

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVII Number 4 April 2023



Editorial

Very beneficial and *mostly* harmless! Ivy, that is, and that seems to be the view of expert Russell Arnot, whom we are delighted to welcome to our pages. Russell was provoked by last month's account of Keith Carter's perceived dangers of ivy to finally write to the Crier (quite possibly one of Keith's objectives, this was an opinion piece with a mission!). But even Russell thinks that ivy should be pruned, and (unless you're a squirrel) surely this involves just what Keith suggests? But DON'T YOU DO IT - apart from anything-else unless it's your tree, it's quite possibly illegal.

Mark Lewinski has challenged the editress (ivy view: *entirely* harmless, except to garden sheds) by pointing to his own garden where for some trees only spindly bits of canopy remain. My challenge to him: find me a tree equally encumbered NOT in your garden.

Meanwhile, a delightful article from Tree Sleuths' Julian Luttrell about the much vexed question of how many pubs used there to be in Swaffham Prior. Julian has gone through all the records and even re-walked the path the censor takers took in order to ascertain the answer -17! Read his article (page 8) for all the locations and names.

Chafer bugs — they're back, and attacking the High Street no less (See Our Reporter). But we should be perfectly safe since we have noted with a certain *schadenfreude* that it seems to be only the billiard table perfect lawns such as sported by Cambridge Colleges that are liable to attack. Such as not ours...

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And fibre broadband might at last be on its way here, David Greenfield writes to tell us, as also do the company concerned. Alas, for some technical reason David does not fully explain, it could not go in with the Heating Scheme. And as for the Heating Scheme itself, an alarming number of people who are signed up (including us) have seen their boilers fail or have run out of oil, awaiting the ever disappearing date of installation - read James' letter (p. 4). And are we really going to have to pay back the 10 million loan ourselves as Alastair suggests? Hmmm. Don't forget the Coronation Tea Party and get your tables booked! *Caroline Matheson*

Cover Picture: Lily of the Incas, 2022 by Lisa E Fretwell



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Does ivy damage trees? From an expert...

I have lived in Swaffham Prior for almost a year now and have been meaning to get in touch about contributing an article or two regarding nature, plants and how rural communities can be active custodians of nature.

I'm afraid that the impetus for me to get in touch was the biased, sensationalistic segment on Ivy in this month's edition. As someone that works closely with plants and nature, this article is absolute piffle and conjecture at best. It is essentially an opinion piece with Keith Carter trying to persuade people to 'tidy up' nature as if that somehow improves it.

The case of ivy isn't black and white.

- Does ivy damage trees? No unless the tree is on its last legs or if the ivy has gone unpruned.
- Does ivy massively help biodiversity by providing crucial habitats to insects and other pollinators? Yes
- Do these insects that depend on the ivy form an essential part of our country's natural food web, feeding birds and other animals? Yes
- Does it compete with the tree for soil nutrients? No
- Does it compete with the tree for light? No unless the tree is on its last legs or if the ivy has gone unpruned.

Furthermore ivy actually has a number of traditional uses such as it contains surfactants so can actually be used as a low-cost, environmentally friendly washing powder – quite useful during this cost of living crisis.

So please can I ask that in future, pieces like Ivy by Keith Carter that are presented as 'fact' come with references / citations / links to reputable sources of information?

I am now concerned that the denizens of Swaffham Prior will go on an ivyculling rampage much to the detriment of our local wildlife.

Dr Russell Arnott

Higher Education Project Manager

Gatsby Plant Science Education Programme, University of Cambridge The Sainsbury Laboratory | 47 Bateman Street | CAMBRIDGE CB2 1LR

This Month's Cover

This is a coloured pencil drawing on black paper by Swaffham Prior resident Lisa E Fretwell. Lisa currently teaches a range of Art courses both for adults and for children at Bottisham, Cottenham and Coleridge Village Colleges in Cambridge. Coming up this Spring and Summer are short courses in drawing, stained glass and mosaics and weekly Art History. She also teaches an on-line Art History course.

Dear Editors,

...and from Mark

I don't like to use the word 'nonsense' in responding to a Crier editorial, but the notion that ivy doesn't take over a tree canopy is not what happens to the trees at the end of my garden - most of them, anyway. Perhaps we have special ivy. Or perhaps it's the other way around - maybe ours is the common sort, not like that at what someone once called 'the classy end of the village'.

In my photo you probably can't distinguish the trees separately, but at the front is a yew. The ivy doesn't touch that. It clearly doesn't like yew flavour. Two ash trees are behind and alongside that, and a tall beech behind them. Those three are fully taken over by the ivy to the crowns, with just the thinner shoots sticking out above.



To the right of those and, out of view, is an ash, still taller than the beech and almost entirely taken over by ivy; the few branches that still poke through are spindly and the weakness is evident. There's more ivy now than tree.

Like those in the photo, that very tall ash is clearly not inherently a weak tree, but it can't thrive as it is very obviously losing the competition with the ivy to get its leaf coverage out there, and in time the weakened tree will come down under the weight of all that ivy. Depending on wind direction, it will either flatten my neighbour's fence and shed, or not. And so on, all the way up the hill to the Top Road. The taller ivy-covered ones get taken down first by the wind eventually. Some have already gone. Both weakened and ivy-clad, there's far more perennial leaf mass for the wind to drive against a tall tree. The ash seem to fare worse than the beech trees. Ash is hard but also has a brittleness, it bends less in the wind maybe.

