



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

Our Reporter has taken to setting us some tricky challenges of late. The first, the short story competition, we answered pretty effectively, in some style one might add, last month (see Letters) but now we have another. This one is a challenge to a specific person, the Crier Cookery Correspondent, Julie Nunn. Can she follow up the statement by a Tory MP that meals can be made from scratch for as little as 30p? (see *Our Reporter* on page 5). Well yes, seems to be the answer—and despite being on holiday on a small Greek island, Julie has immediately risen to the challenge and you can read her response on page 12.

Meanwhile, St Mary's has sprung back to life with a whole load of delightful entertainments for the coming year, including a quiz we can all partake of every month starting in September. Don't miss Strawberry Teas and Sundae Sunday this month.

Julain Luttrell explains how we can all do our own genealogy in this month's issue (p 6), and if you read Saffra's article about pigeons (p 10) you'll never think the same way about them again — yes, we all thought they were dim, but it turns out they are smarter than some of us...

And finally, and this is a very rare bird, a letter in *support* of the Heating Scheme in the Crier!

See you at our Jubilee events—the picnic on Cooper's Green and the Bell Ringing Experience — and don't forget the red, white and blue pots!



Cover Picture: *Looking Up and Out* by David George

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Caroline Matheson



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior to Reach the Long Way

I feel I can't let the delightful short story written by Keith Carter go without saying a huge 'Thank you, Keith' for such a descriptive and memory provoking account of his journey from "Swaffham Prior to Reach, the long way". As a former resident of Swaffham Prior I too have made this journey many times, more recently in a car, but long ago many times on a bicycle, on foot or on a horse. His elegant prose transported me back a mere 50 years and I recognised every landmark that he described. Unlike Keith though I have taken a few short cuts including the 'back door to Wicken Fen' at the Reach end of Little Fen Road and although I didn't need towing out, there were several occasions when I did end up in the mud or in the deep powdery soil, having been propelled over the shoulders of the horse I was riding!

Thank you Keith,

Mary Joyner

Dear Editors,

Thumbs up to the Heating Scheme

I went down to the second Heating Scheme open event, on a Wednesday evening in early May. I'd missed the first one, so I was definitely going to be there for this one! It had been raining that afternoon, which was memorable in itself, as we don't seem to get much of that lately. So it was gloriously muddy, but I was happy to squelch round to look at the borehole pipes sticking out of the ground that were going to provide heat from down there. After the explanatory introductions from people in hard hats made from the steps of the offices (I wasn't expecting to write to the Crier about it, so if any of my details are a bit lacking, this is written weeks later after being asked to put something in for the Crier) we were taken on a tour of the site. What surprised me first was that a lot of people had turned up. From all the grumbling you hear from the anti-schemers, you'd think there wasn't much interest. But clearly there is; perhaps since the price of oil has gone through the roof, renewables have suddenly developed a more widespread attraction.

There were other surprises. Chalk is apparently not that great for heat exchange. But it's only 22 metres deep, I was told when I asked, and we're going way past that, six hundred feet down. After the chalk there are lots of geological layers, down below clay into types of limestone. And I had to ask this one again after I first heard it said, because it seemed so unexpected: the heat they are tapping into is not geothermal, it's not the heat from deep below in the earth, filtering up from the core, which I had thought it must be. It's solar; it comes from the sun. That heat soaks down the whole six hundred feet into the earth that these boreholes have drilled into, to be brought back up again with the borehole pipes. I had no idea; I'd always thought solar energy could only heat the first few feet of earth at most. It suddenly made the sun seem so much more powerful. Another thing I learned was that the scheme is

now both ground and air source heating. There is a rack of air source heat exchangers there as well. And the building where it all happens is full of pipes and mechanisms too complicated to be able to understand. My first sight of it made me think of the kind of location they would use for filming Dr Who, to run around in when saving the universe yet again. Or perhaps a set for Tom Cruise just saving the world again, as he is prone to do in all his films. (apparently Mr Cruise was seen filming his saving the world activities in a sandpit in Leighton Buzzard last year, so there's no reason why he couldn't turn up here eventually, it's only 60 miles). Except this is the kind of machinery which, if we had enough of in the developed world that has run on pollution fuels since the start of the industrial revolution and which is doing so much harm, could really contribute to saving the world. Seriously.

You have to think in terms of heat not in terms of temperature, was another surprise to be told, and something new to learn. Temperature is heat, isn't it? Apparently not. It's just a way of measuring heat. I think. It's heat that they are working with here, mining heat from underground, and from the air, concentrating that heat and piping it around the village. Trying to come to terms with all this new knowledge, I was chatting with the Luttrells, who'd come along too. 'Did you know heat is hotter in a gravity field than when it isn't?' said Julian. I didn't. 'When he says things like that, just smile and nod', said Claire. But since I know we're in a gravity field, I guess our heat is the hotter kind, then.

And my last thought was, all we ever seem to hear in the Crier is the complainers, and then the Heating Scheme writes a reply. It's difficult to get balanced opinions when complaining is easy but supporting views from the village, without technical or personal experience, can only say look, this seems the right thing to be doing and we're going where others can follow. It's first time through, it's been a learning experience in developing something that hadn't been done before, but someone had to be first and having the drive to get this installed in our village is nothing short of incredibly remarkable.

Mark Lewinski

BON MOT NUMBER 129

"Statistically 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy."

Anonymous

From our Reporter at the Annual Village Assembly

It was a beautiful evening. With a couple of swifts high in the sky and a pair of blackbirds doing their best to shatter the gentle silence, it was the perfect setting the village to get together for the Annual General Meeting on the 17th May.

