



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVI Number 3



Editorial

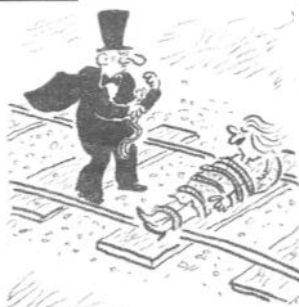
Not to be outdone by world-wide events, the Crier went off with a bang this month, or rather its computer screen did, exploding in front of my very nose with a very loud noise and blowing the house fuses before its intently demise. Miraculously, the computer itself was ok and my co-editor had a spare screen to hand, and so here we are, back again.

There are some very interesting articles in this issue. For a start — pirates! Julian Luttrell tells how his several times great grandfather was kidnapped by Barbary pirates and taken to be a sold as a slave, only to be spared by a most fortuitous turn of events — read his article on page 10.

Next, *Our Reporter* is offering a prize for the person who writes the best description, either in prose or verse, of the stunning journey from Swaffham Prior to Reach via the Fen Roads. Anyone can enter, but you have to be between the ages of 8 and 18 to win the £50 book token prize.

Elsewhere in the magazine, the Village Hall has installed a new deaf loop and is asking for our help in starting new activities, Saffra reminds us of the damage some of our overly tidy gardens (not guilty!)

PUGH



'You fool! You realise there's not a train until next Tuesday?!'

can do to the environment, the WI's Jubilee Tree has been planted by the village school children and Village Gardeners gives us the low down on Bach Flower Remedies. But for once, the great Heating Scheme Debate is having a lull this month!

And Shrove Tuesday is in March this year (we were beforehand last month) — “if a pancake is thick enough to toss, it's thick enough to toss out the window” — so said Fanny Craddock, and we “flippers” as opposed to “tossers” could not agree more!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *The Towers of Prior* by **Mike Barker**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

No Dogs in Playground

Can I please remind people that dogs are not allowed inside the playground fence under any circumstances?

Many thanks for everyone's co-operation with this.

Jude Griffiths

On behalf of the Parish Council.

Dear Editors,

Crossword Missing Persons

I am just wondering if you received my entry for the January crossword which I put through your letterbox? I wrote down all my answers to check and they are correct according to the solutions in the February crier which I received today but I did not get a mention. I would just like to know if you received it and if so where did I go wrong?

Dainin O'Dowd

Many apologies, Dainin! Due to a glitch putting the Crier together last month, the list of Honourable Mentions was accidentally curtailed. Apologies to all and here's the list in full:

CRIER CROSSWORD 191

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

BON MOT NUMBER 126

"To elect a man with his inattention to details, lack of interest in policy, serial dishonesty, and rackets private life, to the highest office was always a gamble."

Times Leader, 24 July 2021

Dear Editors,

Jubilee Tree

A jubilee tree was planted in the grounds of the village school—a Sorbus (Rowan)—a gift from the Swaffhams W.I. to the children of the school. They had an outdoor assembly to celebrate, with songs and sunshine. Sue Wade helped the children plant it, explaining the importance of loosening roots, using peat free compost, keeping it watered and finally surrounding it with snowdrops. Many hands, certainly did make light work.

Margaret Joyce



From our Reporter

If ears and eyes are kept open there is always a good chance of learning something new every day. And this certainly happened to me when I opened the February *Crier*. Many of us were convinced that it was an over-enthusiastic Heating Schemer who had been removing the *Daily Mail* Ross Clark article. But it was the brilliant brief letter from Jude, our Parish Clerk, which revealed that it was the Parish Council that done it. I was quite surprised. Having been a fairly faithful follower of the PC over some years I had no idea they had agreed to control what went up on the Village Notice Board (VNB) and also on the Bus Shelter Notice Board (BSNB). I knew that the left hand side of the VNB was reserved for PC Notices and that the right hand side for villagers and outside legal notices. When the question of the removal of the *Daily Mail* article came up someone had suggested that permission may be required from the PC before posting anything. I disputed this. I was wrong.



It is important that the village should know the rules. So, would the PC publish in the *Crier* when this was agreed. And also the minute agreeing that the PC can censor anything on both the VNB and the BSNB. And would the PC also put up a notice on both boards detailing the rules.

When and how does the PC make the decision to remove/censor a piece of information publicly displayed? The offending *Daily Mail* article was posted after the PC's December meeting. And because the PC could not rustle up sufficient members for the January meeting none was held. So when was the decision taken to take down the January notices? Or was it just one PC member, angry or maybe mentally distressed who takes them down?

Jude misses the point when she says that the *Daily Mail* article had been "mentioned" on the Village Facebook page, in the *Crier*, and on both notice boards. "Mentioned" is not the same as being able to read an article in full. We all know how articles and news can be interpreted in different ways, and how all of us can select and distort "facts". Therefore people must be able to consider as much detail and information as possible. They have been denied this by the PC.

