



The Swaffham Crier

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May 2022



Editorial

There's been a couple of apparently lost causes crossing the Crier current affairs desk recently. The first was the finding of new management for the Village Hall (see last two Criers). Of all the village "voluntary" jobs you would not want, this one takes the biscuit—so much work and responsibility. But no, while we were away on holiday, Chris and Mike Carrington, who have done such sterling work with the Hall over the past many years, have found successors! Many congratulations to whoever it was stepped forward — more news next month,

The next was a competition announced by Our Reporter in the March edition to write the best account of the journey down the Fen and round by Reach back to Swaffham Prior. The weeks ticked by, and no entries, we had given up all hope. Then suddenly, at the last moment, a brilliant account landed in our inbox, and you can read it on page 8.

Quiz night was a massive success (see Letters)—we missed it because we were on holiday, as too the Open Evening at the Energy Centre, which seems to have been enjoyed by all. The recent hike in oil prices have caused many of us to have second thoughts about this scheme which has encountered so many problems — the latest of which appears to be the poorly planned proximity of trench work to houses which abut the road in the High Street, and in particular to their cellars. Let's hope that gets ironed out.

Meanwhile, last month's spoof April 1 letter about using a nuclear submarine reactor to power the scheme was indeed a spoof! Although oddly enough, the Government does plan to deploy a few of these elsewhere in the country.

Don't miss Julie's Jubilee recipes and we'll have all the news about the Jubilee Bell Ringing Experience for next month., See you at the Fair!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: Full Flight by Ruth Blundell



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

QUIZ NIGHT

Wow, what a turn out we had for our village quiz, we would like to thank you all for coming. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves and look forward to seeing you at the next one. Congratulations goes to Generations, the winning team and coming a close joint second, Quizzimodo and Special Meads. Thank you to those who donated prizes for the raffle and of course to April who organised it, she always does a good job parting you from your money. We would also like to thank Shirley, Tracey, Gerri and Elaine, who do an excellent job of keeping things going in the kitchen and serving the food. A special thank you goes to Shirley because she makes the chilli for us every year. And by no means least a big thank you to Janet who stepped into the quiz masters shoes on this occasion. A brilliant job although we still think you should have sung the lyrics for the music round. Perhaps next time!! The next quiz to put in your diaries is on the 15th October.

We raised £430 for St. Mary's Church on the night, thank you everyone.

Lynne and Jenny

Fancy an Outing to Barnsdale Gardens, Rutland?

The Village Gardeners have organised a coach trip to Barnsdale Gardens, home of the late Geoff Hamilton, on Saturday 25th June. Geoff's particular interest was cottage gardens. The cost of this is £35, including £10 deposit, which covers the cost of the coach, driver's tip and entrance fee. There is a cafe there which means we can have a coffee and refreshments when we arrive!

There are some places left so, if you are interested, please contact:

**Ruth Scovil on 01638 743720 or
Margaret Joyce on 01638 744390**

We look forward to hearing from you soon



The Open Evening at the Energy Centre was attended by about 50 villagers and was a great success. See their report on page 6.

(Many thanks to Peter Rand for the photos)



From our Reporter

All queries about the Village Notice Board appear to have been resolved. Anyone from anywhere can now post whatever they like on it. And someone even has recently tidied it up. That really is good news. My goodness it had been a mess for such a long time. Now it is a credit to the village. Everybody thanks whoever was responsible.

One disappointment though is that no-one has written to defend the *Daily Mail* from the charge that it is “a funny little back-water paper.” It sells over 900,000 copies, has many readers in the village, and one highly respectable and respected lady once said to me: - “I read the *Daily Telegraph* to support my opinions, and the *Daily Mail* to find out about real life.”



Another disappointment was the failure of the Community Bus to turn up in the Village Hall Car Park on Wednesday 6th April. I wanted to find out more about the proposal to miss out Swaffham Prior to hasten journey times. **Surely this is very worrying and likely to make us “a funny little back-water village.”** Later I was told that the Community Bus had been seen in the Village Hall Car Park during the previous week. That is not a very impressive piece of organisation. At least they might have amended the notice on the Village Hall Notice Board.

The Heating Scheme had become a little boring to people and it was thought best to allow it to make its slow but steady progress. And then Putin out a stop to that. So much of Europe is dependent on Russian gas and oil that it threw Cop26 out of the window as the world adjusted and attempted to fill the gap. Britain included.

Another disappointment was the failure of the Community Bus to turn up in the Village Hall Car Park on Wednesday 6th April. Apparently, it came the previous week.

Initially defending and supporting the ‘aims’ of his claimed “highly successful” Cop26, Boris Johnson on 2nd April proposed doubling *onshore* wind turbine power in the UK. At present there are 8,800 onshore wind turbines in the UK, only 2,000 of them in England. That could be a real test for this village as it attempts to halt climate change. Would we be happy with 30 or 40 or more wind turbines just down the fen? If painted pale grey they would merge with the sky better. It is quite likely we would like them as a recent poll carried out for the *Observer*, resulted in more than three-quarters of Britons saying they are happy for wind farms being built near them. 75% were Tories. Something to think about?.

Tory backbenchers were less than happy and on 4th April Boris dropped his wind farm target and changed to more new nuclear plants, hydrogen use, possible fracking again, new offshore wind farms, more solar farms, better insulation, a new oil field, more solar panels and even the possibility of fusion. He seemed to throw everything into the pot. That is, everything except the ground source heating scheme

we are being offered in the village. This is not to say our scheme is not a good idea. **But why, O why, do you suppose it was not included?** There was not even a mention of it in a footnote. I am sure the question in some form or other will be raising it's head again.

Maybe George Lamberty was right when he said at that famous Zoom meeting:- "This has nothing to do with Climate Change. It is just another heating plan."

On the other hand I hear that the huge increase in the price of oil has made many revise their opinion and are now seriously thinking of signing up to the new Scheme. This gives the Scheme quite a boost, and is for good economic reasons. Except that the cost of the new system will still be tied to the price of oil. That is before, after a few years, it will be linked to the price of electricity. So, some good has come out of Putin's action.