Ivy-covered trees are great habitat for bird and insect life, and for the evil grey squirrels (I will quite happily have them shot if someone licensed wants to come round and do that for me) that prey on the bird nests. And between the ivy and the yew, it gives the end of my garden green tree cover all year round too. I keep some others at the end of the garden free of ivy as well, the sycamores. For variety; and so that there will still be something left standing when the ivy brings the others down. I was told years ago the tree line was planted at the insistence of the lady of the manor house when Fairview Grove was built, so she wouldn't have to see all the washing lines of the common people. I hook my washing line to one of those ivy-covered ash trees at the end of my garden, so I must be common people too.

Mark Lewinski

Dear Editors.

Fibre Network for Swaffham Prior

I've been keeping in close contact with Connecting Cambridgeshire and although there were two companies with plans to roll out a fibre network in Swaffham Prior after BT's infrastructure was de-regulated and scuppered the Heating Schemes Plan to include ducts with their pipe work.

Neither company had definitive plans until quite recently. **Gigaclear** are moving ahead with their Bottisham Plan in March and they're intending to continue through to Swaffham Prior in early summer. The intended time frame for communicating to the residents is starting shortly and we may see work commencing in the May / June timeframe, with actual service connections should be in Q1 2024 timeframe, but as all projects, this could be subject to change.

They are starting mid-March to communicate with the community and are intending to do a mailer to every property. Their Community Engagement Manager is happy over the next few months to provide additional content as the 'roll-out' progresses.

David Greenfield

See their Coming Soon poster on page 7. Eds

Dear Editors,

Grants for Community Organisations

As a Community Benefit Society, Reach Community Solar Farm is able to offer small grants every year to organisations with a community focus. The beneficiaries of these grants are decided upon by our members at our AGM, which usually takes place in June. We are therefore inviting organisations with a community focus to apply for one of this years grants. There is an application form on our website https://reachsolarfarm.co.uk/docs/RCSF-Grant-Fund-Application-Form.docx) and forms need to be received (to info@reachsolarfarm.co.uk) by 31st May.

We look forward to hearing from you,

The Board Reach Community Solar Farm

Dear Editors,

The Heating Project - Late Delivery

On the basis that a frustration shared is maybe a frustration halved, I've attached below of a copy of an email I've just sent to the Heating Project in response to their email of 13th March telling us that "Bouygues currently plan to install the external pipework to connect you to the heat network on 29th March 2023. Due to the traffic management arrangements and the number of connections to be made we need to keep to the schedule, so please let us know ASAP if there are any issues with this date.". We confirmed that the date was OK and that was the last we heard until noone showed up today.

To be fair, I received a reply more or less by return saying "Please accept our

apologies - we have only just been notified of this and I have just contacted your wife [by phone] to notify you of this news and of the new date of the 26th April.". They also said that they will try to bring the date forward. Whilst the intention is clearly good, it's very much jam tomorrow rather than today when we need it. I'll keep my fingers crossed but ...

James Matheson

Dear Heating Swaffham Prior,

It's 29 March and there's no sign of Bouygues appearing to connect the external pipework! It looks fairly safe to assume that they're not going to turn up later on today as there's still a line of cars displaced from further down the High Street parked outside. This is not by any means the first time you've missed a deadline or failed to communicate and I'm once again losing confidence in your ability to deliver. Can we expect things to be any better when and if we're eventually connected and something goes wrong?

Are you able to give me a new date for the external pipework to be installed and a date when the internal equipment will be installed and running? As you know, our boiler has a leak and this now seems to have a taken a significant turn for the worse, and we are running low on oil. So I have a decision to make whether we have to get a new boiler and more oil and to make this I need accurate dates from you when you will (not might!) do the work."

Yours very disappointedly,

James Matheson

Easter Lilies

ach 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

From our Reporter

Macron increasing the pension age of all French citizens. Sunak substantially reducing the number of boats bringing illegal immigrants. The introduction of the congestion charge in Cambridge. The CCC getting on top of potholes.

Which is likely to be successful?

And will we have three candidates standing for the Parish Council in May? There are two vacancies. If three new people stood we would have the first election for two decades at least. But our PC is one of the most astute with money and each time we do not have an election we save money.

Andrew Camps is leaving and he has been on the PC as the "Churches School Foundation Trust Rep". This is an obscure organisation which has never been explained even though it appeared that it was the owner of the tiny piece of land near the School's swimming pool. Was this body set up

"Beware. The Chafer Bugs are back...they have now gone upmarket into the High Street" after the establishment of a National School in 1852 and administered by Trustees – all local farmers? Was this the body in charge of the school until it was taken over by the LEA in 1947. This is school history. This is local history. Who knows the answer?

Beware. The Chafer Bugs are back. After a brief visit to Lower End a few years ago they have now gone upmarket into the High Street. There are at least two places in the High Street that should

definitely be avoided if possible. The worst Chafer Bugs are the Welsh ones who are the most reluctant to go away. I am not being racist.

And how is your Hebe? Jack Frost appears to have decimated so many this year. We can only wait and hope.