Outside the Village Hall Vice-Chairman David Greenfield (all the other PC members had sent their apologies) and Clerk Jude were waiting to greet everyone. Everyone turned out to be Linda Kirby and myself, with Robin and Ruth Covill arriving later. With no one else coming, the meeting began with one more attending than last year. So in that way it can be considered a minor triumph. The meeting was held outside. David said that when he first came



Outside the Village Hall Vice-Chairman David Greenfield and Clerk Jude were waiting to greet everyone. Everyone turned out to be Linda Kirby and myself.

to the village about 25 to 30 people always attended with reports from so many organisations in the village. A query whether Josh had sent in a CCC report was met with a slight giggle as being a pretty weak schoolboy joke. David was determined to try to persuade the PC to make more effort next year and not just treat it like some unpleasant duty best avoided. Perhaps we shall again hear reports from the school, the village hall, the scouts etc, together with the award of the Gay Bulleid prize. Linda was particularly vociferous about the need to return to the old days, only three years distant.

At the 2021 meeting the main and only point discussed was the Heating Scheme. And on the whole the same occurred this time. Fortunately David was in the Chair and gave us all the latest news. Five dwellings in Cage Hill will be the first to be connected. This will be at the end of July or early August. Meantime they will be testing and cleaning the pipes for this section of the system. This will be done it seems partly with air, then water, and finally ice picks. Ruth asked for more details but as David went through them her eyes began to glaze over as she became lost in the technicalities. It was just like asking an old person whether they are well. Ten minutes later you are determined never to ask that question again.

There is also news about the top end of the High Street about which so many have been curious. The two major issues have now been resolved and the proposed solutions accepted. In early July work will begin and continue up to No 59, Anglesey House. Work on the remainder of the High Street will begin during the School holidays and will be channelled down the centre of the road.

The Minutes of the 2021 meeting recorded that David had been asked “how will the £9 million cost be covered?” to which he replied that this is “available on

the Heating Scheme website and has been for the last 18 months.” I mentioned that I had looked on the website and could not find the information, I also asked about the increased cost to £13 million. David denied this figure and said it was still £9 million. I disputed this and David graciously said he would check both points and get back to me quickly. True to his word he did very quickly let me know and confirmed that the costs were still £9 million.

Oh dear, how could I have got this so badly wrong?

But I had not, and these are the reasons why:-

1) In the *Crier* November 2021 was reprinted an article from the *Cambridge Independent* which in the very first sentence quoted £12 million as the cost. *Never Challenged*.

2) From the minutes of the PC Meeting on 11th November – “Cllr Kent-Phillips stated that the current cost of the system was £13 million. *Never Challenged*.

3) Dated 2nd December 2021 Ross Clark’s *Daily Mail* article quoted £12 million.” *Never Challenged*

4) The CCC/Heating Scheme’s very own *Myth Buster*, version 2, updated 14 December 2012 stated “The total expected capital cost ... is 11.9 million.” *Never Challenged*,

5) *Crier* February 2022. Our Reporter made two references to £13 million. *Never Challenged*.

I think we all now agree that £9 million is not the correct figure. David had also discovered that “the funding breakdown of the heating scheme is not on the website but accessible via committee reports”!

That apart, the very good news is that 122 dwellings have signed up with 27 more still to be processed. I must assume that “signed up” does actually mean signed up because so often in the past “expressing interest” has been included. One has become wary and cautious. In fact, without being over sceptical, does “signed up” mean also “having a survey” or “expressing an interest”?

Ruth had followed up the Village Gardeners suggestion that we should “Go Potty with Red, White and Blue” flower pots. Ruth had prepared two such pots and thought they would look so good in the front of the Village Hall. But as she did not know details of the new management team she could not ask permission. Good Old Democracy stepped in here and there was an unanimous vote that they be placed in front of the Village Hall for the Jubilee.

Finally a challenge to Julie Nunn, our local Mrs Beeton. Last month she gave us three Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Recipes, the last one of which being particularly irresistible. Will she now follow up the statement by that venerable Tory MP Les Anderson that meals can be made from scratch for as little as 30p? Maybe do one at 30p and, if easier, another for a family of 4 at £1.20. That is a *real* challenge Julie. Go for it!

Alastair Everitt



SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE

proudly presents:

‘THE MIKADO’

by W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan

Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th June 2022

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

Doors open 45’ before each performance

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

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

or call 07708 577570

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

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

Sundae Funday!

Sunday 26 June, 2-4pm

St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

**Children: make-your-own ice cream sundae,
and churchyard Scavenger Hunt - £2**

Adults: tea, coffee, cake and chilli! - £3.50

**Please book: dee@noyes-noyes.co.uk
or leave a message on 07585 807413**

No unaccompanied children,
Scavenger Hunt undertaken at your own risk
Thank you!



Jubilee Weekend Bellringing Experience

In conjunction with the Churches Conservation Trust

Do you know what treasures can be found inside the top of your tower at St Cyriac's? This is your chance to find out.

Between 10am-4pm on the Jubilee weekend (Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th June) you can:

Take a tour of the historic bells and massive oak frame all dating from 1791

Admire the second oldest Tower Clock in the county, dating from around 1670

See how the bells are rung from the ringing chamber using Bob and Sally

Try your hand at chiming and handbells

View the 1991 film of the bell restoration showing many familiar (much younger) local faces!

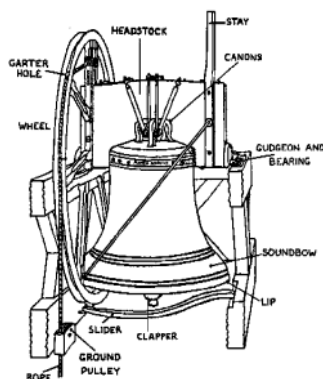
Enjoy Tea/coffee/homemade cakes

Find out if you'd like to become a bellringer!

You can sign up for a later taster session to help you decide if you'd like to join the friendly local ringing team. You don't have to be clever, strong, musical or a church-goer! Try something different, make new friends, and keep your mind and body agile. Suitable for all ages from 10 upwards. Contact swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com for more information, or talk to me.