No-one won the £50 Book Token for the best prose or poetic entry describing the journey down the fen round to Reach. This was because no-one aged 8-18 entered. But there was a fine entry from Keith Carter, a recent resident in the village, who made the journey in his wheelchair. You will enjoy just as he will enjoy the fine bottle of wine he has been awarded. Even so I do hope that some people, especially others new to the village, do make the journey and that they take the young. It is almost better than a fun fair, at no charge, and if you like it you could return the same way back to Swaffham Prior. So, go down Station Road and give it a try. And children may hear some surprising explosive exclamations from their parents.

There was total confusion at the top of the High Street on the last Bin Day. Never has there been such a medley of green and blue bins all jostling against each other. This is either because so many people are colour blind, or because bank holidays can be confusing, or the EDCD change of collection schedule, or – what? But it certainly has not been an easy time especially as it has just been revealed that admiring ladies legs is misogynistic. O dear. What a world. And we all can't wait for the Heat Scheme's final triumphant digging up the remaining part of the High Street before making its first connection.

However, this month, there has been some very good news for the Oldies. Tom Lehrer, who was an influential, thought provoking and hilarious musical satirist, had his 94th birthday in April. His sardonic humour brought joy to so many people. Such was the humour then: – "Poisoning Pigeons in the Park", "We Will All Go Together When We Go", the macabre "I Hold Your Hand In Mine", and so many others. Would it make us laugh today?

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Alastair Everitt

Jubilee Weekend Bellingring 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

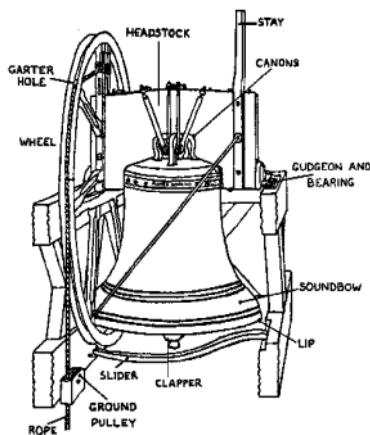
View the 1991 film of the bell restoration showing many familiar (much younger) local faces!

Enjoy Tea/coffee/homemade cakes

Find out if you'd like to become a bell-ringer! 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



The Heating Scheme's Successful Open Evening

Despite the cold wet weather, almost 50 people attended an open evening at the Swaffham Prior Energy Centre on Wednesday 30 March to have a guided tour around the site, to see the progress made on the heat network scheme and to ask questions to both the engineers and the council.

It was the first time residents in the village have been able to view the inside of the energy centre and walk to the borehole field. We received really good feedback from some residents about the event:

'I would just like to pass on my thanks to everyone involved in last night's Open Evening. It was a very informative visit and whilst I cannot say I totally understood all "technical aspects" I left highly impressed by the whole operation and look forward to



seeing all the hard work and dedication of every member of the team involved, become a reality.'

'Despite the weather we had such an interesting time yesterday at the open event - it's absolutely fascinating and so impressive. Thank you for organising the evening.'

It was such a successful event we will be planning more so keep you eyes out for more dates on the Swaffham Prior Facebook Noticeboard.

Energy Prices Escalating and Free connection extended

Everyone is being affected by the escalating energy prices and since the first connections will now be made in June we have decided to extend the free connection offer until the end of September. That means **if you sign up by the end of September you will still have a free connection** and then it will increase to:

£500 by 1 October 2022

£1000 by 1 April 2023

Not only will you have renewable heat, you will have **guaranteed unit price for your heat supply for a full 12 months** as we only review our prices once a year. That gives you more control on budget planning.

It is not too late to sign up for a **FREE engineer survey** by contacting us on heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. There is no obligation to join and it is **FREE**, don't miss out!

Grant funding available

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

Maggie Pratt



In the March Crier, Our Reporter offered a prize for the best prose or poetry entry describing the journey to Reach via the Fen roads. Below is our winning entry from Keith Carter whose first novel *The Umbrella Men* was published a couple of years ago. His did the trip in a wheel chair propelled by a hand-cycle.

Swaffham Prior to Reach the Long Way

Before setting out I check to see if Bastardo has visited overnight. He has, and the azaleas – once so promising – have yet again been raided. Bas-tar-do! Looking around me, as if he might still be lurking in the laurels somewhere, I check my rear-view mirror and set off.

First I have to squeeze along the pavement of busy Mill Hill; I am maybe the only person who will be sorry when the traffic lights have gone. 40mph? I'd blame it on the kids and limit it to 20. Then: swerve out and swoop down Cage Hill, lumpy with buried virtue, left at the bottom and, with the momentum fading, through our pretty village, past the Village Hall, old cottages, new ones, a modern barn, the pub cheekily fronting the famous double churches, right at the school and we're on Station Road. En route to Reach, the long way.

Bastardo is not the only one. Phil the pheasant sometimes plods around our lower ground hoping for sweet shoots, and the turtle doves are not above pecking at the odd succulent. Peace and Love are not in our hearts.

Downhill again and I'm whizzing past the school on the right; an old timber frame and Burgundian roof flash through the fencing to the left, past a road sign signalling both the edge of the village and (I know this having just done a 'speed awareness course') that I can now legally go 60 mph. As the road's edges roughen and move close together this seems impossible, and not just for me.

I pull in to one of the convenient passing places and a black BMW with darkened windows roars past ... I feel a twinge of pleasure at a loud scraping noise as the car skims across an undulation

Past a converted station positioned where Mr Beeching's axe surely inconvenienced but few, past a some scattered houses and vehicles half-swallowed by the vegetation, a metaphor for Net Zero. Somewhere it has changed its name to Whiteway Drove and the road is becoming spasmodically rough, making me worry for my tyres; joins in the tarmac are showing - was it laid in daily segments, the labourers managing 20m before calling it a day? We're in the country properly now, the fields are huge and ragged-edged and the electricity cables have withdrawn to the far distance. It has a certain beauty, if you like it flat. Spotting a vehicle in my little mirror I pull in

to one of the convenient passing places and a black BMW with darkened windows roars past, maybe trying to see if 60 is actually achievable. I feel a twinge of pleasure at a loud scraping noise as the car skims across an undulation. You should never trust your GPS and the poor driver is probably just trying to win back time as his has played him a mean trick in his attempt to avoid the traffic lights on Lower End. Still, we all love a bit of Schadenfreude.