The end of the month has been entertained with the start of Partygate. It was not very edifying to watch. There was Lord Pannick, Johnson's leading council, smirking in the background as Johnson attacked the integrity of the Privileges Committee. He proclaimed his innocence, that it was a witchhunt, and insisted he was never reckless. In a thesaurus there are 24 or so other words given for the word "reckless". A few are "careless, thoughtless, heedless, impulsive, daredevil, irresponsible,ill-advised, madcap, ill-considered" etc.

We now await the decision of the Committee, and then the vote in Parliament. Some time to go.

Alastair Everitt



See John Chalmers' letter, page 4

Volunteer Drivers Wanted

This is an opportunity to become part of the volunteer car service who support Bottisham Medical Practice in getting patients to and from their appointments.

The volunteer driver duties will involve transporting patients to and from the surgery for their appointments.

All mileage will be paid at the standard rate.

For further details and how to apply, please send an expression of interest to patientsgroup@outlook.com

Swaffham Prior Watering Holes



For such a small village, Swaffham Prior has had a surprising number of pubs over the years. And for each pub there is the puzzle of exactly where it was located and what it was called. Wanting to get to the bottom of this I have trawled through census returns for Swaffham Prior from 1841 to 1939, trade directories for Cambridgeshire from 1830 to 1916, and also Licensed Victuallers Recognizances from 1729 to 1827, to establish what pubs existed where and when, and who were the landlords.

This task turned out to not be as straightforward as I had hoped, for a couple of reasons: firstly because pub names change and sometimes a pub was recorded with no pub name, and secondly because road names change and sometimes the address of a pub was not recorded. But by comparing landlords' names between different documents, and carefully walking the routes taken by the census enumerators, it was possible to work out which were the same pubs appearing under different guises in different censuses.

Altogether seventeen different pubs were identified.

Two pubs sat either side of the bottom of Cage Hill: the Cock (on the site of the house called Fencock) and the Rose and Crown (now Old Inne House), both of which were recorded as early as 1764. The Feakes family ran the Cock in the mid 19th century, and the Milgates in the early 20th. The Rose and Crown, part of which was a lodging house, had many different landlords.

On a side note, Cage Hill itself has been called many names over the years including Burwell Road, Heath Road, and Green Head Hill.

Between 1881 and 1904 there was a pub called the White Hart a few doors up

from the Rose and Crown. By 1905 it was just a beerhouse, and was closed down under a national scheme to reduce the numbers of pubs. Looking at old maps and counting houses on Cage Hill this was the house now called The Croft.

In 1841 another pub name is recorded which does not appear anywhere else - Winifred Burgess was in charge of the Horse and Groom. From walking the census routes my belief is that this was the Rose and Crown temporarily operating under a different name.

The John Bull was next door to the Red Lion in part of what is now Shadworth House, from 1881 to 1901. In 1909 an objection to its licence was lodged and it disappeared as a pub - I would love to hear the story behind the objection!

The Allix Arms on Station Road was purpose built to serve the railway station in late 1900 and closed down in 1975.

The Black Swan, and the New Black Swan/White Horse appear several times in records relating to Swaffham Prior parish (called Great Swaffham in the earlier documents), but these were actually located in Reach (Reach village was within Swaffham Prior and Burwell parishes until 1953).

Some other early pubs also get a look in: the Mare and Foal in 1805-1821, the Horseshoes in 1764-1788, and the Carpenters Arms in 1778. This was before modern censuses and no addresses were given in the documents, so I have not been able to identify exactly where they were, just that they were in Swaffham Prior parish.

Lower down the pecking order from pubs and inns, beerhouses (and ale houses) had been around since at least Norman times. These were just ordinary houses where a fee had been paid for a licence to brew and sell ale; this legislation was only abolished in 1993! In the early 19th century legislation was relaxed to try to get people to drink beer instead of gin as it was regarded as healthier, leading to a rash of new beerhouses being set up. There were at least two of these in Swaffham Prior: the Cow and Calf, whose remains are buried under the large bramble next to Ivy Farm (part of a chimney wall is still standing); and the Cherry Tree which was out in the fen near the old post office towards Upware where Cherry Tree Cottage now stands. The Palmby family had the Cow and Calf, though Thomas Palmby was also the publican at the John Bull in 1881. John Hatley ran the Cherry Tree from 1871 until 1921.

One other beerhouse appeared in the 1841 census run by Thomas Benson, but unfortunately the beerhouse name was not recorded - after walking the census route I would guess that this was probably based at one of the windmills.

Finally, of course, there is the Red Lion. This public house has been in existence with its current name since 1778, when it was named the Red Lyon. Before then it was the Chequers, and in 1770 it was the Crown. As far as I can work out it has continuously served the village as a public house ever since then. It would be a crying shame if the village were to lose this venerable old pub.

Julian Luttrell
The Tree Sleuths
www.tree-sleuths.co.uk

Heating Scheme Views

Being a Bulb customer who has moved to Octopus I had felt a certain guilt. The cost was going to be £6.5 billion. Who was going to pay - you, me, or whoever? And then it was announced that the cost was no longer £6.5 billion but a mere £260 million. It seems the dramatic drop in wholesale prices, and methods of purchasing, etc brought about this sudden good news - in just a few months.

Nearer home, I raise a question with which many villagers are concerned. Who is going to pay for the £10 million commercial loan, with interest, which CCC has taken out to get the Heating Scheme off the ground? If one did have any worries about this then the Emma/ Mike story in the February *Sunday Times* answered it. And it is very good news. We were told that "the loan will be repaid with the residents' heating bills." So the company or CCC running the scheme will repay the loan from the profits, as well as providing the cheapest heating in the village.