Then came the rather pious statement "Its removal from the village notice board was in order to make room for other village news and information." I must be allowed a slight smile as I wonder how many months and months I and others have been exhorted to remember to renew our bus passes. The Village Gardeners are a bright addition every month, but who decided that a well-researched article on a ground-breaking £13million village scheme was so insignificant that it was barely given 24 hours viewing.

What I liked best about Jude's letter was

Village Notice Board—I wonder how many months and months I and others have been exhorted to remember to renew our bus passes...

“a funny little backwater paper called ‘The Daily Mail’”. Is this what the PC thinks about this paper? We are lucky in this country having so many daily papers, all with a different viewpoint, just as every person has. Still, it is a wonderful phrase which ought to be discussed by half a dozen newspaper readers. It may even be agreed what “little backwater paper” means. Suggestions please.

Meantime the Heating Scheme moves along steadily and, as they say the “devil is in the detail”. But because we are not given too much “detail” by CCC I think we just wait now as “the proof of the pudding is in the eating”. Let’s hope we are in for a feast.

Last month I mentioned a drive down the fen all the way round to Reach. This is such a dramatic drive that a £50 book token will be given to someone from the ages of 8 to 18 who writes the best description, either in prose or verse, of the journey. Anyone over the age of 18 can also enter but they will not be eligible for the book token. So take the journey down Station Road, continue along Whiteway Drove, follow round until you reach the crossroad and turn right for Reach. You will find plenty of movement and rhythm on the journey to inspire you. Don’t drive too quickly.

Even though only a few may take up pen and paper it will be interesting to see the creative side of the village, something which matches our growing number of local artists. All compositions to be sent to the Editors by April 15th at the latest.

Alastair Everitt

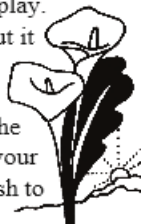
PS. The above was written before I had sight of the draft minutes of the February PC Meeting. **Please Jude’s draft minutes report and especially Steve’s report giving the latest revelations on the Village Heating Scheme. 1st April is approaching fast.**

Easter Lilies

Each year we have had lilies in St Mary’s Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies will cost £3.00 per stem this year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust’s door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil’s door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.



Ruth Scovil



Induction Loop Installed
To use, please switch your
hearing aid to 'T'

New Hearing Loop in Village Hall

We are pleased to announce that the Village Hall is now more accessible to users with hearing loss. New hearing loop systems have been installed in the Hall, as the one installed in 1998 no longer worked properly.

This should enable all our users to hear clearly, not only those with hearing aids but also those who simply struggle to hear in noisy environments.

One part of the installation covers the Main and Small Halls. Here, users will wear a discreet neck loop and can adjust the volume as required. If you have a hearing aid, this should be set to T. If you don't, you can use standard headphones plugged into the neck loop.

A state-of-the-art beam-forming microphone will pick up anyone speaking in the Main Hall and transmit this, by infra-red, to those wearing the neck loop, anywhere in the Main and Small Halls.



A separate, traditional hearing loop is present in the Meeting Room.



These different systems should allow independent use of the hearing loops in the Meeting Room and Main/Small Halls without overlap of the signals.

If anyone would like to see (hear) the system in action, please contact Mike Carrington by emailing bookings.spvh@gmail.com

The installation was made possible by a grant from ECDC, which covered 80% of the cost.

Swaffham Prior Village Hall Management Committee

Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme

(SPCCS)



A voluntary community car scheme for residents of Swaffham Prior providing door-to-door transport for those who do not have the use of a car and are unable to use conventional public transport to cover essential trips eg medical, dental, chiropody, or optician

If you would like to use this service or **volunteer as a driver** please contact Janet Willmott

07843 842 900

preferably between 6pm-9pm, Monday to Wednesday
and 9am-6pm Thursday and Friday
or email spccs@adventurersfarm.co.uk

Julie's recipes for March

Mother's Day Fairy Cakes

175g caster sugar	140g icing sugar, sifted
175g butter	Yellow food colouring
3 eggs beaten	A selection of writing icings
175g self-raising flour	Ready-made sugar flower decorations
1 tbsp baking powder	Paper cake cases

Preheat the oven to 170c. Put the cake cases into bun tins, about 18.

Mix all the ingredients and beat with an electric whisk until smooth and even.

Fill the cake cases with a heaped tablespoon in each.

Bake for 15 mins or until golden brown.

Remove the cakes from the oven and cool on a wire rack.

Mix the icing sugar with 4 tsp's of cold water to make a smooth paste, then add a drop or two of the colouring. Spread over the top of each cooled bun. Leave to set, using the icing pens/tube pipe one letter onto each bun to spell out Happy Mothers Day.

Leave to set and display on a flat platter or tray.

Lemon Flower cake

175g butter	For the topping & filling:
175g caster sugar	85g caster sugar,
3 eggs	plus extra for sprinkling
175g self-raising flour	Juice of 1 ½ lemons
1 ½ tsp baking powder	250g tub of mascarpone
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon	

For sugar frosted flowers:

A selection of pansies, calendulas
or other seasonal edible flowers

1 egg white, lightly beaten

Caster sugar for coating the flowers.