Then, suddenly on my left I see him, quite close. Bastardo. He looks at me, defiant. At first we called him Jack and were enchanted at the very idea of sharing our garden with such fauna. But Jack became Bastardo as soon as the azaleas began to bud. Apparently they are *délicatesse* to a Muntjac.

Luckily only Bastardo's immediate family (Bastarda, his wife, and his twin brother, Bastardotoo) are there to see me, a grown man, shake my fist at a group of timid small mammals. But what else could I do? They run off, giving me no satisfaction, in the direction of the village.

I ride on, past the turn-off to the pretty bridge over Swaffham Bulbeck Lode where I so frequently encounter my neighbours that they must think I'm stalking them. Overhead the high-tension cables, never far, stride off left towards the Abbey and right towards their giants' meeting point at Burwell's substation. A sharp right, rather comically indicated on this tiny rural road with a large black and white chevron sign, and we are on to my favourite stretch of this trip – the short northward leg, Headlake Drove, to the crossroads. It's lovely, the road feels remote - lined with trees and not power cables, dark fertile ploughed land disappearing to the distance right and left like an illustration of perspective. I think Lord's Ground is a farm but from the sign it could well be a cult. Or a simple statement. The road becomes more undulating, not a feature often encountered in British roadbuilding; it's as if they simply laid tarmac directly onto the ground – and why not? It's rather fun to whiz up and down, spotting the deep scratch marks made by the sumps of expensive German motor cars.

At the crossroads – which are slightly staggered - we turn right into Little Fen Drove and a section of road so wildly wavey that taking it at any speed is like sailing a dinghy downwind in rough coastal waters. The road surface is in places stretched and twisted to breaking point by the contortions of the earth beneath, making me choose my route with care. The view to the left, across gently inclined fields East towards Wicken Fen, is beautiful. In the distance I see a small group grazing something tender and newly-sown; five or six of them, too big to be hares, too small to be ponies. Muntjacs? Bastardo's extended family! Is there a plague of these little dev-



Keith's Wheel Chair hand cycle attachment

ils? Are they nutritious and tasty?

There is a sort of back door to Wicken Fen at the Reach end of the Little Fen Drove, which looks interesting but muddy; though tempted I have never been in, for fear of ending like a Russian tank in the Ukraine, fated to be towed out by a local farmer. The farming gets more industrial as Reach approaches, with a huge malodorous heap of something fertility-inducing and a series of hangar-like barns whimsically labelled ‘Swan Lake’ to the right. I like to think a ballet troupe practises there weekly, but it’s probably just piles of grain. Over the bridge at the next corner is the best view of the ride, looking southeast up what could almost be called a hill; it’s just a few fields and hedgerows but something in the proportions is pleasing, plus there is an incomprehensible dog-poo bin to muse over.

To the right a public footpath may well be a short-cut to the road to Swaffham Prior, I have never tried, for the Russian tank reason

Off down Great Lane – someone had a sense of humour – towards Reach. To the right a public footpath may well be a short-cut to the road to Swaffham Prior, I have never tried, for the Russian tank reason. Also, why cut out lovely Reach? Small, quiet, on the way to nowhere; along a narrow corkscrew street sit squat honest yeoman whitewashed houses, well-maintained and probably occupied by clever people doing incomprehensible things in IT as much as by farmers; around a corner so exciting it gets a convex mirror, on to Fair Green and the village opens like a bloom, houses separated wide, a modest church the architecture of which humbly mumbles the word ‘methodist’ beside a pub where I will definitely bring my friends Brenda and Tanya who will see the joke.


Someone walking three boisterous dogs stages a show of controlling them for my passing. I call out ‘an excellent canine discipline’ to be encouraging but fear that the only audible word as I pass is ‘discipline’, which the dogwalker probably takes as a complaint. At the start of the appropriately-named Swaffham Road the houses squeeze the road up against the Devil’s Dyke which is pretty with hawthorn and brambles and exudes desperate dark-ages labour and futility. Further on you can see in the distance the windmill, water tower and both church spires, too far for photos. We’re on the home straight now, past Prospect Trust, which visitors from London can scarcely believe, an excellent source of a variety of edibles and worthy in every way, over the railway bridge...

... I like to pause briefly at the top to savour the rush down the other side and to wonder if the path the railway once took will again be put to use to get into town once cars are banned or rendered an unattainable luxury by the price of hydrocarbons. I imagine a maglev powered by its own on-board mini nuclear fusion source silently swishing us CO2lessly to Kings Parade in minutes. I’m pretty sure that’s what’s planned.

Coming back into Swaffham Prior I wonder how many ‘big houses’ a village really needs; probably fewer than we have, but they do raise the tone of the place. On the right there are piles of stone-based materials of various colours and textures

that might be art – it reminds me of something I once saw at Tate Modern - but probably is to do with the holes being dug in the road. There is a red traffic light. I wait a while, but there are no cars so I go anyway; a dog-walker spots me and shouts words of encouragement. At least, I think that's what he's shouting.


Keith Carter



**action
on energy**

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Eco-friendly warm homes
A Cambridgeshire councils partnership



**HEATING
SWAFFHAM
PRIOR**

The County Council has secured grant funding, as part of the Cambridgeshire-wide **Action on Energy** programme, to improve energy efficiency of homes in Swaffham Prior.

The grant can fund improvements such as insulation for lofts, cavity walls, external walls and floors. It can also fund converting electrically heated homes to “wet” central heating systems so that they can connect to the Heat Network.

Funding is available for homes with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D or lower and a household income up to £30,000 per annum. Both owner-occupied and private landlord owned properties are eligible.