Does this mean that everybody signed up will have the debt entailed to their property? For say 100 signed up that could mean a debt of about £100,000. How large will the levy have to be made on each signed up house? Is this why at the very beginning of the contract people are advised to consult their solicitor before signing?

Numbers are absolutely critical for the scheme. Emma/Mike insist it is 150 or so. Many think this is Bunkum. At the February PC meeting David Greenfield revealed the truth in his report. Only 78 have actually signed. Why do Emma and Mike distort the facts so much? Some people may put it more bluntly and say they are telling porkies. Often we blame the press for over exaggerating, with a little bit of selective distortion, just to make a better story. But in this case it appears that Martina Lees was just taken in. And why should she not be. The story was told by two honest respectable villagers about a scheme which had the backing of the government and the CCC. Why should Martina not in her innocence accept everything told to her? Or was she only after a good Sunday read story? And whose words were they when we were told hundreds were signing up - "en masse"?

Meantime work is proceeding well and Emma/Mike must be well pleased and relieved that Maggie guarantees completion by the end of June. Whether she is guaranteeing this for 78 or for 150 houses has yet to be revealed. But as we watch progress we can perhaps make a a rough estimate. It is taking about three days or so to connect up each house. Knocking off those already connected let's take the round figure of 70 houses, This would mean 210 days to complete the programme. If Emma/Mike are correct about that number will certainly need to increase.

A time for reflection?

A last minute rethink on my part. At the last PC meeting David Greenfield revealed that a substantial number of the Social Housing properties will/may be signing up. That will certainly boost the numbers.

Alastair Everitt

Julie's Easter Recipes Cheesecake-filled Easter eggs

1 hollow chocolate Easter egg 75g digestive biscuits, crushed 25g butter, melted 75g mascarpone 100g soft cheese 2 tbsp icing sugar, sieved

2 tbsp cocoa powder, sieved 100g double cream

To decorate Mini chocolate eggs or flaked chocolate Caramel sauce or melted chocolate

Carefully break open the Easter egg into 2 halves, a warm knife helps to cut through without it breaking.

Mix the melted butter with the digestive biscuits, Stir until the mixture resembles damp sand.

Spoon the mixture into the bottom of the chocolate eggs.

Mix the mascarpone, soft cheese and icing sugar in a bowl, in a separate bowl whisk the double cream. Gently fold the whipped cream with the cheese mix. Carefully spoon over the biscuit mix in the egg, Smooth over with a palette knife or spatula. Put the eggs into the fridge to cool for a few hours to allow to set.

When ready, decorate with chocolate mini eggs, sauce or whatever you prefer, Serves 2

Easter egg brownies

6 creme eggs
175g dark chocolate, broken into pieces
175g unsalted butter
2 tbsp cocoa powder
150g caster sugar
150g light brown sugar

3 large eggs
1 tsp vanilla bean paste
115g plain flour
½ tsp fine sea salt
150g shortbread biscuits, roughly
chopped

- 1. Place the crème eggs in the fridge to keep them cool, this will make them easier to cut cleanly in half. Grease and line a 8 inch square cake tin. Preheat the oven to 180c.
- 2. Place the chocolate, butter and cocoa powder in a heat proof bowl and melt over a simmering saucepan of water.
- 3 .In a separate bowl. Whisk together the eggs, caster sugar, brown sugar and vanilla until smooth.

Then pour into the chocolate mixture and mix well, add the flour and the salt and mix until smooth. Stir in the shortbread and pour the mixture into the prepared tin.

- 4.Take the crème eggs from the fridge and cut in half vertically. Nestle them into the brownie mixture with the insides of the eggs facing up.
- 5. Bake in the oven for 25- 30 minutes until just set. Remove from the oven and leave to cool completely before slicing into squares. Serves 9- 12



SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE

proudly presents:

THE SORCERER'

by W.S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan

Wednesday 14th – Saturday 17th June 2023 Evening performances at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinée at 2.30pm Doors open 45' before each performance

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

Ticket prices Wednesday £9, Thursday £10, Friday and Saturday £12, matinée £8

via our website www.sbsummertheatre.com; e-mail sbst.tickets@gmail.com or call 07708 577570

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

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

The Plot

The Sorcerer is based on a story written by Gilbert called 'The Elixir of Love'. A young man, Alexis, is betrothed Aline and is so obsessed with the idea of love levelling all ranks and social distinctions that he promotes his beliefs by inviting the proprietor of J.W. Wells and Co., Family Sorcerers, to brew a love potion.

At a party in Sir Marmaduke's garden the potion is dispensed in the tea by Dr. Daly, the vicar. This causes everyone in the village to fall asleep and then to fall in love with the first person they see on waking, resulting in the pairing of comically-mismatched couples.

In the end Wells must sacrifice his life in order to break the spell.

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

The group has been in existence since 1982, staging a show every year apart from the two years of the pandemic. We have used three different barns within Swaffham Bulbeck, starting in The Long Barn and then moving to Mitchell Hall Barn in 1989. We then moved on to David Turner's barn at Downing Farm in 2007 where we have remained. However, for various reasons the 2023 production of 'The Sorcerer', our 40th show, will be the last one there and we are looking for any viable option for 2024 - watch this space!