Brush the flower petals with the egg white and then sprinkle the caster sugar over them, shake off any excess and leave for 2 hours to dry.

Preheat the oven to 170c, and line two 7 inch round sandwich tins.

Mix all the cake ingredients together and whisk until smooth, add a little milk if needed.

Divide the mixture between the 2 tins and bake for 25-30 mins until the cakes spring back when pressed. Leave to cool.

Mix the topping sugar with the juice of 1 lemon, Prick the cakes and spoon the topping mix over each. Set aside.

Add the remaining lemon juice to the mascarpone, mix well and use this mixture to sandwich the cakes together. Sprinkle caster sugar over the top and decorate with the flowers.

Happy Mother's Day!

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 9 April

Tickets £6 each. To book a table, contact

Jenny Brand
(01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand
(01638) 741960



Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses !!

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

Captured by Pirates!

In 1760 my ggggg grandfather, Nicholas Phillips, married Mary Davey in Stoke Damerel (part of Plymouth today). But he almost didn't make it to the altar.

Trading with Spain

Four years earlier, in 1756, Nicholas was one of just ten crew members on board a small merchant ship called the *Ann Galley*, trading between the southern Spanish coast and Britain. In late July they were preparing to sail from Gibraltar with a cargo of brandy originally from Barcelona. These plans were to be upset by the start of the Seven Years' War: in May France had laid siege to Mahon in Menorca and many British subjects had fled for the relative safety of Gibraltar. Among these was Milbourne Marsh, who was Master Shipwright there, together with his family.

Meanwhile relations between Britain and Morocco had also taken a turn for the worse after Captain Hyde Parker was despatched to negotiate with Sidi Mohammed, the acting Sultan of Morocco, but arrogantly refused to do so in a respectful manner. This enraged Sidi Mohammed who sent his forces to sea to exact revenge.

Escape into capture

Because of the war with France, merchant ships sailed in convoys for their own protection. The *Ann Galley* left Gibraltar along with 12 others, in worsening weather, on 29 July 1756. Almost immediately their small vessel was left behind by the much faster convoy and found itself lost in fog and storms for several days, emerging on 8 August only to run into a Barbary Corsair hellbent on capturing British ships. My ancestor Nicholas Phillips was taken prisoner by the pirates along with the rest of the crew and the three passengers who were also on board.

And there the story would normally have ended, with those captured either killed or enslaved for the rest of their lives.



*Barbarossa ('Red Beard') — a famous
Barbary Corsair*

Escape again

But it did not happen that way. Because one of the passengers was Elizabeth Marsh, the hotheaded 21 year old daughter of Milbourne Marsh. Through his naval connections Milbourne lobbied Lord Anson, the First Lord of the Admiralty, for help, which was forthcoming because, at the same time, Britain wanted to re-establish good relations with Morocco. As a result a Royal Navy ship, HMS Portland, left Gibraltar on 7 October 1756 for Safi in Morocco, tasked with collecting those captured. On 17 November, three months after they were captured, 11 men and one woman came back aboard HMS Portland; these included Nicholas Phillips and Elizabeth Marsh. He was free, but little did he know that this was only because of the presence of Elizabeth Marsh (and her father's connections).

Now began an involuntary career in the Royal Navy for Nicholas. He became an Ordinary Seaman, rising to Able Seaman in November 1758. This period was mostly quite boring (sailing up and down the Spanish coast defending British shipping against French attack) interspersed with occasional bursts of drama (taking part in action at Saint Cast during which the ship's captain was captured by France).

Escape again?

In late summer 1760, HMS Portland with Nicholas on board arrived back in Plymouth. He somehow met Mary Davey there and they swiftly married on 28 September 1760. Nicholas chose to leave the Royal Navy between Christmas and New Year 1760, by deserting the ship. In mid 1761 my gggg grandfather, also Nicholas, was born just across the Hamoaze in Millbrook where he and his descendants lived, working as carpenters in what was to become Devonport dockyard. He probably never appreciated what a stroke of luck it was that he was even born.

What happened to Elizabeth Marsh? First she married the captain of the Ann Galley with whom she had shared the adventure of being captured, but she didn't exactly settle down; later she made a name for herself as a risk-taking traveller and chronicler. She in turn probably never appreciated how many others' family lives only existed because of her.

Julian Luttrell

Bibliography:

The Female Captive: a Narrative of Facts that Happened in Barbary in the Year 1756, by Elizabeth Marsh, published in 1769

The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh, by Linda Colley, Harper Collins

Lords of the Sea: a History of the Barbary Corsairs, by Alan Jamieson, Reaktion Books

Muster Books and Captain's Logs of HMS Portland, also Letters from Captain Maplesden, all in The National Archives

Village Hall News

Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend the Village Hall Management AGM on Thursday 21st April at 19:30 in the Meeting Room.

If you have ideas about how the Hall's services could be improved or want to know more about how the Hall is run, come along.

Activities at the Hall

We would like to encourage you to make use of the Hall's facilities, and to take part in the classes that are currently running.