John Chalmers (*Steeple Keeper*)

07973 728666



Carers' Week 2022

Carers' Week 2022 is on the way from 6 to 12 June. The week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges people looking after a family or friend face and recognise the contribution they make to communities.

The theme for Carers Week 2022 is 'Make caring visible, valued and supported'.

Caring Together have a range of activities, workshops and information sessions planned for throughout the week. There are also fun activities planned for young carers in the half-term week before Carers Week.

If you look after a family member or friend, see how you can get involved. Find out more at caringtogether.org/news/carers-week-events-activities-countdown

If you or someone you know look after a family member or friend who would benefit from support, please contact Caring Together on 0345 241 0954, at hello@caringtogether.org or see caringtogether.org

If you would like monthly updates on the support available to carers, you can sign up to 'inside news' from Caring Together by going to caringtogether.org/keepintouch

Genealogy for Free

Have you ever felt like discovering more about your family tree but wanted to first see what you could find out for free? This is a short introduction to what is out there for you.

You don't need to spend any money on special Family Tree software to begin with - just a good notebook and maybe a filing box is enough to get started. Specialist software comes into its own later, when your tree gets bigger.

Talk to Relatives

Always start by finding out as much as you can from living relatives. Nothing beats an informal chat, with maybe some paper to sketch on, to bring back memories and details of names, dates, and family stories. Just remember to take the stories with a grain of salt. If I had a pound for every family with a tale of a dalliance with a prince, I would be a rich man. More practically, data protection laws mean that there is little information about people from the recent past to be found online, so you need people's memories for this.

Births Marriages and Deaths

When you are investigating earlier than about 1950 there are many places online where you can find out when and where people were born, married, or died, of which my favourites are: www.freebmd.org.uk, www.freecen.org.uk, and www.freereg.org.uk. These are three projects which give free access to registrations of Births Marriages and Deaths since 1837, England and Wales censuses 1841-1911, and some Parish Registers. You can search by name, place, and date.

If these don't bring up the person you are looking for, the General Register Office website at www.gro.gov.uk has some more accurate records of registrations of births and deaths from 1837. Should you want to buy a copy certificate (these are nowhere available for free) always use GRO, the other sites are more expensive.

For the 19th century and earlier the best starting point is www.familysearch.org. This website, run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Utah, has the world's largest collection of photos of the pages of old Parish Registers (Baptisms Marriages and Burials) and other old genealogical documents. You can search for particular people, or browse through the records for a specific place. You can view many of their images online. Some, for copyright reasons, can only be viewed at a Family History Library (the closest is on Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge). Be prepared for some hard to read old handwriting.

Wills

If you had an ancestor who died after 1858 and may have left a will, go on over to probatesearch.service.gov.uk to check the exact date and place of death and the names of the executors, and maybe order a copy of the will (£1.50).

Google

Don't underestimate the value of more general online sources. Searching by name and place on Google can point you in directions you would never have thought of. The Internet Archive at archive.org has free digital copies of books and journals

that are out of copyright and which can give you names and dates of ordinary people as well as the great and good.

Your Local Library

Taking a different approach, you may have heard of the subscription websites www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk. In exchange for quite a substantial payment, subscribers to these sites can search and view a vast range of old records. I will let you in on a secret. Your local library almost certainly has a subscription to one or both of these sites - Newmarket has both. If you use one of the library's computers you can view the same records as subscribers, at no cost to you.

Finally

Finally, when you get more experienced there is nothing to beat handling the original manuscripts at your local county archives or even The National Archives in Kew. Just remember that you need to know in advance what document to see.

I hope this has piqued your interest in finding out more about your family history. If you have any queries or want help and advice on your research, please feel free to contact me:

Julian Luttrell

The Tree Sleuths, www.tree-sleuths.co.uk

A YEAR OF
QUIZZING!
SEPTEMBER 2022-
AUGUST 2023

One payment of £12 will bring you a year of fiendish quizzes.
Each month you will receive a quiz by email (or delivered by hand).
Work out the answers, return your entry by the deadline and a
monthly winner will be drawn from the correct submissions.
An overall winner will be crowned in August 2023.
Will you be Swaffham Prior's Champion of Champions?

Please email: dee@noyes-noyes.co.uk for sign-up information.
In aid of St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Out on the Wildside:

Love or Loath them- I give you the Wood Pigeon!



Okay so I know most of us aren't a huge fan of wood pigeons- they tend to poo all over your car and everywhere you don't want it! They steal all the food you put out for the small song birds and have a never ending greed matched by no other species except perhaps for rats. They loiter in the roads and then only move out the way seconds before your car hits them and their generally considered by most as vermin. However despite all this, there is something rather comical and entertaining about the common wood pigeon. I would argue that something about this rather large dumpy looking bird that often parade around your garden, generally in pairs- is in fact quintessentially British! The word 'pigeon' has a French origin and is derived from the Latin word 'pipio', meaning 'a peeping chick'. They can live anywhere between three to 17 years- pretty amazing for a bird! Pigeon birds can fly at great speeds- The highest speed recorded was 92.5 mph (148 kph)- they can even out fly eagles, they can also cover great distances. A male common wood pigeon is called a cock. A female common wood pigeon is called a hen and a baby is known as a squab.

While these days, they are not very popular- we should never forget that no other bird has had such close links with humans, nor been used in so many ways. Over the centuries the pigeon has served as a symbol, sacrifice, source of food and, not least, as a messenger, both

Pigeons are one of only a small number of species to pass the 'mirror test' – a test of self recognition. They can also recognize each letter of the human alphabet, differentiate between photographs, and even distinguish different humans within a photograph.

sacred and secular. And while we mostly consider pigeons to be rather stupid animals with a small brain, they are in fact, brighter than most birds- Pigeons are incredibly complex and intelligent animals. They are one of only a small number of species to pass the 'mirror test' – a test of self recognition. They can also recognize each letter of the human alphabet, differentiate between photographs, and even distinguish different humans within a photograph. Pigeons are also renowned for their outstanding navigational abilities. They use a range of skills, such as using the sun as a guide and an internal 'magnetic compass'.