The Reading Group Reads... The Midnight Library **By Matt Haig**

February's book was The Midnight Library by Matt Haig The central character is Nora, a depressed 30 year old woman, who, on the day she decides to die, finds herself in a library full of lives she could have lived!

Nora finds a book of regrets and experiences many of the lives she could have lived, if only?!!

The group, on the whole, liked

the book. It certainly brought up lots of ideas to discuss, exploring our relationship with regret and what really makes a happy life.

Surprisingly, considering the subject matter, I found this an easy fun book to read

The book for March is Kai Lung Unrolls his Mat by Ernest Bramah. The next Book Club is 5th 18.00. April Ring Caroline Matheson 744008 if you are interested in coming

Catey Whiteley



Swaffham Prior Village Hall

April

Looking to join one of the regular groups that meet each week Why not try one on offer listed below?;-

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	
T'ai Chi & Tea for All 10:30 -12:00 - Contact Fara on 07919857617		PhysiOptima Pilates 09:00 - 09:50 Contact Kristin on 07799323867		Eastern Counties T'ai Chi for All 10:00 - 12:00 Contact Sharyn on 0774017917	
		Art History Class 10:00 - 12:00 Contact deborah.monteiro @btinternet.com			
PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	
T'ai Chi for Beginners 17:30 - 19:00 Contact Fara on 07919857617	Art History Class 14:00 - 16:00 Contact deborah.monteiro @btinternet.com	Village Hall Committee AGM - 7:30pm All Welcome	Slimming World two groups. @ 17:30 & 19:00 Contact Sharon on 07760192638	Keep - Fit (to music) 17:00 - 18:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008	
WI Meeting 18:30 - 21:30 Contact Margaret on 01638 744390 (3rd Monday of	<u>SF-Fit Pilates</u> 17:00 - 19:00 Contact Sarah on 075999072008 <u>Village Gardeners</u> 19:45 - 21:45				
month)	Contact Margaret on 01638 744390 (3rd Tuesday of month)				

Swaffham Prior Village Hall will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 12th April.

We have a couple of roles available, if you are interested in getting involved and contributing towards the management of the Hall.

The meeting begins at 7:30pm

Some classes may be affected by Easter so please check with the organisers.

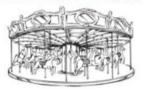
For a full listing of events or to make a booking check out our online calendar in the village hall website at www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk.



Bank Holiday Monday 1 May 2023

12 noon to 5pm

Opened by the Mayor of Cambridge in a ceremony with ancient declarations and the throwing of pennies to the crowd



Traditional Fairground * Maypole Dancing
Morris Men * Live Music
Gymnastic Displays and Dancing
Art and Craft Stalls * Children's Activities
Bar * BBQ * Tea and Cakes * Food and Drink

Entrance Free. Parking £9 per vehicle

Reach Fair is a Community Interest Company No. 14633050

Newmarket Cinema

Film shows for April - June 2023 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.

April 17th - Mrs Harris goes to Paris (PG)

May 15th - Ticket to Paradise (12A)

June 19th - Reach for the Sky (U)

Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £6 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats, please ring 07756 853714.

Richard Penney

BON MOT NUMBER 137

"No peace among the nations without peace among the religions. No peace among the religions without dialogue between the religions."

Hans Kung (1928 – 2021)

Don't forget that you'll need photo ID to vote at the election in May!

For the first time, residents in East Cambridgeshire will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections.

Residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote on 4 May by checking they have an accepted form of ID.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or provisional drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID on the <u>GOV.UK portal</u> or by completing a paper form.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID.

Bottisham Patients

Thanks from the Practice: The practice would like to thank patients for their support and understanding over the last few weeks after suffering issues with staff shortages again. The staff have worked incredibly hard over the last few weeks to ensure we continue to provide all of our services to the local community and the partners at the practice feel extremely lucky to have such a dedicated team.

Retirement Village Planning Application: The practice is calling on all local residents to provide support in raising objections to the planning application which has been submitted again for a retirement village in Bottisham. As previously highlighted this will have a huge negative impact on the practice should the development go ahead and the practice would appreciate the local community supporting the practice in raising objections to this development in Bottisham which is already over saturated with care home provision in proportion to the wider Cambridgeshire area. Comments received by the Council after 14th March and before a decision is made will be considered and taken into account.

 $\underline{https://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?}\\ \underline{keyVal=RQ67URGGIRY00\&activeTab=summary}$

Needing a BP check: Please do make use of the BP machine in the waiting room. It uploads your results straight to your patient record and is reviewed by a clinician. If there is anything of concern the GP will contact you.

Easter Bank Holidays: Don't forget the surgery and dispensary will be closed on those days so please ensure you have adequate medication in hand to cover that period.

HRT and prescription charges: The Government announced a few weeks ago a change to charges for HRT medication. Instead of paying for monthly prescriptions, women will be able to access their HRT by paying a one off charge, the equivalent of two single prescriptions, currently £18.70, for up to a 12 month supply of HRT. This will be done through a Prescription Prepayment Certificate. Once the system has been setup we will contact patients currently on this medication to advise about how to apply for the prepayment certificate.

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

Regular Meetings: Next meeting is Wednesday May 24th 2023 at 1.30pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting please email our chairman at <u>s.j.gilson@btinternet.com</u> who will send you a meeting invite.