We also want feedback from Crier readers about how the Hall should be used for the benefit of the local community.

What is currently available ...

The following activities take place in the Hall, some weekly and some monthly.

T'ai Chi (2 different groups)	Exercise for the Over 50s
Art History classes	Slimming World
Women's Institute	Gardeners
Pilates	Quilters

Some of these classes need a minimum number of participants to be viable. So, if you are trying to regain fitness or improve your balance, consider Exercise for the Over 50s (Monday morning), T'ai Chi (Monday morning, Monday afternoon, or Friday morning), or Pilates (Tuesday early evening).

If you would like to develop your interest in art history or gardening, or see what the WI have planned, look on the Village Hall website and contact the organiser.

Information about times and contact details is on the Village Hall website.

What could be available soon ...

One possibility is an Exercise to Music class which Sarah (who runs the Pilates class) hopes to start. We have also been approached about an Over 55's Ballet class. If you are interested in either (or both) of these classes, let us know.

We are sure that Swaffham Prior residents have many interests that are not currently represented. We have listed the sorts of events that take place in other venues in the following table.

Other possibilities ...

Would you be interested in attending or helping to set up and run any of these activities?

Are there any other activities that you would like to attend in the Hall?

<i>Social</i>		<i>Educational</i>	
Community Choir	Music Group	Adult Education	Music Lessons
Barn Dance or Ceilidh	Coffee Morning or Pop Up Café	U3A	
<i>Entertainment</i>		<i>Sports and Exercise</i>	
Drama	Live Band	Aerobics	Ballet Class
Murder Mystery Night	Script Reading	Exercise to Music	Line Dancing
<i>Food-based</i>		Ballroom Dancing	Carpet Bowls
Brewing Club	Cookery Club	Yoga	
Farmers Market	Local Produce	<i>Clubs and Associations</i>	
<i>Fundraising</i>		Arts	Board Games
Quiz	Cream Teas	Books	Local History
Food & Drink Festival	Bingo and Raffles	Model Railways or Aircraft	Metal Detectorists
		Photography	Bridge
<i>Private Hires</i>		<i>Support</i>	
Business Breakfast	Drama & Music Rehearsals	Baby Massage Class	Parent & Toddler Group
Children's Party	Meetings	Dementia Music Café	Disability Support Sessions
Wake	Party	Healthy Mums	Counselling
Wedding	Religious	Emotional	Family Therapy
Reception	Celebration	Support Training	Sessions
Music & Video	Photography	Meditation & Wellbeing	Over 60s Lunch Club
Recording	Sessions		
Training Courses			

What do you want?

Let us know - it could be any of the activities above, or something else you would be interested in if it was offered.

Contact us by going to our website (just search for Swaffham Prior Village Hall) and leave your suggestions or email at bookings.spvh@gmail.com

For more information about what is already taking place at the Village Hall, see the website.

Out on the Wildside:

Plants are life!

Following on from my article last month about the relationship between humans and nature I thought I would do a second part on plants. I feel many humans take plants and the trees around us for granted which makes little sense to me as they play such an important role in our world and without them, we would have no life! It can be so easy when you move into a new home to just rip out plants that are not in your ideal spot but just stop for a moment and think about the negative impact you are having on our world if you do it. So why am I making such a big deal out of plants? Plants provide



us with food, fiber, shelter, medicine, and fuel. The basic food for all organisms is produced by green plants. In the process of food production, oxygen is released. This oxygen, which we obtain from the air we breathe, is essential to life. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen from their leaves, this equals life. So putting that simply, without trees and plants- you wouldn't be able to breathe, there would be no oxygen! Plants maintain the atmosphere and also help to protect the ozone layer that helps protect Earth's life from damaging UV radiation.

So what happens when we needlessly cut down trees, remove real grass and plants? In short, you are disrupting the natural environment! Not only are you doing the opposite from helping to slow global warming, but you are destroying a vital habitat for wildlife, both big and small and taking away a food and shelter source for many animals including hedgehogs, owls, bats and birds. Now you might be thinking, your garden is small and it's not like your committing full scale deforesting, right? But what you need to understand is that no matter how small your garden, it is still an ecosystem that is providing an important role in Mother Nature. Now, if everyone was to think like that, well then, imagine the sheer scale of gardens in our country that would be lacking in a healthy natural ecosystem? Sadly many gardens have become this way, worsening the huge problem facing many of our wild creatures like hedgehogs. They live in our gardens and need to be able to venture from one to another freely, where they can seek food and shelter to live normally. As this has been disrupted and many domestic gardens have been fenced off, paved over and

grass ripped up - this is now leading to the decline in many of our much loved garden dwellers.

Even as something as small as removing a patch of real grass, has an impact on the eco system - grass supports many insects and below in the soil, earth worms live and help to make the soil nutrient rich. The insects in grass also provide food for birds and hedgehogs. But by far the biggest sin is removing trees, which is especially damaging. When it rains, trees hold the water and do not allow it to pass over the soil, which avoids floods. Flooding is becoming increasingly common in England and so we need our trees more than ever! Planting trees is a huge help as it not only helps to increase the levels of oxygen in our environment but helps to hold water and prevent flooding. So if that hasn't convinced you that plants are life and that we need to protect them and care for them then I don't know what will.

