the extreme, because other local Councils had also suspended the service; and that she decided green waste was the best collection to cancel because it was non statutory. We support actions to protect the health of the workforce but remain concerned that this decision was taken with such limited member input. The suspension of the service is an inconvenience to residents and potentially sets back our efforts to reduce waste going to landfill – the officers considered it was likely that the level of food in black bags would increase following the suspension.

The East Cambs Community Fund grant application window will be open between Monday 17 January and Monday 21 February. Grants are intended to support the development of new or existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents of East Cambridgeshire. Details including eligibility criteria are at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/finance/east-cambridgeshire-community-fund>

If you have any questions or for more information please contact [stepha-](#)





John Norris Remembers –

Before his death in 2012, John Norris was a prolific contributor to the Crier. Here we reproduce an article about his life on the bench:

A Court Experience

It is almost a quarter of a century since I started Magisterial duties at the Bottisham Court. The first Lord Fairhaven and Noel Newman had recently retired, and I was appointed along with Mr Took to fill the vacancy. In those days the Court House in the High Street was one of the remaining Victorian buildings constructed especially for the purpose.

The main court room was flanked by a retiring room for the Justices, and two prison cells for the wrong doers, and behind accommodation for the caretaker. Our village hall, formerly the Reading Room, had a similar arrangement with a house for the caretaker built as one building. The court house at Caxton is of the same design as the one at Bottisham, identical in every way, and like it's sister now converted into a dwelling

Shortly after finishing my training, I well remember an Australian motorist, who was summoned to appear because of a bald tyre on his car. It is not often one remembers a particular case, as we hear so many, but a special few do remain in the memory.

After the court had started at ten o'clock, and several cases had been dealt with, it was the turn of this Australian, who had remained outside the court building in the sunshine. The clerk called his name, and in he came, six feet something, with a broad brimmed hat (no corks round the edges though), and two car tyres, one under each arm. These he banged down onto the large table in front of the Bench, scattering the clerks papers in all directions.

This was his first wrong move, as Patrick Halnan, now Judge Halnan, very properly put him in his place, and ordered the tyres to be placed on the floor.

In those days the police prosecuted those arrested for wrong doing, usually a week or so after the event; so Sgt Cross stood up and told us how it was reported that an old Rolls Royce, white in colour was parked near Anglesey Abbey with an illegal tyre on one wheel. The charge was admitted, and then began a most devious, though fallacious argument. He first held up the bald tyre, and it was very bald! Not a trace of tread anywhere. This tyre he said had travelled over thirty thousand miles, the case was sound and reliable, and there is no visible damage. It had never been punctured, or given him any cause for concern, in short completely reliable.

At this point he carefully put down the offending tyre, and produced a new one.. Now the tyres on such a prestigious car are very large and fat, so picking one up requires some degree of strength. He was strong enough, but in the excitement, no doubt thinking he was doing a good job in convincing the Bench to let him off, he dropped the tyre, and again the papers flew everywhere, much to the amusement of those awaiting their trials, but not to Mr Halnan. Contempt of Court, unruly behaviour, and any other charge he could think of was threatened.