Annual General Meeting: April 26 at 1pm on Zoom when we hope Dr Shackleton will be free to speak. If you wish to join in please email our chairman as above.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

VILLAGE GARDENERS

We had a very interesting talk by Pam Bullivant, a local organiser for the National Gardens Scheme. Pam and her husband Andrew were asked to open their garden in Ely in 1996 for the NGS and continued to do so for 20 years. Visitors thoroughly enjoyed it and returned for further visits.

The Nation Garden Scheme has been going since 1927 and is the most significant charitable fundraiser of nursing charities. There are over 3,500 gardens and the organisation is run by over 500 volunteers. Last year there were over 67,000 visitors

whose donations raised over £3 million with almost £67,000 being raised in Cambridgeshire.

The Nation Garden Scheme has been going since 1927 and is the most significant charitable fundraiser of nursing charities

The charity's early beginnings came about in 1859 when William Rathbone needed a nurse for his dying wife. Mrs Robinson took on the role and when her patient died William Rathbone wanted her to help look after the poor who couldn't afford a nurse. Mrs. Robinson found there were too many in need so she couldn't do her job properly. As a result William Rathbone asked for advice from his friend Florence Nightingale who advised training of prospective nurses. 1863 marked the start of District Nursing which grew rapidly. Queen Victoria

became Patron for the nurses and an appeal was set up. Queen Alexandra continued the Royal support.

In 1926 Elsie Wagg suggested opening the gardens of grand houses in order to raise funds. In 1927 609 gardens were opened with a one shilling entry fee. King George was persuaded to open Sandringham gardens which encouraged many others to do the same!

By 1939 some gardens were opened in aid of the war effort, especially showing visitors how to grow vegetables. The first NGS yellow book appeared in 1949 and by 1984 Macmillan Nurses received a donation from the funds accrued from garden visits. Theirs is a permanent charity as is Parkinson's UK. Other charities can be guest charities for just one year. Other permanent charities are Marie Curie, Carers, Horatio's Gardens, Maggie's, Queen's Nurses and NHS Social Care Staff. Over 80p in the £1 donated goes to charities.

The Royal patronage continued with King Charles becoming the Patron in 2002. Mary Berry is President.

We had a good turnout for the meeting and look forward to welcoming everybody to our next meeting on Tuesday 18th April when Paula Dyason will be giving us a talk entitled 'The Day of the Daylily'. The meeting, as usual, will start at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Ruth Scovil

The Swaffhams' WI

This month was our Annual Meeting. It was all very straightforward, as all the officers were willing to stand for another year- so we were soon able to get to the fun part of the evening. Nothing makes us laugh as much as Beetle, so with Shirley in charge, we were off. Intense concentration, a skilled flick of the wrist and a basic level of knowledge of beetle anatomy is a advantage. Courage is needed if scores are very poor. Wonderful prizes of course for the victors.

Next month our meeting on Monday April 17th, is a talk on 'The Life of William Morris'.

Margaret Joyce.



Mothers' Union

Ros Wright was guest speaker at our February meeting. Ros brought along her collection of crosses from around the world. To being with she gave us a brief history of how the cross became the

Christian symbol and how the early Christians would have used secret symbols. One being the sign of the fish, which has continued to this day. Ros also reminded us of all the different ways the cross is used, for baptism, in decoration such as jewellery, a sign of signature (especially in the past



when a person couldn't write) and a sign of love. The collection contained crosses from Vietnam, Tanzania, Spain, Italy, and South America to name but a few. There were many different sizes and styles of cross in the collection traditional Latin, Celtic, Ankh, Orthodox, Jerusalem, Maltese, small replica of the cross of nails in Coventry Cathedral and more. These were made by diverse methods, and in a variety of materials, woods including the ancient Fenland bog oak, glass, metals, cotton crochet, rolled magazine paper, pearl shell, and the traditional palm cross given out in church on Palm Sunday. Some of those made of wood were decorated with various carvings, others brightly painted, and some had a variety of different coloured woods in the one cross. The photograph shows a rolled magazine paper cross (made in Vietnam) surrounded by smaller crosses in the collection.

We wish readers A Happy and Blessed Easter.

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month, at 2.30pm in Fassage Hall, Lode. On 20th April we will be partaking in an activity in preparation for the Coronation of King Charles III. You are most welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langran

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Spring news

We're keeping a look out for the signs nature gives us to show that spring is here. Whether it's returning swallows or swifts, reed or sedge warblers; or seeing hedgerow shrubs are in flower, we've all got our spring favourites. We'll be listening for the cuckoo's call later in the month; something that is special for all of us at the Fen. We usually expect the first calls during the last week of April – keep an eye on our social media channels for the latest news!

Fairs, feasts and festivals

We look forward to meeting people in our local communities when we visit some of the fairs taking place in the fen edge villages as part of our NLHF project: Footprints. Keep a look out for our gazebo at Ely Eel Fayre (Saturday 29 April) and Reach Fair (Monday 1 May).

Easter fun

1 to 16 April: Easter Egg Hunt - Explore the peaceful nature reserve, visit the historic windpump or drop into our bird hides as you follow the Easter trail through Sedge Fen and the Woodland Walk. The price of the trail is £3 per child and includes a trail sheet, pencil and a chocolate egg at the end. The trail route follows accessible paths; assistance dogs only.