Saffra Monteiro

Even something as small as removing a patch of real grass, has an impact on the eco system...

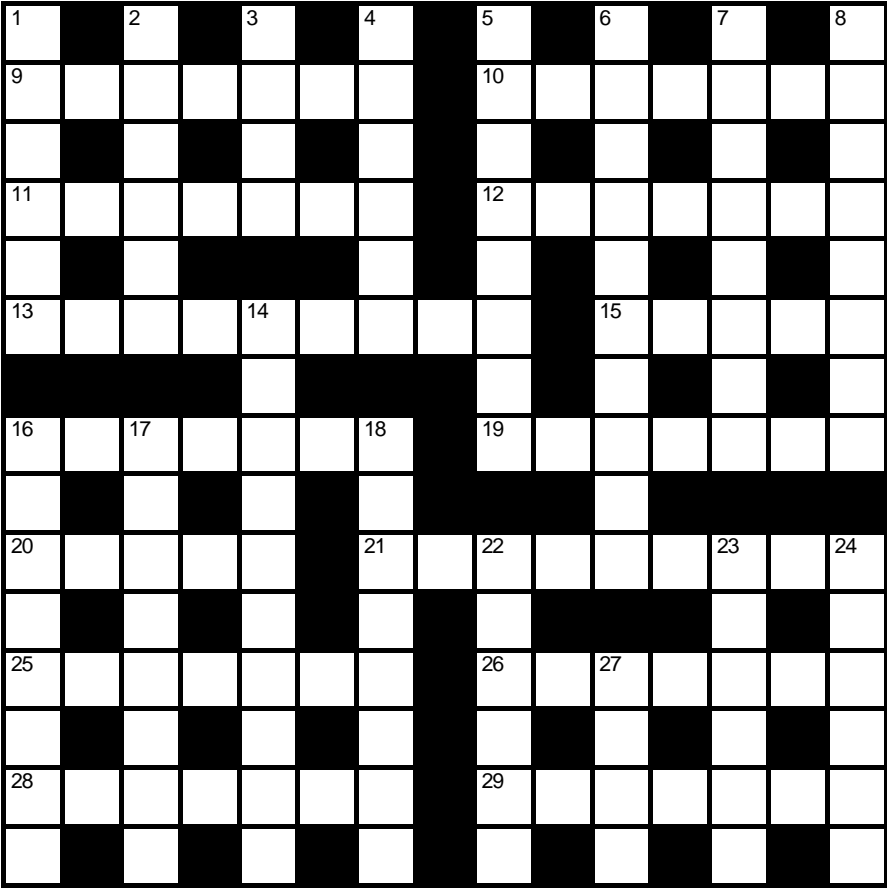


**Corner of Cage Hill and Greenhead Road.
At last! A trench getting filled in.**

Crossword Number 193

Compiled by **CALVIN**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th March 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

- 9 Endlessly loud, trouble about fruit (7)
- 10 Amount of oxygen needed for speech? (7)
- 11 Setter, sunburnt and lost in mist, finds log-holder (7)
- 12 Start fight at beginning of match (7)
- 13 Naval command to consume malt and dairy (9)
- 15 Smithy in favour of General Electric (5)
- 16 Wartime singer or spymaster hugs after bowling (7)
- 19 Sandwich shop with German to set boundary (7)
- 20 Hurts to hear glass was cracked in spa (5)
- 21 Shred container for current, second-class toy (5,4)
- 25 Boat has run out of ribbon (7)
- 26 Earthquake, when followed by event - miss ice as a result of shaking (7)
- 28 Determination to refill grid? (7)
- 29 Organised study, setting for Charlie and setter (7)

Down

- 1 Air Force debacle, half caused by palm tree (6)
- 2 Massacre hippo, grommet having been inserted (6)
- 3 Poet's drug, half taken to acclaim (4)
- 4 Good Golly, two triplets at the head of an enormous number (6)
- 5 Crooked Londoner loses number of journalist (8)
- 6 With eyes wide open, see movie from start to end? (10)

- 7 Measure mystical energy, make a record of sheep (8)
- 8 For all practical purposes, impotent - I've gone away (2,6)
- 14 Bless me 'eart! Endlessly build and build again (10)
- 16 Phony is part of work's detractors (8)
- 17 Yelps "Pie!" when startled by neurological condition (8)
- 18 A&E trading in fabric for military hardware (8)
- 22 Cease hiding inside, and evade sister (6)
- 23 Fur is booby trap for the Queen? (6)
- 24 Sports equipment I heard is a scam (6)
- 27 Flag up AI assistant (4)

Solution to crossword no. 192

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

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



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Dr Gwenda Kidd, gave us a very interesting talk on Bach's Flower Remedies. She is a Bach practitioner and can prescribe remedies- 'A Help for Health and Wellbeing'.