And if that isn't changing your mind about them, did you know that Pigeons mate for life, and tend to raise two chicks at the same time with both female and male pigeons sharing responsibility of caring for and raising young. Despite the social perception as dirty and disease-ridden, pigeons are actually very clean animals and there is very little evidence to suggest that they are significant transmitters of disease. So there you have it- love or loath them- I give you the wood pigeon!

Saffra Monteiro



Strawberry Teas In St Cyriac's

**Sunday 17 July
3-5pm**

Orders and payment in advance please
£5.50 adult/£3 children
Janet: 07833 960078
Dee: Admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

In aid of St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

At last we can meet again in person for
our popular Strawberry Teas.

Please book - numbers limited!

Alastair's challenge for Budget Meals

A 30p meal for 1 person

A jacket potato and baked beans

Supermarket value packet of 4 baking potatoes at 42p pack and a supermarket tin of value baked beans 22p

A 60p Meal for 2

Pasta with homemade tomato sauce

Supermarket value bag of pasta at 29p a pack
400g value tin tomatoes at 28p or home grown tomatoes, chopped
Fresh garden herbs
2 cloves of crushed garlic

- 1, Cook up the garlic in the olive oil, add the chopped tomatoes and cook slowly, then add chopped herbs.
 2. Cook a portion of pasta in boiling water
 3. When the pasta is ready, stir in the tomato sauce and it is ready to serve.
-

A Family Meal for 4 for £1.20

Carrot Biryani

2 tbsp oil
1 onion sliced
1 green chilli
1 clove garlic crushed
1 tbsp garam marsala
1 tsp turmeric
3 carrots grated
400g Basmati rice, cooked
150g frozen peas

1.Heat the oil in a frying pan, fry the onion until soft, then add the chilli and crushed garlic and cook for another minute, Stir in the spices with a splash of water and cook for another couple of minutes before adding the grated carrots.

2. Tip in the rice and peas, stir well to break up any clumps of rice. Cover the pan and cook over a high heat for about 5 minutes until it lightly browns.

This challenge is not easy, but probably possible using value packs and home grown produce.

Julie Nunn

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Wildlife News

We've been seeing lots of marsh harrier activity on Sedge Fen from the Visitor Centre so we're hoping it's going to be a good year for harriers, and that their young will thrive. By the time you read this article, fen wildflowers will be blooming, and butterflies, dragonflies and bees will be buzzing. The Summer Nature Trail opens on 1st June which is a great route for getting away from it all for a tranquil wander. It's a real treat to walk through the tall herb fen vegetation – it feels like you're immersed in nature.

National Nature Reserve Festival (May to October 2022)

Natural England is celebrating 70 years since the first NNR was designated. Wicken Fen was designated as a NNR in 1993. We'll be joining the celebrations by offering pop-up activities for visitors to enjoy, including the opportunity to interact with people recording wildlife on the Fen. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more information.

Summer holiday events

We'll be offering our usual programme of summer events for families, including a summer trail, and fen favourites such as pond dipping and dragonfly safaris. Details of our events can be found on our website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on>

Footprints: Community Engagement

We're looking forward to meeting local communities at fairs, feasts and festivals in the fen edge villages. We'll be at Ely Eel Fayre 5 June, Waterbeach Feast 11 June and Burwell Carnival on 25 June. Pop by to say hello if you're visiting any of these events – we'd love to meet you. You'll also be able to find out more about our community engagement project, the nature reserve and Wicken Fen Vision.

Events

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen



Juvenile Marsh Harrier on the hunt—there's a lot of Harrier activity on Sedge Fen at the moment.

Wishing Her Majesty a very happy 2022 Platinum Jubilee, here are some questions to her from children in the 1980s:

Dear Queen...

What is your favourite food?

Not telling. Otherwise, she'd get it all the time and then it wouldn't be her favourite food anymore.

What is your least favourite food?

Garlic. Oysters. Milk puddings. She hates them all.

How many crowns have you got?

Four. The Crown of St Edward; the Imperial Crown; the Consort Crown and the Imperial Crown of India. The Crown of St Edward is so big and heavy that Queen Victoria was afraid it would fall over her face at her coronation, so the Imperial Crown is used for other State occasions, such as the Opening of Parliament.



How many guards have you got?

When she is staying at her palaces, she is guarded by 3 officers and 40 men of other ranks.

What do you have for breakfast?

Eggs and bacon, followed by toast and marmalade. The most unusual part of breakfast is the bagpipe serenade that goes on for 15 minutes outside in the garden., a tradition started by Queen Victoria.

What do you have for tea?

The Queen usually makes the tea herself, using her own special blend of Darjeeling. She likes cucumber sandwiches, scones, and crumpets in winter.

Did you have lots of toys?

Yes. When her parents came back from a long trip abroad, they brought 3 tonnes of presents for the 1 year old princess, all of them gifts from people in the countries they had visited/

What time do you get to bed at night?

About 11pm, if she can help it. At State Banquets, guests are expected to leave around midnight.

Is it hard to be Queen, or quite easy?

Hard, sometimes very hard. On one Commonwealth tour, she attended 50 parties, opened 7 parliaments, held 135 receptions, made 157 speeches (and listened to another 276), watched 27 children's displays, laid 7 wreaths, made 4 broadcasts and shook 13,000 hands.

Do you ever go out in disguise?

Yes, wearing a headscarf and accompanied by her detective. She likes to slip out to the theatre or the cinema.

How many rooms have you got in Buckingham Palace?