For more information, or if you are unsure of your Energy Performance Certificate rating, contact heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

BON MOT NUMBER 128

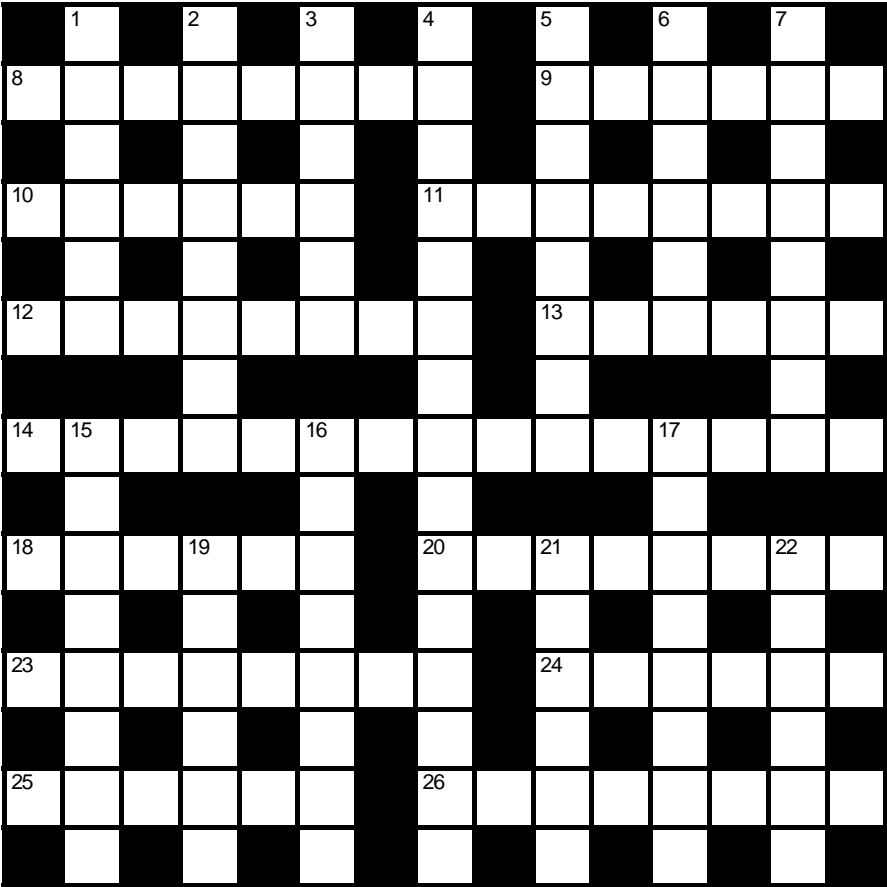
“Our liberty depends of the freedom
of the press, and
that cannot be limited without being lost.”

Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826)

Crossword Number 195

Compiled by **NIBOR**

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

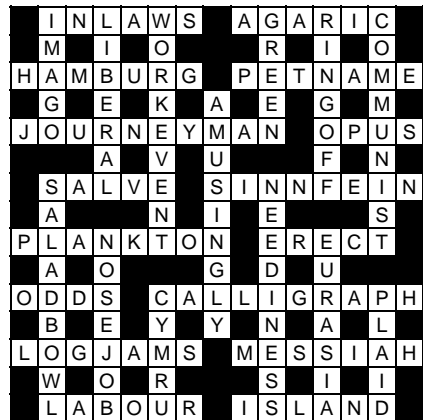


Name:.....		
Address:.....		
.....		Tel:.....

Across

- 8 Hat for chief with awful rage (8)
- 9 Cavalry officer finds drunken authoress with toe amputated (6)
- 10 Originally Soviet Union disliked old Kurds unfair game (6)
- 11 Safety for home counties metropolis containing old city (8)
- 12 Go wrong if confined by twitch? Great! (8)
- 13 Stingy friend appears before judge (6)
- 14 Bewildered? Use Cameraman Ted to find entertainment venue (9,6)
- 18 I take vehicle to America to see son of Daedalus (6)
- 20 Outrage of Tory men I upset (8)
- 23 Father puts cat's tail in a remedy for break (8)
- 24 King wrapped in absorbent cloth discovers gardening tool (6)
- 25 A log returned to an African country (6)
- 26 Frenchmen follow company and church follows monarch to get trade (8)
- 7 Ragged gains from troubled trading estate (8)
- 15 Confused Cairo man gets pasta (8)
- 16 Brawny Ural scum characters (8)
- 17 Maybe Mozart puts endless fertiliser on ruler (8)
- 19 Minister found in correct organisation (6)
- 21 Put young Timothy in unit promptly (2,4)
- 22 Channel X about R about H (6)

Solution to crossword no. 194



Down

- 1 Read super useful content (6)
- 2 Pauses to notice points about a day in Paris (8)
- 3 Reject expert soldier first (6)
- 4 Opportunity to address the media as amended fees concern reps (5,10)
- 5 Garbanzo of meat and vegetable (8)
- 6 Celestial paintings returned after being captured by gangster (6)

We congratulate Julian Luttrell, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Trish Whitehead and Mary Joyner.

Out on the Wildside: The Power of a Hornet

So, I decided to do an article on hornets because their often painted as the villain in most stories and I don't think many of us really know a lot about them. We just think of them as larger wasps! Hornets are actually pretty formidable in the insect world so you can see why a lot of us humans, run in the other direction when we see one. Their sting can carry five times the poison of wasp stings and they can come in many bright funky



colors, not just black and yellow. Okay, okay...so technically they are part of the same family as wasps, the way to tell them apart is pretty much down to size! Hornets are normally an inch or two bigger than a large wasp. But here is something you probably will be surprised to hear- hornets are actually pretty shy insects-while many people are scared of hornets, they're not actually aggressive, unlike wasps. They usually choose to live in an undisturbed area and don't attack unless their home is under attack.