Dr Edward Bach was Welsh and lived from 1886-1936. He studied at Birmingham University and later ,Bacteriology, Pathology and Immunology at University College Hospital. He looked at bacteria associated with chronic disease, which led his search for natural remedies- to balance emotions, which he saw as key to good health.

Along with studying Homeopathy, by 1934, he'd developed a healing system of 19 remedies. Complementary therapies, individualised to combat stress and emotional turmoil. He said " we all have wonderful individuality".

All the remedies are plant based- Larch, Hornbeam, Olive, Walnut, Elm, mimulas, gentians, plumbago, chicory, ceratostigma- to name but a few. There are now 38 remedies, half of which come from trees.

Rescue remedy, with which many of us were familiar and had used, is unusual, in that it's a mixture of emergency ingredients.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th March, when Roy Nunn will be giving us a talk on the Gardens of Madeira.

All are very welcome.



Margaret Joyce



The Swaffhams' WI

Despite all the gales most of our members were able to come to the February meeting. The Speaker was Lisa Nixon, a qualified ballet and dance teacher, who runs the Silver Swan ballet classes in Quy that several of our members attend. She had kindly agreed to come along and give an informal talk about herself and how her career in dancing progressed. She started ballet classes as a very young child in Accrington and later went on to study at the Bush Davies School of Theatre Arts and then the London Studio Centre. Once qualified She worked as a professional dancer in countries all over the world including Japan, Hong Kong, Italy and Morocco and during her various residencies she also become quite a linguist. More prestigious qualifications through the National Association of Teachers of Dance then gave Lisa the opportunity to open her own dance academy and offer training across a number of genres to people of all ages both in group classes and private tutoring. We were all very impressed with Lisa's fascinating career and had lots of questions for her afterwards while we tucked in to refreshments. One thing she said was not to let people tell you that you will never be able to do something. Have a go, there is usually more than one way to overcome problems. How nice to finish the meeting on

a note of optimism.

The next meeting is on 21st March in the Village Hall at the usual time of 7.30. This will be our Annual Meeting when officers for the next year are appointed so we won't be having a speaker but rest assured there will be plenty of time after the business for refreshments and then some in-house entertainment. Why not come along and see what a friendly group we are.

Pat Cook

News from Bottisham Medical Practice

Patients' Participation Group

Red Bucket Funds: Thank you for your donations, we currently have a total of £49.31.

Dispensary: Please be aware that dispensary continue to have a five day turn-around time for repeat prescriptions. We are continuing to offer a delivery service for medication. Please pick up a leaflet in practice or go on line in order to register for this service.

Staff Changes: Dr Bouzedi and Dr Kanagasabapathy left the Practice at the end of January. Dr Harrison will be returning to the Practice from 1 April. The practice is pleased to announce the appointment of a very experienced paramedic who started on 7 February. Ellie will be doing home visits and minor illness clinics.

The Patient Participation Group: We are looking for new members to join. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved

Next meeting: If you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. Next regular meeting March 23rd 2022 at 2pm. AGM to be held on Zoom at 2pm on 27 April 2022. Details of the speaker will be included in our article next month.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group



**Heating Scheme
workmen hard at
work in all
weathers**

The Reading Group Reads...

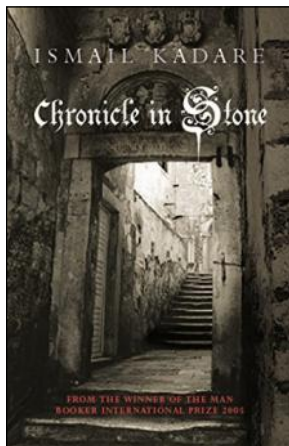
Chronicle in Stone

By Ismail Kadare

And also

The Card

By Arnold Bennett



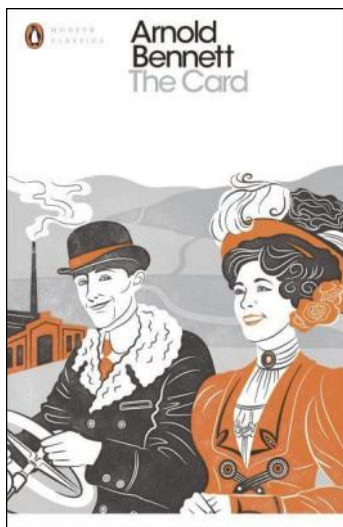
Chronicle in Stone is a captivating tale told through the eyes of a young boy. It deals with the situation in Albania during the second world war. Close to the Greek border, Gjirokaster* was occupied in turn by Italians, then Greeks, Italians again, then Germans, as well as being bombed by the allies. The traumatic times for the city and the events are told through the eyes of this intelligent sensitive young boy. It is a vivid picture of this extraordinary city part of which is built up a mountain side with roofs and foundations touching each other. The descriptions of every day life are vivid – of the overflowing cistern, the girls, the different resistance groups, belief in witches, the old crones and their influence, the aerodrome and the big shiny planes, the underground passages, incidents in the square, and the various troops

who come and go. All is a whirling kaleidoscope of comedy, tragedy, politics, sexuality and survival.