About 600, although many are quite small and used as store rooms. She and Prince Phillip would occupy about a dozen themselves.

When people give you flowers, do you keep them or give them away?

If it's only one bouquet, then it comes back to Buckingham Palace, where it might end up in a vase in the Queen's private sitting room. But if there are lots, they are dispatched to the local hospital (*in those happy days when they let you bring flowers to hospital. We wonder what happens now? Eds*)

Do you have any hobbies?

Photography, training Labradors, horse breeding, playing charades, crossword puzzles and riding.

What are your favourite TV programs?

Dad's Army, Yes, Minister, To The Manor Born and Morecambe and Wise.

How much mail do you get?

1,000 letters a week, on average. During a Jubilee or a Royal Wedding, then 3,000 or more a day.

What happens to your old clothes?

Not telling—everyone would want them. But she just keeps wearing her old clothes from Sandringham or Balmoral,

Are you interested in fashion?

No! "I'm not a film star" she says. Her only comment about Princess Anne's wedding dress was alleged to be "Will it wash?"



Do you think the man who broke into your room was mad and do you wear a wig?

The Queen thought he was very sensible when he told her "You ought to do something about the security in this Palace. It's diabolical." But not when he told a newspaper that her wig was hanging beside her bed — she doesn't have one.

Did your Mummy talk to you much about God?

Bible reading was very much part of daily lessons, but when a clergyman offered to send her a book, she said "Not about God. I know all about him".

(Based on a 1983 publication by Phoebe Hitchens and Rosie Oxley —many thanks to Kate Child for finding these gems)

The Swaffhams' WI

Our May meeting was an Art Workshop led by the Artist Clive Dawson. This was great fun and we learned the techniques of working with acrylic paints and all managed to produce a painting of a Cockerel through the evening. We then relaxed over refreshments while Clive did a further demonstration of flower painting. Our June meeting is our garden party and on July 18th we are back in the village hall at 7.30 when Annie Brown will give a demonstration of needle felting. Visitors are always welcome to come along.

Pat Cook

The Reading Group reads...

Apeirogon

By Colum McCann

This, we all agreed, is an astonishing novel, its title being the mathematical term for an object of an “observably infinite number of sides”. There was so much to talk about and every one of us was touched by this book.



At the heart of the book is the real-life story of two men, a Palestinian, Bassam Aramin, and an Israeli, Rami Elhanan. Both have lost daughters in the Arab-Israeli conflict: Smadar, turned into “a scattered human jigsaw” at the age of 13 by a suicide bomber, and Abir, assassinated aged 10 by a trigger-happy member of the Israeli army. Both men join the **Parents Circle**, a group of the fellow-bereaved who unite in their sorrow to press for a peaceful resolution to the conflict: “This became their jobs: to tell the story of what had happened to their girls.”

Around the stories of what happened to their girls, McCann weaves other seemingly unconnected tales with 1,001 individual chapters, some as short as a sentence, some comprising of photographs, some merely blank spaces. We learn about birds and their migrations, hear stories from history and accidents of geography, about François Mitterrand’s last meal, about the high-wire walker who crossed from Palestine to Israel, about a mad missionary - tiny pieces of a huge complex jigsaw puzzle that slowly builds a picture of connections, with a chorus of others who comment, however obliquely, on the situation in Palestine.

The friendship of Bassam and Rami is a thing of great beauty. There’s a picture of the two of them, asleep together on a train in Germany, travelling from one speaking engagement to the next. They lean against each another, Rami – the older man – supporting the smaller Bassam as he sleeps. This, the novel suggests, is the solution to the conflict: something as simple and easy as friendship, as the acknowledgement of a shared experience, as love.

For me, this book is a masterpiece, profound and hopeful, a work of art whose beauty, intelligence and compassion may go some way to changing things. It is my book of the year, if not the decade.

Roz Chalmers



VILLAGE GARDENERS

We had a really fun evening this month, when our own horticultural professional, Judy, gave us a series of garden related quizzes. Wine and cake certainly helped us plumb the depths of our knowledge, which was certainly needed! Branches of shrubs to identify, the history of the RHS and amongst others jumbled up garden tools to identify. Not easy- here's a few- GAITHCREBSURMUCNETRE: KASEGNUMAARSPFI : and KFRO!

Answers on a postcard.....

We are now embarking on our summer visits to Barchams, Gardens in Ely and on the 25th of June to Barnsdale in Rutland. (There are still tickets available for this).

DON'T FORGET YOUR RED, WHITE AND BLUE POTS FOR THE JUBILEE

Margaret Joyce



Mothers' Union

At our April meeting we held our Spring Social. Carrying on with our theme of 'Transformation', we enjoyed a craft afternoon making flowers from flat sheets of tissue paper. In readiness for celebrating the forthcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the flowers were made in patriotic colours of red, white and blue for us to decorate our homes. The Bring & Buy Stall raised approximately £45.



Response to our placing collection boxes in Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Lode and Quy churches for donations of used postage stamps has been tremendous. Thank you to all those who have contributed. I currently have our second batch (half a carrier bag full) to pass on to aid The Leprosy Mission.

Our meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in Lode Church. On 16th June we will be making a simple posy bowl arrangement with summer flowers. All are welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langran

After a slow start, the Council has generally been efficient and effective at passing the Government Covid grants through to local businesses. We have queried some of the decisions but on the whole, it appears the funds have been distributed effectively. And we supported a motion, passed by Council, which commended the behaviour of local residents during the lockdown.