4 and 6 April: Easter Crafts - Spring has sprung! If you love crafts, then join us to celebrate Easter, with heaps of Easter-themed crafts to make-and-take in the Learning Centre. All materials provided. £4 per child.

11 April: Owl Pellet Dissection – Delve into the fascinating world of owl pellets to find out what's on the menu for the owls at Wicken Fen! £5 per child.





From our District Councillors Charlotte Cane & John Trapp

Congratulations to Swaffham Bulbeck, whose Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by the District Council at its meeting on 21 February. This will now be used in assessing all planning applications made in Swaffham Bulbeck.

Elections for Parish Councils and East Cambs District Council will be held on Thursday 4th May. The Government has changed the rules and you will need photographic ID to vote in person at these elections – that's a passport or photographic driving licence or other options listed at - https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/



<u>voter-id</u>. People without the necessary ID can get a Voter Authority Certificate from the Council, by applying at - https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate. If you can't use on-line forms, please contact the Council on 01353 665555. If you cannot show photographic ID when you go to vote, you will not be given a ballot paper.

The Council approved a budget with no increase in Council Tax. Charlotte seconded an amendment to the budget which also would not have increased the Council tax but included funding for:

- a new Local Plan, to protect our towns and villages from inappropriate development;
- implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement;
- doubling the Environment Fund; and
- setting up a small grant fund for parish councils and community groups to mark the coronation.

But this amendment was lost.

We are still getting a few complaints from people who have not had their black bin bags. Everyone should have received their black bags. If you have not yet received them, please contact Charlotte or John and we will arrange for them to be delivered.

Our next Councillors' Surgery will be on Thursday 20th April at 6.30pm at Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion. Or you can always contact us directly john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk 01223 812120, charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk 07976 607512.

Crossword Number 204

Compiled by **OUNCE**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th April 2023. The sender of the first correct solution out of the hat will be awarded a *Winner's Certificate*. Emailed solutions are acceptable but please include "CROSSWORD" and the crossword number in the header.

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

Name:	
Address:	
1	

Across

- 1 The ___ homeward 1D (in 27D) for his lunch, perhaps? (9)
- 5 Place books after going up mountain (5)
- 8 Online educational establishment initially that has one application for those without indoor toilets? (8)
- 9 Pale father allows return (6)
- 11 Michael's not breaking one armed bandit (4,7)
- 14 Space after doctor swallows article (3)
- 15 Tolerate wandering bag ladies after gals depart (5)
- 18 Dance in bedlam. Bad arrangements (7)
- 19 Shouts about parking consequences (7)
- 20 Barbarian search engine hoorah! (5)
- 23 Dashed rapidly and nimbly at first (3)
- 24 Replaced bit badly but that was foreseeable (11)
- 28 Call again if lost from damaged airfield (6)
- 29 Make smaller (using iron perhaps?) (8)
- 30 Bright quarter Greek character returns from US city (5)
- 31 My Lego toy is broken in a word, history (9)

Down

- 1 Trudges like policemen (5)
- 2 Get the better of confused Tudor, exchanging king for nothing (5)
- 3 Lack of light obscures midnight weaving apparatus (5)
- 4 Aimless cub and ox play with tune machines (7,5)
- 5 Global Mixture of the Year with 5A (9)

- 6 Tipsy Para ought to sign this. (9)
- 7 Mad herpetologist rigs out lens (9)
- 10 Princess's girl four see indifferently (12)
- 12 Jello bandage holds sling (3)
- 13 Little bit of immature frog missing N or S? (3)
- 15 At sea, bream rigs marine perfume constituent (9)
- 16 Undoing a ring frees dinosaur (9)
- 17 Not difficult to mix, say payees (4-5)
- 21 Cooker for Turkish leader (3)
- 22 Eagle, for example, found in yellow larch tree (3)
- 25 Middle Eastern orchestra leader holds gold shilling for trunk (5)
- 26 Comic party (5)
- 27 Lament found in chapel, e.g. "Youth's Lost" (5)

Solution to crossword no. 203



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

Notes from the Parish Council MarchMeeting

Cllr Covill chaired the March meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council, attended by 7 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the public.

East Cambridgeshire District Council report – Cllr Charlotte Cane attended as a representative.

Cllr Cane highlighted the new requirement for photo ID in order to vote in person and voiced concern that it could lead to voter suppression, as 2 million people eligible to vote don't have the necessary ID. Cllr Cane also noted inconsistencies, for example an older person's Oyster card would be acceptable identification, but a Young Person's Oyster card would not. Both Cllr Gynn and Cllr Latchford noted concern that voter turnout would be further reduced through apathy, indignation and/or forgetfulness. Cllr Cane stated that Government guidance had been issued relatively last minute, so that voters have only until mid-April to get a Voter Authority Certificate if needed.

Cllr Cane noted that the letter received by PCs from Anna Bailey regarding the East Cambs Trading Company was not on behalf of East Cambs District Council. Cllr Cane had responded to the letter with further figures relating to the ECTC finances. The business plan for ECTC is due to go the Finance and Assets Committee, at which point the Public will be able to see it and should have more details.

Planning applications received:

- 23/00229/FUL and 23/00230/LBC Proposed construction of oak front porch canopy on mill. The Smock Tower Mill, Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior CB25 0JZ.
- 23/00192/FUL Demolition of existing conservatory and porch, raising the roof over the existing garage and introduction of additional rooflights, construction of a single storey rear extension and porch, replacement of existing windows and provision of solar panels. 23 Tothill Road, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB25 0JX

The PC made no objections to either application.