Many loved it and those who had not read or finished the book were so captivated by the enthusiastic comments they were determined to take it up again.

Unusually, this month another book had been thrown in for discussion - The Card. Fans of Arnold Bennett are always delighted to reread him, while those to whom he is new were delighted with this book. Extremely humorous it is also quite a moral tale and all were so pleased that the Card (Edward Henry Machin) escaped the dazzling Ruth and ended up marrying the delightful, unassuming, wise, life loving Nellie. Any budding entrepreneur can also learn how to become successful, which is not only seeing the main chance but also the enormous hard work needed.

It was a very good evening which ended with an extremely lively discussion about the value of reading Hitler's Mein Kampf.



Alastair Everitt

From 28 March 2022 our waste will be collected on new days. For Bottisham, Brinkley, Lode and Westley Waterless the waste will be collected on Mondays and Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior on Tuesdays. Our waste will be collected on these days for 2 weeks and then we will move onto the Easter timetable. Bottisham, Brinkley, Lode and Westley Waterless on Saturday 9 April and Tuesday 19 April and Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior on Monday 11 April and Wednesday 20 April. Then we will move back to Mondays and Tuesdays. In addition, the pattern of collection of Green and Blue bins will change – they will still be alternate weeks, but you may get Blue bins collected two weeks in a row when you first move to the new days. ECSS will be delivering letters to each household which should make all of this clear.



We apologise that this may be a bit confusing. We will be asking why the changes were introduced just before the temporary changes necessitated by the two Easter Bank Holidays.

We have been assured that reconfiguring the waste rounds will ensure that the service will operate more efficiently, reducing the fluctuations on resource demand and removing unnecessary travel. We were pleased to hear that the new arrangements will reduce ECSS's annual carbon output by about 12 tonnes CO2 per year.

The budget proposals for the coming year were on the agenda for the Finance & Assets Committee on Monday 24 January. These were in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy which was approved by the council in its budget last year. However, the Leader of the Council moved an amendment at the meeting to delete all the budget recommendations in their entirety, and refer the decision on the budget to the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 22 February, with no recommendation at all from the committee.

The County Council are creating a new heritage website for Cambridgeshire, with the aim of improving the availability of local heritage lists. Once this is up and running you will be able nominate buildings and sites as local heritage assets - <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/cambridgeshire>

Jubilee Gardens in Ely celebrated 20 years since it was opened by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh in February 2002. Charlotte was one of the Councillors at the time who pressed the administration at the Council to retain this green space rather than selling it as a building plot - [Lib Dems celebrate 20 years of Jubilee Gardens Ely](#)

ecld.org.uk). She wanted people to be able to walk through park land from the river to the Cathedral, rather than having to navigate between buildings. It's disappointing that 20 years later we are still having to fight across this ward to protect local green space from development pressures.

Our next 'meet your Councillors' and Surgery will be on Monday 21 March at 6.30 by zoom. Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196.



By Royal Charter since 1201

Monday 2 May 2022

12 noon to 5pm

www.reachfair.org.uk

Reach CB25 0JD





**Greenhead
Road trench**

East Anglian Air Ambulance

In 2007 our 'Hero' Doctor, Dr. Pam Chrispin became EAAA's first female flying doctor when all air ambulance doctors were volunteers. All good things must come to an end though and after 14 years of dedicated service, including as EAAA's Deputy Medical Director, Pam is retiring. She had an incredible 40 year medical career and was recently reunited with mother Emma and her daughter, Willow, whom she once saved. Emma said "She's our absolute hero – if it wasn't for her we wouldn't be here today or have a precious family". Our thoughts and good wishes go with you Pam for a long and happy retirement. Job well done ! You can read more about this remarkable lady on the EAAA website by visiting www.eaaa.org.uk

Those of you who read my monthly missives will be all too aware that the overall objective is to engender ongoing support for EAAA. Of course, financial support is vital but – we do need more 'feet on the ground' by way of volunteers.

EAAA holds a wide range of fund-raising events throughout the year, all of which are great fun for the participants and for the volunteers who help with the organisation.

Please, therefore, contact us via the website to explore how you might help and get so much out of so doing



by way of friendships, and knowing that you too can make a difference. Volunteers are the essential ingredient to the survivability of EAAA and, therefore, to its ongoing lifesaving work. Activities include –helping at events, taking part in bucket collections, speaking to groups, box collections, in the office and copywriting, research and networking. We need your skills, time, ideas, contacts and energy ! Whether its regular or intermittent, your gift of time and help is needed. So, do it now – please.

A brief 'heads-up' on forthcoming TREK 24 events (up to 24 miles or kilometres depending on route) includes – 7/5 Norfolk Broads to Norwich, 11/6 Suffolk coast and countryside, 13/7 Chilterns Challenge and 11/9 Norfolk Coast Path. Why not get a group together and contact www.trek-24.co.uk for these great fundraising days out.

Every time that you see or are aware of an East Anglian Air Ambulance helicopter overflying your 'neck of the woods' remember – people like you helped it take off to undertake that potentially lifesaving mission ! Together – we save lives.