The Council has demolished their popular Mepal Outdoor Centre, despite not yet having planning permission for the proposed Crematorium. After muddle and delay, the Council is due to decide the application by 13 June. In the public consultation the result was:

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Sentiment Held | % |
| For | 13.0 |
| Against | 85.4 |
| No Further Comment | 1.6 |

[Statement of Community Involvement for East Cambridgeshire District Council Bereavement Facility Proposals](#)

The calculation on the Council's 5 year land supply was reset, and so they were able to show a 6.5 year land supply, and the policies in the 2015 Local Plan, notably the development envelope, became enforceable again. However, the relief may be short-lived because a Planning Appeal was allowed in Soham, with the Inspector saying there had been a significant shortfall in development against the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan housing requirement to date, and that the plan 'cannot be said to have been effective in delivering the anticipated housing need to date'. He further stated that even if the Council could currently demonstrate the housing land supply it said it had (more than 6.5 years), there had been significant under-delivery against the plan to date, and there was a 'persistent failure' to meet housing requirements. 'There can be no certainty that the strategy contained in the [Local Plan] will deliver sufficient housing in the long-term of the plan period,' he

concluded. ‘In fact, the evidence before me suggests that it will not.’

The 2015 Local Plan is becoming increasingly outdated, with insufficient policies to address climate change or air quality as well as issues which need to be reconsidered such as parking space provision. It’s challenging to update the Plan with continuing Government delays in publishing their proposed changes to the planning process, so the Council is consulting on its Policy GROWTH 1 and housing numbers, with a deadline for responses of 13 June.

- [Local Plan Review | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](http://eastcambs.gov.uk)

The Council’s record in collecting residents’ black bag waste and recyclables has plummeted. Difficulties recruiting and retaining drivers began in September, and by November the local press was reporting allegations of low morale, bullying, stress and other staff concerns. These were denied by management. Green waste collections were cancelled from mid-December to the end of January, then it was announced that waste collection rounds were being permanently reconfigured from the end of March. The first few weeks of this change have not gone smoothly, with large numbers of uncollected bins, in some cases left for days or even weeks. We have struggled to get full information to understand the issues and will be attending a briefing to try to get a better understanding of the issues and press for rapid improvement to the service.

We supported a proposal to the Full Council that East Cambridgeshire should address the lack of ‘Changing Places’ toilets in the District for people with severe disabilities whether visible or not; and to review disabled access to all public toilets and signage on them for invisible disabilities. East Cambridgeshire was the only District in the County not to be awarded any money at all by the Government in its recent funding round to improve Changing Places toilet provision, because it did not request any funding. The Council’s leadership delayed giving a response to this proposal by referring it to Finance & Assets Committee. However, this delay does give time for the public to express their views. If you support the call for improved toilet facilities for disabled people, please sign the petition at - <https://tinyurl.com/yumzjywc>.

Our next surgery will be on Monday 20 June at 6.00pm in the Committee Room at Bottisham Sports & Social Club.

John Trapp

01223 812120 john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk

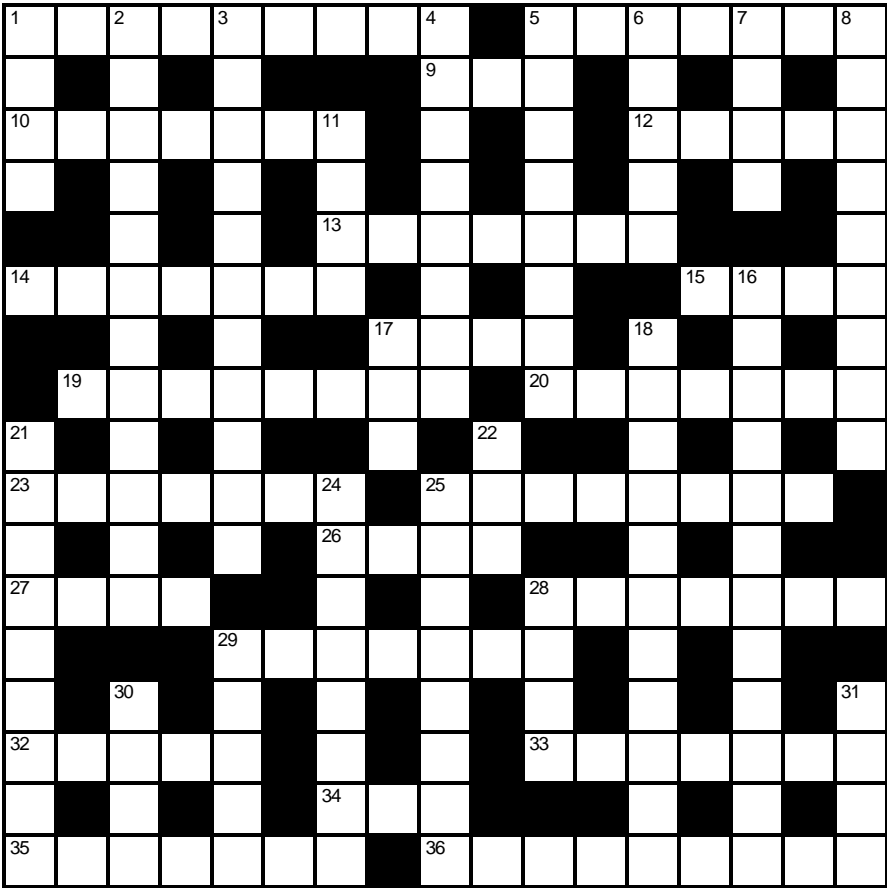
Charlotte Cane

07976 607512 charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk

Crossword Number 196

Compiled by **OUNCE**

Clues marked * have no definition but do have a common link. Send your answers to the editors by 18th June 2022. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a meal for two at the Red Lion—contact the pub manager for full details. Emailed solutions are acceptable but please include “CROSSWORD” and the crossword number in the header.