Hornets tend to prefer roofs and treetops to nest above ground, as it's more secure and private. This does however mean that hornets can come into conflict with us humans when they decide to make their homes in ours. Those that choose to nest in the ground instead, will find abandoned or undisturbed burrows and fields. Like other social wasps, hornets build communal nests by chewing wood to make a papery pulp. Each nest has one queen, which lays eggs and is attended by workers. Hornets feed themselves with nectar and sugar-rich plant foods. Thus, they can often be found feeding on the sap of [oak trees](#), rotting sweet fruits, honey, and any sugar-containing foodstuffs. Hornets frequently fly into orchards to feed on overripe fruit, and tend to gnaw a hole in fruit to become totally immersed in its pulp.

Hornets can recognize another hornet by identifying the individual from their unique facial patterns. Hornets have also proofed in studies to be capable of using logic. They can use two separate pieces of information to draw a conclusion. This is believed to be the first suggestion that invertebrates are able to use logical deduction.

So you see hornets are actually a lot more unique than you might have expected. I give you the power of a hornet.

Saffra Monteiro

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE RECIPES

CORONATION CHICKEN

5 tbsp mayo
2-3 tsp mild curry paste
2 tbsp mango chutney
1-3 tbsp sultanas to taste
Half a bunch of spring onions, chopped finely
500g shredded cooked chicken
1 tbsp Greek yoghurt
1 mango diced, (optional)
Black pepper

Mix the mayo, Greek yoghurt and curry paste together in a bowl. Add the mango chutney, sultanas, spring onions, diced mango and shredded cooked chicken. Mix it all together really well and finally add a couple of grinds of black pepper to taste.

QUEEN'S CAKES

110g soft margarine
110g caster sugar
2 eggs, beaten
110g self raising flour
A little milk if needed
60g sultanas or other dried fruit

- 1.Preheat oven to 180c, line a 12 hole bun tin with bun cases.
- 2.In a bowl, cream the margarine and sugar together, whisk in the eggs and gradually add the flour, add a little milk to give a soft dropping consistency. Add the sultanas and mix well.
- 3.Place spoonfuls of the mixture into the bun cases and cook in the oven for 20 mins until firm to touch and golden brown. To finish sprinkle with a little extra caster sugar.

QUEEN ELIZABETH COCKTAIL

45ml Dry Vermouth
22.5ml Dom Benedictine
22.5 fresh lime juice
Ice

- 1.Combine all the ingredients into your cocktail shaker.
2. Shake with ice.
- 3.Strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

Julie Nunn

Classes at the Village Hall

Silver Swans Ballet

A taster session of the Silver Swans was recently held at the village hall - great fun and we are now setting up the first course of six lessons. These will start on Wednesday 8th June each Wednesday evening until 13th July 2022 at 7pm - 8pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall. The dancing is for 45 minutes starting at 7.15m.

Like many children, I went along to a few ballet classes in my childhood but a knowledge of any sort of dance is not essential. You don't need any special equipment or clothing, just something comfortable and loose fitting, oh and warm socks. The exercises will help to improve your balance, coordination and wellbeing and you need only do as much as you feel comfortable with. But best of all for me is you don't have that embarrassing bit where you have to get up off the floor in a lumbering fashion to the accompaniment of joints cracking and groans.

The dance movements are taught by Lisa in a lovely encouraging way with a good dose of humour, and before you know it you have "danced" the first part of a ballet.

Lisa (Nixon) is a qualified registered teacher through bbodydance and one of the first cohort to hold the much-coveted Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Silver Swan Licence for teaching ballet and repertoire to adults. She has an impressive list of qualifications and is qualified to teach inclusively from beginner to professional, accommodate wheelchair users and those with long term conditions.

Classes are delivered in fun, inclusive, low-pressure environment. The cost for 6 classes is £55.00.

If you would like to chat about joining please contact Jane Blackburn on 01638 743078, see the SPVH Facebook page or Lisa's website: www.lcndanceacademy.org

PS: You don't have to be slim, graceful, coordinated, supple, athletic or have your hair in a bun to join us.

Jane Blackburn



Local Classes and Events

Bottisham Sports Centre Rebrand



Bottisham Sports Centre has officially rebranded as **Anglian Leisure Bottisham!** As part of this we are working with Sawston, Netherhall and Linton, providing affordable services and facilities for our local community and our huge catchment area.

With an effective management team and a wonderful team of lifeguards, we are now able to provide our fun parties once again! Whether it is **hire of the pool** and its **water obstacle** or the use of the **Gymnasium** or **Sports Hall**; whatever is your vision we can achieve!

As the summer season merges, we have our **Tennis and Netball Courts** open for hardcourt activities. We also have our **3G pitches**, Gymnasium and Sports Hall. Whatever you are looking for, we will be able to provide the spaces. We also boast a **heated indoor 25 metre length swimming pool** with availability for a Lane Swim, Public Swim and Floats and Fun. Please visit our website for the timetable or get in touch with us.

Our Zumba sessions continue to flourish and provide a fun fitness opportunity for our local members on a Wednesday evening. Why not come along and join us at £5.00 a session! We also run **Judo** classes for all ages and swimming lessons for pre-school up to the age of 11. With more fitness classes opportunities coming along the way, there has never been a better time to join us, as we will welcome you with an open grace.

Don't forget, we have an **online booking system** with a membership option so that you can book your activities in advance from the comfort of your own home.

We look forward to seeing you all once again!

Jenny
Duty Manager
Bottisham Sports Centre



The Swaffhams' WI

The speaker at our April meeting was the Historian Kindra Jones who gave us a fascinating presentation of Fashion through the Ages. This took us on a journey through 1000 years of clothing from the Norman Conquest up to the Victorians and on the way we learnt how studying the changes in fashion could reveal a lot about social history. Kindra used her extensive wardrobe of museum quality replica costumes and a lot of quick changes as well as accompanying projection to really bring the subject to life for us. The talk was followed by refreshments including birthday cakes to celebrate Betty Prime's 98th birthday which was the following day.



The next meeting will be on 16th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when the speaker will be Clive Dawson, an illustrator giving an art demonstration (with participation). The subject is birds. It promises to be another very interesting evening. Why not come and join our friendly group.

Pat Cook

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Covid Spring Vaccination Boosters: The Practice are only doing these for patients at the Nursing Homes. Eligible patients will receive an invitation to book an appointment at a walk in centre..