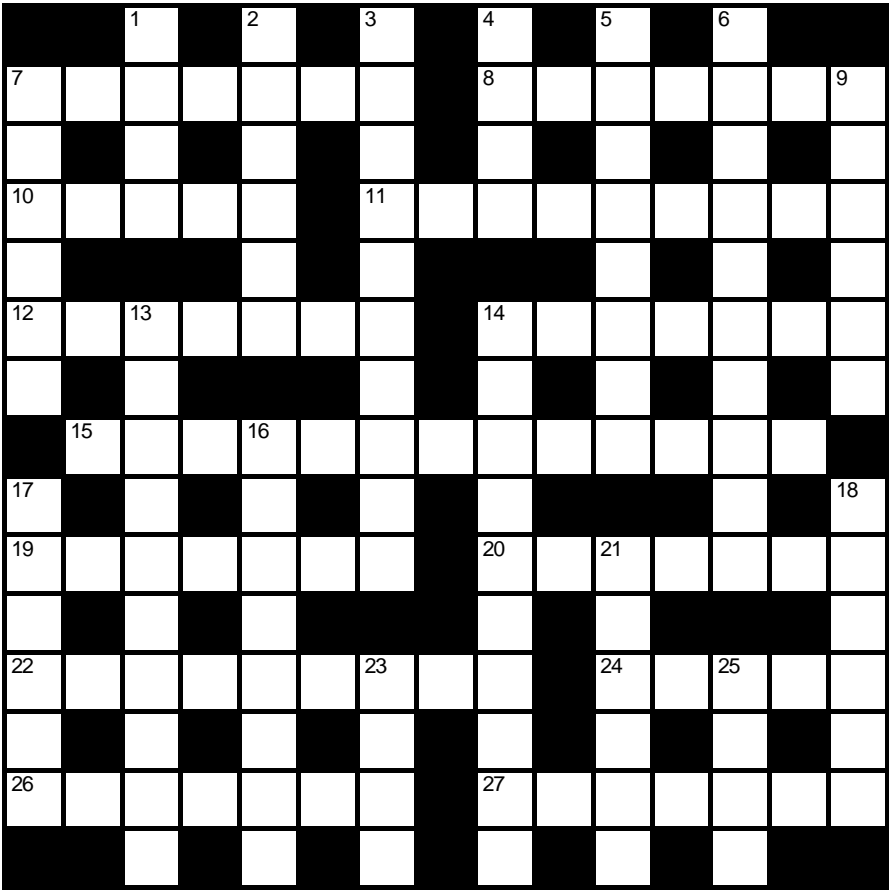
Now this new tyre was untried, it might disintegrate in the first few miles, the cords in the rim may be weak or frayed and cause an accident of other trouble beyond his control, in fact he dared not fit it to his car, as the balance with the others would make the vehicle undriveable.

So ran his argument, much longer than I have recalled, to try and convince us of his wrongful charge. We did not need to deliberate long to reach the unanimous conclusion that he was guilty of the offence. After we had imposed a fine and told him he could go, a young policeman approached the Bench, and wanted to make a charge. Mr Halnan told him to go into the witness box when he said " Your Worships, there is a White Rolls-Royce outside the Court House with three bald tyres, could you deal with the matter to-day, as the owner is in court already. After his previous performance, we managed to fit him in very promptly.

Crossword Number 192

Compiled by OUNCE

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th February 2022. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a meal for two (see box below) 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

- 7 Giddy Aunt Sal gives Royal fruit? (7)
- 8 Adore first woman of Rome? She's heralded in procession (7)
- 10 Wash in Yuri Gagarin's eggcup (5)
- 11 Signature tune of flawed hot gemstone (5,4)
- 12 Arab husband in unruly island kingdom (7)
- 14 Subdue and drag off rumples riding habit (7)
- 15 Licenced spy to manipulate US compiler of Britannica for example (13)
- 19 Two men with article of royal finery (7)
- 20 Designed by EU nerds for this (3,4)
- 22 Awful miscalculations! Mucosa lost? Just a smidgen (9)
- 24 Six pose for house call (5)
- 26 Go faster after mink spat out bad pumpkin seed (5,2)
- 27 Evil deed? Head sent to end of teams' turns (7)

Down

- 1 Heads, please learn about new map (4)
- 2 Artist came before video equipment (6)
- 3 In short, Automobile Association stealing disorganised region (4,6)
- 4 Remove tins from Crazy Twenties? How quaint (4)
- 5 Trousered beer with can-opener he'd fashioned (8)
- 6 Clot forming around smooth ribs (10)
- 7 Score a line in baby's crib. Easy! (6)
- 9 Tipsy? German leader's drunk! What a mess! (6)

- 13 Gravity heralding crash of this flier? (4,6)
- 14 Praise Miro, extraordinary showman (10)
- 16 Log season? We hear you will shortly back censor (8)
- 17 Calamity about religious instruction with sibling (6)
- 18 Strong rat is outside free (6)
- 21 Intuitively perceive 504 in ecstasy? (6)
- 23 Final solo jump. Ease at last. Run slowly (4)
- 25 Will half of prison snatch? (4)

Solution to crossword no. 191

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

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

PUB PRIZE MEAL FOR TWO
(including a glass of wine or beer each)

Fish and Chip dinner
or

nie.jones@eastcambs.gov.uk or call Stephanie Jones on 01353 665555.