| | |
|----------------|--|
| Name:..... | |
| Address:..... | |
|Tel:..... | |

Across

- 1 Art plus Naomi used to produce 5D; 19A, 1D; 3, 30; 24, 21; and 31, 18, 8 (4,5)
- 5 Illegitimate person manufactured garments (7)
- 9 Wow! German leader departs city in Kyrgyzstan (3)
- 10 Hold America in mark (7)
- 12 Guterres' organisation shortened but not censored? (5)
- 13 Soft-footed, cunning cat's meat (3,4)
- 14 California owl cries "collusion" when in with this (7)
- 15 Young part of leg (4)
- 17 Yield top-rated tennis player, we hear (4)
- 19/1D * Leonardo caps concoction (2,6,4)
- 20 River follows woman's return home again (7)
- 23 Cargo scare about middle of September (7)
- 25 Sailor, princess and duchess, reportedly, step down (8)
- 26/28D/6 * E.g. cottage. Drawback? Tied! (8,5)
- 27 Very small Greek letter? (4)
- 28 Walter Small, spoilt spendthrift (7)
- 29 Wee disorder in disorganised American diary? (7)
- 32 Is fairness important to this US organization? "No, anti-American communist propaganda," starts bigot's rant (1,1,1,1,1)
- 33 I moaned about the vineyard (7)
- 34 No details announced initially if this is signed (1,1,1)
- 35 Grounded in nightwear, the dandies sulked (7)
- 36 Pea (sweet) game (5,4)

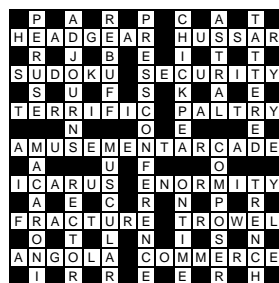
Down

- 1 See 19 Across
- 2 Volatile slut's nightie is most ugly (12)

3/30* Wild caribou and rash frog (11,4)

- 4 Material missing? Don't worry about it (2,6)
- 5 * Bother former partner for a change (3,5)
- 6 See 26 Across
- 7 Well-to-do discovered in eccentric hermit's circle (4)
- 8 See 31
- 11 Bridge over, kips (4)
- 16 Contamination from disastrous aid to neutral (12)
- 17 Pay the carrier for fish (3)
- 18 See 31
- 21 See 24
- 22 Lincoln's honest diminutive (3)
- 24/21 * He'd feel contusions badly (3,5,2,7)
- 25 New World for Heather in mornings (8)
- 28 See 26 Across
- 29 Thickness of section Henry? (5)
- 30 See 3
- 31/18/8 * Save Queen following habitual practice within estate, if hid poorly (4,3,8,9)

Solution to crossword no. 195



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

Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting

Cllr Covill chaired the May meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council, attended by 8 Parish Councillors and 8 members of the public.

Reports

CCC representative – a monthly and a years report had been circulated by email. No representative attended and no comments or questions were raised.

ECDC – Cllr Charlotte Cane attended. A report had been circulated by email.

Cllr Cane noted that answers were being sought regarding missed bin collections. The Mepal Crematorium planning application had been delayed until 13th June 2022.

Cllr Cane noted that a PC response to the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan Single Issue Review consultation would be important.

The Council Trading Company had been given a further loan of £7.5million; it was also agreed that Paradise Pool should be sold to the company and that one of the directors should be replaced.

A proposal to improve provision of public toilets had been referred to a committee that won't meet until late June. A petition had been started to support these provisions.

The Chair invited questions

Cllr Covill noted that not all residents had realized the change in bin day. Cllr Cane added that the bank holidays had added to the confusion. Cllr Gynn noted that bins had been missed when roads had been closed, then collected 5 days later after complaints.

Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Cllr Greenfield reported back on the timing of the excavations in the road in front of the church. The intention is to dig down the centre of the road, making full closure of the road necessary. At present the best timing is thought to be in the school holidays; liaising with farmers is continuing to agree the best dates. The date under consideration is around 25th July for 2-3 weeks.

Cllr Greenfield noted that an agreement had been reached with CGM to undertake the necessary weedkilling in the cemetery, at the end of May. It will cost £75.00 plus VAT and CGM will supply all relevant safety documentation.

Consideration of planning applications received.

22/00442/FUL Construction of rendered block wall with wooden sliding entrance gates along with a new cart lodge with lean to (Plus amended information)

The Smock Tower Mill, Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB25 0JZ

The PC noted the following objections to the planning application:

Normal procedure for planning applications has not been followed; the replacement cart lodge, hedge and tree removal and building of the wall and gates have all been undertaken and completed or near-completed without application for Listed Building consent.

The building of the 30m long, 1.5m high wall and gate affect the curtilage of the Listed Smock Mill, changing the setting of the Mill within the surrounding countryside. The wall itself limits the historic view of the Mill from the lane approaching it, suburbanises the rural setting and conveys an exclusivity that the former hedge did not.

The retrospective application is materially wrong in the information provided. The work on the wall and Cart Lodge have and are continuing, not halted; the hedge and trees were removed as part of this work, not prior to it and the shed has not been 'refurbished', but has been demolished and replaced with a new cart lodge/barn.

The excessive height of the new cart lodge detracts substantially from the Mill in it's historic setting.

22/00382/LBC Replace 1 door and 5 windows

Rose Cottage, 42 High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0LD

No objections or comments.

To hear from a member of the public requesting financial help towards the Jubilee picnic insurance and printing costs

After the member of the public had outlined the costs that the Jubilee picnic organisers were incurring (£89 for insurance and roughly £60 for printing), the PC agreed a donation of £150.00.

To consider the RoSPA report on the playground equipment and potential replacements of some pieces.

It was agreed that the hut and the climbing frame could be dismantled and removed, then Cllr Kent-Phillips to look into quotes to replace them with a new piece of equipment. Cllr Kent-Phillips was also to investigate grants available to buy such equipment. The issue will be discussed further at the June meeting.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk had investigated the cost of getting the PC minutes bound prior to archiving. It was agreed to go with the least expensive option of Stoakleys Binders, Soham.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Greenfield reported that the 108 boreholes for the Heating Scheme were complete. The footpath closure was an extension of the current division and the footpath would return to its original course once work was complete. The first section of the pipework was being air-tested, prior to being water tested, flushed and tested with an ice pig. Installation of external works for the first five houses was due to take place in August. 122 households had signed up and a further 27 were still to be returned. In response to questions, DG explained how further houses would be connected once the system was working and that the Heating Scheme Board had members from both the CLT and CCC.