Retirement Village: We are pleased that the appeal has been dismissed so that the Practice will not have the extra pressure that the development would have brought. Thanks to Dr Keith, who made a very eloquent statement to the enquiry.

Staff: Dr Harrison has returned to duty and Dr Ramsden, a salaried GP, will be starting at the beginning of May.

Paramedic: Ellie works alongside the duty doctor with minor illnesses and on home visits..

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 26th May 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



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Mike Petty came to talk to us about Pickwick's Cambridge Gardening Scrapbook 1838 which is based on material in the Cambridge Collection to be found in Cambridge Library. It is about **the** Mr. Pickwick in Charles Dickens' book. He was full of bonhomie and got on with everybody.

Mr Pickwick travelled from London to Cambridge on the Telegraph Stagecoach. He discovered that men in Fowlmere didn't have to do labouring work as they just went into the foul mere and collected lots of leeches which they sold to the doctors.

There were two gardeners at Wimpole Hall, one for the grounds and the other worked in the glasshouses. The owner instigated a scheme for tenants which enabled them to have their own gardens and a pigsty. Vegetables were the main product which fed the family. Later, land started to be enclosed so people could no longer take their sheep and cattle to the commons to graze. John Denson from Waterbeach tried to share the land with the tenant farmers.

In Grantchester Mr. Widnall grew fields of dahlias and they were a major part of the Cambridge economy. John Brown and his brother were the sons of a butcher who died young. Other butchers allowed them to use a drove to drive sheep and cattle from Cambridge to St.Ives.

Cambridge developed with many terraced houses. The colleges turned out tenants so that undergraduates could live in the houses and a new town for the poor was built around the Catholic Church. New colleges built gardens at this time too. The new Botanic Garden was in 1838.

James Withers from Fordham was a Porter at Magdalen College and became famous as a poet. Leonard Jenyn's, master of Bottisham Hall on the edge of Swaffham Bulbeck, studied flora and fauna and very nearly went on the Beagle with Charles Darwin.

1838 was the year of Queen Victoria's coronation and a vast tea party was held for the poor on Parker's Piece for thousands of people.

Our next meeting is a Gardening Quiz set by our member Judi Churcher and the meeting starts at 8.00pm. Another date which you might like to put in your diary is our annual outing on Saturday 25th June to Barnsdale Gardens, Rutland. They are the gardens that belonged to the late Geoff Hamilton. The coach trip, entrance and tip for the driver will be £35 and you would be very welcome to join us. Please do get in touch if you are interested.

**M e n i n
Fowlmere didn't
have to do
labouring work as
they just collected
lots of leeches and
sold them to
doctors.**

Ruth Scovil

Operational Services Committee

The ECSS (the Council trading company that collects waste and cleans streets) Business Plan for the forthcoming year was approved. This included possible opportunities for further commercial operations, e.g. bin cleaning, even though there are still problems with waste operator staffing.

Adopted an Environment Policy, and is seeking 'Investors in the Environment' (iE) accreditation; it believes that the Council can achieve 'Bronze' status this year, and 'Silver' potentially achievable in 2023.



A Community Sports Facility Grants Scheme was approved, in order for leisure providers to make improvements to their business. Unfortunately, only those facilities that are regularly open to the community for at least 30 hours per week are eligible, and this precludes many of the leisure facilities in our ward; John Trapp raised this point, and it was agreed that a similar scheme for smaller leisure centres should be considered.

A report on the progress of the Youth Action Plan was received.

The revised bin collection schedule has come into operation, and there have been a few teething problems which is to be expected. If your bin has not been collected, please contact ECDC, 01353 665555 or online at www.eastcambs.gov.uk. The sooner the new schedule is running well the better.

Finance & Assets Committee

The main item was to approve the Eligibility Criteria for the CLT Pre-Development Grant Scheme (total £100,000) that was created in the budget for the forthcoming year. This is to fund existing CLTs (there is a separate start-up grant of £5000 for communities to set up a CLT) and bridge the gap between creation and commencement of development. Some members felt that a minimum of five members in a CLT was not sufficient to represent the community, but a motion to increase the membership to at least 4% of the community was defeated, and so a CLT is eligible to bid for this fund even if it has only five members. The other point of contention was in specifying a minimum number of affordable houses in the scheme, and a motion to state a minimum of affordable housing was defeated; the current eligibility criterion is that 'The proposed project must contain an element of affordable housing'. It was also decided that a draft allocations policy should not be compulsory, even though there are many existing examples of allocations policy to use as exemplars as a draft.

In a separate item £543,400 was allocated to much-needed improvements, including refurbishment of the working environment, to the Portley Hill Depot. A further £282,550 was retained in reserve to meet the need to incorporate renewable energy on the site, including EV charging, which is good forward planning.

Our Councillors' Surgery will be the first face-to-face one for some time, on Wednesday 25 May 6.00-7.00pm at Reach Village Centre or you can meet us at the Dyke's End from around 7.00pm.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane and John Trapp



Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

At our March meeting we studied the Mothers' Union theme for the year 'Transformation Now'. Julie Sale began by referring to the examples of change and thinking 'outside the box' that Revd' Sue Giles had spoken about during our Holy Communion Service in January. Moving on to look at the lives of three peoples whose lives were transformed by life experiences. Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the modern

hospice movement. Having suffered from back pain as a nurse, studied to become an almoner (medical social worker). Her involvement with the terminally ill led her to read medicine, and she went on to open the first hospice St. Joseph's, London in 1967. Ann Langran gave an account of the famous Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi. At the age of 27, after his second opera had been a flop and losing his wife and both infant children to cholera, fell into a time of deep despair. He planned to give up composing altogether. When a producer sent him the text for a proposed new Biblical opera Nabucco, which he threw on the table with disgust. In his own words "The roll of paper opened out; and without knowing quite how, I found myself staring at the page and my eyes fell on the words 'Fly, thought on the golden wings'" This gave Verdi a jolt, and he began writing obsessively to compose many of our famous and well-loved operas. Following this we had a time of reflection whilst listening to The Hebrew Slaves Chorus from Nabucco. Julie concluded with how Archbishop Desmond Tutu's career was transformed. Having wanted a medical career, but unable to afford this he trained to be a teacher. After two years of teaching he resigned, and went to theological college in Johannesburg and was ordained in 1961. He went on to become the first coloured Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg and elected Archbishop of Cape Town in 1986. In turn during his career Desmond Tutu brought about transformation by becoming one of South Africa's most well-known human rights activists, winning the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in resolving and ending apartheid.