The government's unwillingness to permit all Councils to meet on-line is causing difficulties for Parish Councillors and District alike. Some Parish Councils have reduced their discussions to immediate items only and others have tried to run full meetings but found themselves inquorate. We wrote to Lucy Frazer MP, but she did not support reintroducing on-line meetings and said that even if it was to be proposed parliamentary time would be needed to approve it. We can't help feeling that if they spent more time on parliamentary business and less on Bring Your Own Bottle 'work gatherings', they might find time to bring local politics into the 21 Century.

Charlotte had the bizarre experience of an Audit Committee meeting where neither the external nor internal auditors were present due to Covid, so they could not be questioned about the £4m errors they found in the 2020/21 accounts or the £4m errors they found in the 2019/20 accounts which had to be corrected through a prior year adjustment. Although these errors cancelled each other out so that the results didn't change, they were material and it's unfortunate that we have to wait until our next meeting in July to question the auditors in Committee.

Our next 'meet your Councillors' and Surgery will be on Thursday 17 February at 6.30. Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196.



Before the service, as part of a nationwide event, the bells will be ringing from 5-6pm to recognise the 70th anniversary of the Queen's Accession

St Mary's Swaffham Prior

**SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY
AT 6PM**

FESTAL EVENSONG

**TO MARK THE ACCESSION
OF HM THE QUEEN**

ALL WELCOME

TO BE FOLLOWED BY SHERRY

**PLEASE NOTE:
THIS REPLACES THE
EVENSONG ADVERTISED FOR
SUNDAY 30 JANUARY**

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Winter Wildlife

Some 72 whooper swans were recorded roosting on Burwell Fen recently and a couple of short-eared owls have also been seen regularly. Other winter highlights to look out for include hundreds of lapwings and swirling groups of starlings. We've also had a pair of cranes present on the Fen throughout the winter. Taking a walk later in the afternoon is often a great way to see bird activity at this time of year. Birds are often trying to find safe places to roost for the night away from predators as dusk falls. There's nothing quite like the swishing of wings and different bird calls overhead as the skies change colour before sunset. One of nature's magic moments!

'Footprints' Community Engagement Project: volunteer opportunities

We're starting to think about the warmer days ahead of us and planning new activities, including visits to local spring and summer fairs. We're currently recruiting fairs, feasts and festivals volunteers to join the team. This new role will involve manning the Wicken Fen stall and chatting to people about Wicken Fen, the Wicken Fen Vision and the Footprints project (training will be given). To find out more and apply, go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer click on 'Find an opportunity now' and search for Wicken Fen. If you'd like to have an informal chat about the role, please email Julia with your contact details and she will be in touch: julia.hammond@nationaltrust.org.uk.



Baker's Fen (photo by Mike Selby)

Renew Church is an inclusive community, rooted in the Baptist tradition; people following Jesus together and inviting others to join them.



We meet at Lode Chapel, every Sunday morning, 10.30-12noon (arrive anytime from 10am for refreshments and breakfast rolls).

We would love to have you join us!

Contact Rev. Alan Brand if you'd like to chat about anything.

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

Comb binding machine & many A4 combs of different sizes (widths), Mostly black. Small number of other colours and some slide binders. Jacqui 01223 811190

Lawnmower (electric): used only once and clipped the wire; Large, fabric reclining chair. Mrs King 01223 812347

2 Dogwood bushes with lovely red stems in winter. Lis. Tel: 01223 81123

Quantity of A4 box files in good condition- Lorely 01223 812975

Services in February 2022

Wednesday 2 February

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

Sunday 6 February

9am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

4pm Village Worship, Village Hall, Quy

6pm Festal Evensong to mark the Queen's Accession, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 13 February

9am Holy Communion, Quy

10.30am Family Worship, Swaffham Prior – also on Zoom

Sunday 20 February

9am Online service on Zoom

Morning Prayer, Quy

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 27 February

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Please wear masks to sing at services in church

*Please check <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7378/benefice> for
current information;*

*or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk, also the address to request
the Zoom link.*

Dates for Your Diary February 2022

Wed	2	Bookclub, 6pm, online
Sun	6	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Festal Evensong, St Mary's, 6pm [16]
Mon	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm [12]
Mon	21	WI, VH, 7.30om [12]

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