Cllr Greenfield to discover why a section of Lower End pipework was left till last.

Cllr Latchfield noted that a street light on Cage Hill is permanently on and will report it again.

Cllr Durrant noted that the Lower End road works are in need of traffic lights – the length of roadworks mean that drivers can't see to the opposite end before setting off.

If anyone would like any further information on any of the above items, please contact the Clerk.

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 19th June 2022 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Jude Griffiths – Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel 745 106.

Email swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com

Registered Charity: 1048584



Are you a People Manager?
Can you grow people's potential?
Do you want a career that really makes a difference every day?

We are looking for an HR specialist to join our Senior Management Team at The Prospects Trust

Come join us at our socially enterprising charity as our people champion! With previous management experience and HR qualifications you will lead, shape and continually develop our staff, co-worker (people with additional needs) and volunteer teams. Every day is different with a wide range of responsibilities including recruitment, staffing rotas, supervisions and appraisals, progression reporting and vitally celebrating achievements. You will thrive as a self motivated, clear communicator with sharp expertise in HR best practice.

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Tel: 01638 741551
enquiries@prospectstrust.org.uk

Greetings from Anglian Leisure Bottisham!

With our changing pool timetable, there has never been a more exciting time to check out our swimming pool! With more options at the weekend, the inflatable back up and running and Aqua Zumba back with a bang, check out our website for more details and to book, please give us a call on 01223 811121.



We are opening more fitness classes very shortly and cannot wait to show you what we have got in store. Keep your eyes peeled out for further advertisement, social media posts and information provided on our website.

As we connect with the community of Bottisham and the catchment area, we have opened up our Friday mornings again for a swim and a gym session.

Please check out our opening times:

Monday to Wednesday: 4-10 pm

Thursday: 6.30-8.30 am and 4-10 pm

Friday:

Saturday and Sunday: 8 am-4pm

Why not book a birthday party for what looks like will be a wonderful summer! Pool, sports hall, and gymnasium hire are all available at the weekends. Just get in touch with us to see what we can offer you.

Whatever fitness activity you hope to achieve, look no further and try it out at Anglian Leisure Bottisham! With our hire options, classes opportunities, swim and gym availabilities, we have many possibilities to fit your vision.

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

Card playing table, David 01223 811620

Electrolux - Masterlux 3 in 1 carpet/ furniture cleaner in good condition although not used recently - with instruction manual; Mira Sport electric shower 7.0-9.8 kw - barely used - with installation and instruction manuals - needs plumber to fit. Carol – 01223 812007

LG 42" HD Flat Screen TV. Paul/Jane 01223 813073

EPSON Ecotank ET-2650 All in One Wireless Inkjet Printer - not been used for a couple of years so might need some nozzle cleaning! Laurence 07812 369546

News extra from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend: The surgery will be closed for the four days bank holiday weekend so please remember to ensure you have a sufficient supply of your medication to cover this period and to also allow at least 5 working day turnaround for repeat prescriptions during this busy period.

Health Pod: This has now been installed in the waiting room to enable patients to take their blood pressure, weight and complete health questionnaires which will automatically upload to their GP records. It will be in use within the next six weeks.

Red Bucket Funds and other Donations: Thank you to all those who have donated. The current total is £374.40 after our contribution to the purchase of the new ECG machine.

Dispensary: There continues to be a five day turnaround time for repeat prescriptions. They are continuing to offer a delivery service for medication. Please pick up a leaflet from the practice or go on line in order to register for this service.

Appointments: These will continue to be a mixture of face to face and phone consultations. Whilst patients will still need to queue for the dispensary there will be now be more seating allowed in the waiting area.

The Practice Manager wishes to extend thanks to patients for their help and support over the last difficult few months.

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: Please note that we are returning to 6pm and on Thursdays as we used to do before the pandemic. However we will continue on Zoom for the time being.

So next meeting is Thursday 28 July 2022 at 6pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

ANGLESEY GROUP OF PARISHES

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

Services in June 2022

Wednesday 1 June

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

Thursday 2 June

10.30am Jubilee Thanksgiving, Lode

Sunday 5 June

8am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

9am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Jubilee Celebration, Bottisham

4pm Village Worship, Village Hall, Quay

Sunday 12 June

9am Holy Communion, Quay

10.30am Family Worship, Swaffham Prior – also on Zoom

Sunday 19 June

9am Online service on Zoom

Morning Prayer, Quay

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 26 June

8am [Holy Communion, Bottisham](#)

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Armed Forces Day Service, Bottisham

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

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

All are welcome to services in any church in the group. Please be in touch if you would like a lift to a service.

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 June 2022

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Sat | 4 | Jubilee Weekend Bell ringing Experience, St Cyriac's, 10am-4pm [7] |
| Sun | 5 | Jubilee Village Picnic, Cooper's Green, 2pm—7pm |
| Wed | 15 | The Mikado, Downing Farm, Bulbeck, 7.30pm — to Saturday. Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm. [6] |
| Thu | 16 | Mothers' Union, Lode Church, 2.30pm [17] |
| Sun | 19 | PC Meeting, 7.30pm, Village Hall [22] |
| Mon | 20 | Councillors' Surgery, 6pm, Committee Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club [18] |
| Wed | 22 | Crier Copy Deadline |
| Sat | 25 | Village Gardeners' visit to Barnsdale [17] |
| Sun | 26 | Sundae Funday, St Mary's Church, 2-4pm [6] |

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 |