Michael White

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting

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

Reports

East Cambs District Council representative Charlotte Cane attended. Cllr Cane noted that the January Audit Committee for ECDC had been impacted by Covid as neither the internal nor external auditor were able to attend, but that they would be at the March meeting. Also that there will be an automated business rates reduction will be going ahead and that Council and Committee meetings will now be live-streamed from the Full Council meeting of 21st April onwards – enabling people to listen in only.

Accounts

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the Christmas accounts reconciliation had been carried out, the PC were still within budget for the year and a VAT claim had been submitted.

Discussion of the need for a crossing on the B1102

Mr Jonathan Cook spoke to the meeting as Chair of A-B1102 and in a personal capacity as a resident; he outlined his understanding of the issues involved and the options discussed and rejected over time.

After much discussion, it was concluded that speed of vehicles through the village was the fundamental issue, combined with physical issues of the road and the public use of space. It was agreed that Mr Cook could approach Swaffham Bulbeck and Burwell PCs in the capacity of Chair of A-B1102 suggesting a potential joint application to reduce the speed limit on the B1102 between Swaffham Bulbeck, through Swaffham Prior and to Burwell from 60-40-60mph to either 50-30-50mph or 40-30-40mph. It was also agreed that Mr Cook could investigate independent guidance on what could be achieved for that stretch of road.

The Chair thanked Mr Cook for his work on these matters.

Reminder of the ban on dogs in the playground

Cllr Covill reported that when passing the playground, he had seen dog owners sitting on the benches in the playground, with their dogs and without any children. The Clerk noted that the 'No Dogs' sign is still clear and legible, next to the main gate in. It was agreed that the Clerk to put polite notice on Facebook and in the Crier reminding dog owners that dogs are not to take their dogs into the playground, because of the danger of zoonotic disease.

The possibility of having seating for dog owners in the field beyond the playground, was discounted as it was too close to the playground. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

Clerk's Report

The January PC meeting had been cancelled as too few councillors were available on the night.

After researching funding for road improvements, the Clerk noted that partial funding could be available from a Road Safety Trust grant, to fund an expert to look into or design a solution.

The Village Hall had been booked for the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th May 2022.

The last marked plot in the cemetery had been sold; more plots to be marked out.

A damaged manhole cover in the pavement on Green Head Road had been reported by both the Clerk and a member of the public, but the Highways Agency had responded that it did not need fixing yet. SKP commented that they were waiting for the Heating Scheme roadworks to be completed.

The Clerk noted that the Village Hall meeting room now had a hearing loop installed.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Kent-Phillips. A freedom of information request had confirmed that it was part of a loan agreement for £3.1 million that the first house be heated by the Heating Scheme by 1st April 2022 and that 160 homes were required to take part for the scheme to break even. £6.1 million in loans were intended to be repaid by selling carbon credits. At Christmas, 47 homes had signed up.

3 separate surveys of one house had confirmed that digging outside it would cause damage, that asbestos in the cellar of another would be disturbed by digging outside it and a third house had had damage to the rendering from digging outside for the Heating Scheme.

The slow progress on Cage Hill had been due to the make-up of the road and that the delay in filling in the excavations on Greenhead Road are due to delays in tarmac supply.

Cllr Camps. Noted that despite being trimmed back, the hedge at the bottom of Cage Hill still protrudes over the footpath - to be reported to Highways Agency.

Cllr Covill. A fly-tipper had been identified and prosecuted from rubbish dumped in the fen.

Open Question Time

A member of the public noted that older children play football in the field behind the playground so it is not ideal to encourage dog owners to make use of it.

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, 10th March 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

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

Morphy Richards food steamer in excellent condition. Christopher 01223 811501

John Lewis cot mattress, never used. 1270mm x 630mm (with image of label below). Jane 01223 813435

Sewing machine, Elna 2005. In working order, could do with a service. Jane 01223 813435

Wanted

All items for community project

Contact Jackie 01223 813815

Kitchen scales

Kitchen storage containers- suitable for cakes or flour etc

Pyrex casserole dishes, medium or large sizes

Mixing bowl

Whisk hand or electric

Cake tin 2lb or 1lb



**Complicated
corner at the
Greenhead Rd
- Cage Hill
junction**

Services in March 2022



Wednesday 2 March

7.30pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion, Quay
8 pm C by C (a short contemplative service),
Online service on Zoom

Sunday 6 March

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

Sunday 13 March

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

Sunday 20 March

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

Sunday 27 March

9am Online service, on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Prior
3pm Mothering Sunday: Treat Your Mum to Tea, Service followed by Tea,
Lode

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

*For the time being we would like to request congregations 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 ad*

Dates for Your Diary March 2022

Wed	2	Book Club, 6pm, School House, Burwell [20]
Thu	10	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH [24]
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm [19]
Mon	21	WI, VH, 7.30pm [18]
Tue	22	Crier Copy Deadline
April		
Sat	9	Quiz Night, VH, 7.30pm [9]

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