Learning of these life changes brought thoughts of those people whom we know personally, or how situations in our own lives that have instigated transformation.

Our meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month in Lode Church at 2.30pm. On the 19th May our speaker will be Wendy Lovell: on the topic of 'Coping in the Pandemic'. You are most welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langran

Notes from the April Parish Council meeting

Cllr Covill chaired the April meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council, attended by 8 councillors and 2 members of the public.

Reports

East Cambridgeshire District Council – Cllr Charlotte Cane attended and reported.

The business plan of the company that collects waste was being examined in response to concern regarding non-collection of bins on planned routes. Some extra collections may take place over the Easter weekend to catch up.

Grants were available for sports centres that open for more than 30 hours per week. Cllr Cane had suggested looking at grants for smaller centres that open fewer hours such as Bottisham.

Cllr Cane had concerns over grants available to Community Land Trusts as there was no specification of a number of affordable homes needed to access the grants.

Sustrans had carried out a review of cycle routes from Swaffham Prior to Burwell via Reach, which should be shared with the relevant Parish Councils in due course. The current cycling route (along the B1102) was noted as not meeting the most recent requirements e.g. heavy traffic runs beside it.

Cllr Covill asked if an off-road route had been considered as the Reach route was narrow and twisty in places. Cllr Cane said that the route through Reach was seen as quiet, but that there would need to be much consultation. Cllr Latchford noted that the sharing of road space was problematic, that there needed to be separation of cars, bikes and pedestrians. Cllr Covill noted that where good, safe paths were available e.g. Cottenham-Babraham, cycle routes were well used. Several councillors suggested the removal of the railway bridge on Reach Road would make the route safer and Cllr Greenfield suggested making use of the old railway line. Cllr Cane noted that the aim was to have cycle routes on the most direct path to encourage the use of cycling over car use, also linking smaller villages to longer routes via safe cycleways.

Cllr Cane agreed to check up on the collection of some of the bags of waste from the Burwell-Swaffham Bulbeck litter pick that still remained.

Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Cllr Greenfield noted that Mr Hurrell had asked to hear from the village and PC regarding the next step for developing the Horse Field site and asked how this was to happen. After discussion, it was clarified that Mr Hurrell and his fellow landowner had been left to consult with the Highways Agency regarding site access while the PC and the village can reflect and think on what was desirable, with special emphasis given to the need to monitor carefully what was proposed.

Consideration of planning applications received.

22/00287/FUL Construction of garage and home office outbuilding.

Station Cottages 9 Station Road Swaffham Prior Cambridge CB25 0LG

It was agreed that the PC respond to the application with the following: The PC are concerned regarding the scale and size of the development relative to the existing dwelling. The PC are also concerned regarding potential future conversion of the development to residential use.

To agree repairs/improvements to the Village Hall main path

Cllr Durrant reintroduced the quote received to replace the wooden path edging with metal edging and replenishing the gravel for the main footpath at the village hall. The quote total had risen due to increases in the price of materials. It was agreed to go ahead with the work.

To discuss the results of the Eastern Tree Surgery tree survey.

The survey of the cemetery trees highlighted four trees in need of work – one dead and needing removing, one needing ivy removed and pests controlled, one needing removal where it was disturbing a grave curb and one needing removing where it was growing very close to an older, more established tree. It was agreed that the Clerk get quotes for all the work, to be considered.

To discuss a parishioner's planned party Jubilee party on Cooper's Green

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that a party was planned using Cooper's Green and the organisers had asked for permission to hold it there and for a donation towards the cost of bunting. After discussion, it was decided that the Clerk should put the organisers in touch with the last known possessor of the bunting used at the last street party, ask that any further requests for funding be submitted for the May meeting and state that the PC were happy for Cooper's Green to be used provided that all litter is removed at the end of the event.

Clerk's Report

a) The ROSPA playground inspection is due to take place this month.
b) Allotment plot 2 had been given up and them rented out to new allotmenters.
c) The Clerk had attended an 'Archiving and Retention' course, which recommended that minutes are bound and archived every 2-3 years and that the PC should have a model Publication Scheme.

d) The Clerk had attended and reported back on the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership Forum regarding the development of cyclepaths and greenways in and around Cambridge.

1) Chisholm trail phase 1. Pretty much finished, connects Cambridge North Station to Coldhams Lane. Took 3 years and £22 mil.

2) Chisholm Trail phase 2. Coldhams Lane to Cambridge Main Station. Public engagement this summer for junction designs. Goes east and west of railway.

3) East route Greenways – connects Horningsea, Bottisham, Swaffhams and Fulbourn to Chisholm trail at Abbey/Chesterton Bridge. Aim to be for walkers and cyclists and where they can, for horses. Currently working on designs, developing consistent signage. Draft designs should be shared either at the end of the month or after the election period. Checking who owns land. Developing business case (what they are trying to achieve) – to be presented to the Executive Board in October 2022. Milestone Contractors – to be involved in designs etc. At present making site visits, mapping environmental constraints, technical assessment of proposed structures (bridges, underpasses etc), topographical surveys, utilities search, engaging with stakeholder e.g. National Highways, Environment Agency etc. Next stage – meetings and engagement with stakeholders e.g. PC's community groups, to show design. This should be in the Autumn and Winter of 2022.

Delivery timetable to be approved by Executive Board in October 2022. Sections on Council owned land, where no planning permission will be needed will start end of

2022/start of 2023. Completion of network 2025.

Qu Paul Webb of Burwell PC. Why stop at SP, why not continue 1 mile more to Burwell with pop. of 8.5k? Ans. Public consultation of 2019/20 – route stopped at SP, noted ECDC were not consulted. Possibility floated of ECDC extending the cycle path to Burwell – ECDC councillor confirmed ECDC were working on this.

Qu. Had there been input from Equestrian interests? Ans. Yes – on designs and in working group.

Qu. How could local knowledge and observations be fed back e.g. areas that flood etc. Ans. Email GCP at contactus@greatercambridge.org.uk , also routes specific engagements/consultations for detailed local knowledge.

4) Eastern Access – Newmarket Road.

Looking at how best to ensure connectivity without dependence on private cars. Consultation closed 22/12/22 and results will go to Executive Board later this year to decide options. Elizabeth Way and Barnwell Road roundabouts – both showed preference for segregated pedestrian/cyclist space. Regarding relocating P&R, people less bothered . Next – looking at conservation of mature trees on Newmarket Road – to be surveyed. Further looking into relocation of P&R - considering other options, also impact on SSSI and greenbelt. Next phase, working with Marshalls looking at busway through airport site, considering options for access to city centre, considering opportunities to improve Cambridge-Newmarket Railway Line.

5) Mill Road – Spring consultation closed today (21/3/2022) – connected with comments regarding temporary closure to traffic, whether to make this permanent. Roughly 2000 responses received, feedback to be considered by CCC Highway and Transport committee in July, may be further consultation in the Autumn.

Recording of forum available on GCP youtube channel, presentations available on website.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Latchford asked if the timing of the excavation of the road at the church end of the village was known? Cllr Greenfield said not yet, but that he would confirm when it was, that the aim was not to close the road if possible.

It was agreed that hemlock growing in the area of the cemetery newly marked out be prevented from flowering by mowing. CGM are in the process of quoting for weed-killer spraying work where needed. Action: AD to mow the hemlock to prevent flowering.

Cllr Durrant reported that the Village Hall committee had recruited three more trustees, so would be able to continue running at present.

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, 12th May 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

Building a Bigger Table

At RENEW Church we are committed to following through with our claim that, 'there is a place at RENEW for you'. This is true, whoever you are. We dream of being a church family that represents well the amazing diversity of humanity that God created. We are part of the Inclusive Church Network (inclusive-church.org). If this resonates with you and you would like to hear more or support our vision in any way, please get in touch with Rev. Alan (see below).



One of our core values is 'Hospitality'. We love to gather round a big table and share a meal together each Wednesday evening* 6.30pm at Lode Chapel. Each week we have a choice of meals, including vegetarian option(s), and some lovely desserts. We have been so blessed to have colleagues, friends and family of current church members join us. You would be so welcome and we will cater for any dietary requirements we are aware of, please get in touch (as below) to let us know your needs.

It is good to eat together. I believe this invitation will connect with several people who read this; if you are one of them, we'd love to see you. If transport is an issue we can arrange for someone to pick you up and take you home.

RENEW Church meets each Sunday Morning, 10.30am at Lode Chapel. Refreshments are available before and after the service. We are an inclusive and LGBTQ+ affirming Christian community. You would be so welcome to join us.

Thank you for reading,

Alan

Contact Rev. Alan Brand 4 Mill Road, Lode, CB25 9EN.
alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk t.01223 812558 m.07896 000796.

*Except the first Wednesday of the month when we meet for a drink and conversation in one of our local pubs. Send Alan a text for details of where we're gather-

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:

Airfix 1:72 De Havilland Vampire T.11/J-28C model. Unopened; Jun/Andy
01223 813362/07980 423210

Wanted:

Spare sticks of rhubarb please. Mine just won't grow!! Geoffrey 01223 812395



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 May 2022

Sunday 1 May

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

Wednesday 4 May

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

Sunday 8 May

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

Sunday 15 May

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

Sunday 22 May

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

Thursday 26 May - Ascension Day

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode
7pm Holy Communion with Cambridge Voices, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 29 May

9am Online service, on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Lode
6pm Evensong, Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

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

East Anglian Air Ambulance – our Air Ambulance

For EAA, 2021 will always be remembered as a 'milestone year' as it was the year during which we moved into Helimed House our new Norwich HQ, started flying 24/7 and started carrying blood on board every mission. As we progress, as a charity at the forefront of pre-hospital emergency care, we maintain a necessarily sizeable operation to provide exceptional levels of support for every one of our patients, both pre-hospital and through aftercare. To do this, we need to raise £15million annually to deliver and develop our 24/7 service by air and by road. EAAA thanks each and everyone immensely for the part played in ensuring that our doctor and critical care paramedic teams can be there to deliver that advanced pre-hospital care, whenever needed.

In previous articles I have done my best to describe the immensely important work undertaken by EAAA. Of equal importance is the support work undertaken by so many people from diverse backgrounds – our Volunteers. Apart from continuing to stress the financial support, without which no missions could be undertaken, I need to re-emphasise that its 'feet on the ground' upon which we rely.

There are many volunteering opportunities at EAAA, often interacting with the general public - its invariably good fun and always rewarding.

For 2022 we have scheduled many exciting fundraising events, the success of which will depend upon volunteer help, so there is always lots of scope to help out. From Trek 24 to hiking 24miles or kilometres plus many more, there are events to appeal to many – why not participate (by contacting EAAA website) or signing up

to become a much valued volunteer. We really do need YOUR help. Go online today – please. Help make the difference for people like us who, perhaps through no fault of their own, urgently need the help of EAAA – NOW. Together – We Save Lives.

Michael White



Dates for Your Diary May 2022

Mon	2	REACH FAIR. 12 noon –5pm [17]
Thu	12	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm [22]
Mon	16	WI, 7.30pm, VH [18]
Tue	17	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [19]
Thu	19	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm Lode Church [21]
Sun	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Wed	25	Coucillors Surgery, Reach Village Centre, 6-7pm Dykes End 7pm[20]
June		
Sat	4	Jubilee Bell Ringing Experience, St Cyriac's, 10am-4pm [6]
Sat	25	Village Gardeners' Outing [2]

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