A-B1102 group proposals regarding bus services.

Reports and the proposal had been circulated by email to the PC. No A-B1102 representative attended. Representatives of Quy had been supportive of moving the Park and Ride site to Quy at a previous meeting and had hoped this may help with morning congestion in Quy.

Cllr Latchford noted that there was confusion between the Greenways projects and the Sustrans consultation.

The Active Travel budget has been reduced nationwide.

The Greenways proposal includes reducing the High Street to 20 mph - no other streets in Swaffham Prior would qualify for this reduction.

Cllr Latchford noted the need to keep the data regarding speed and numbers of traffic up to date using the SID.

Allotments

Cllr Latchford had met with the renter of the untended plot who hoped to continue renting it. It was decided to write to the renter of plot, stating that the PC required that 50% of the plot is cleared and prepared for planting by Mid-April in order for tenancy to continue.

Report on Heating Scheme

Cllr David Greenfield had emailed in a report.

- There are 78 signed Heating Supply Agreements with individual customers and finalised agreements for 45 Housing Association properties.
- There is a commitment to connect the remaining Housing Association properties and 13 residents have expressed an interest in joining the scheme.
- In addition to the above, 52 pre-installation surveys have been completed, finalizing the the details of the heat installation.
- 6 properties are now fully connected to the heat network.
- External installations have been completed at 12 properties and started at another 6. Internal installations are currently being arranged with customers.
- Pre-installation surveys have started in Section D (Lower End to Rogers Road) and are planned for Section E (Mill Hill to Fairview Grove) later this month.

Clerk's Report

- A letter was sent to Highways regarding the poor state of the fen roads and a reply received, which outlined the high cost of full repairs and the aim fix potholes etc as they arise.
- Cllr Kent-Phillips had found a new handyman who is currently working through a small list of jobs.
- Regarding the cemetery, 5 gravestones were either being repaired or having ownership of the Grant transferred prior to being repaired. No contact had been traced for 9 stones. 16 contacts had either not replied or declined to take on ownership and 1 person had been contacted and was still thinking about it.
- Whilst at the cemetery on Wednesday 8th March, the Clerk had seen two
 gravestones being put back up by people who did not appear to be BRAMM or
 NAMM registered memorial masons. The PC agreed that the Clerk should write
 to the individual involved stating that both memorials need to be certified as
 properly repaired by a registered Memorial Mason.

Parish Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Latchford reported that he had received a complaint that land behind the Smock Mill was being made inaccessible by a closed gate. Cllr Covill confirmed that the land in question belonged to the Parochial Charities, who were dealing with it.
- Cllr Gynn noted concern that a possible Housing Association house in Green Head Road appeared to have been empty for some time.
- Cllr Greenfield noted via email that he had been in contact with Gigaclear –
 potential providers of fibre to Swaffham Prior who intended to canvass the

- village in the coming months. To be discussed further at the April meeting.
- Cllr Covill noted that people on RASP in the fen had been cut off when an arial was removed it is up to Voneus to fix this. Cllr Covill also noted a complaint that parking on the driveway leading to the horse field had made it difficult for the horse owner to access the field with their car. The PC were sympathetic but unable to help.

Open Question Time

A member of the public asked if the ownership of the lane running up to the Smock Mill was known? It was not.

A member of the public asked who decided which emails to the PC were made public? It was explained that the Clerk has to ensure that no personal or protected information is made public without express permission.

A member of the public asked how access to the defibrillator was obtained? It was explained that access and full instructions are provided by the emergency services. A member of the public asked if it was known when the pub would re-open. It is believed to be later in the summer.

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, 13th April 2023 starting at 7.30pm in 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 14 phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail (junthompson44@ a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow).



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

Offers

Dining table in solid cherrywood. Contemporary style. Length 4 feet extending to 7 feet. Armchair (6 years old, kept in a pet free, child free, non-smoking environment). Contemporary Italian style in pale blue fabric.

Peter, 01223 811211

Large quantity of A4 transparent punched pockets. Robert or Nicky on C. 813592

Wanted

Greenhouse 8' x 6'. Any condition considered. Will collect. Coral, 01223 81457

April Services in the Anglesey Group of Churches

Sunday 2 April - Palm Sunday

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham – led by Archdeacon Alex Hughes

4pm Village Worship, Quy Village Hall

Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 April

6pm Compline, Swaffham Bulbeck

Wednesday 5 April

8pm CbyC, on Zoom

Thursday 4 April – Maundy Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Friday 7 April – Good Friday

10am Open Air Service, Quy

Sunday 9 April – Easter Day

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Sunday 16 April

9am Online service, on Zoom

Morning Prayer, Quy

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 23 April

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Prior

Sunday 30 April

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

Every Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

We are currently without a vicar. Please contact Brenda Wilson, churchwarden on prior@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01638 743937. All are welcome to services in any church in the group. Please be in touch if you would like a lift to a service.

Please check http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7378/benefice for current information; or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk, also the address to request the Zoom link.

Dates for Your Diary April 2023

Sun	9	Crier Copy Deadline					
Mon	10	WI, VH, 7.30pm [19]					
Thu	13	C Meeting, VH, 7.30pm [26]					
Mon	17	Mrs Harris goes to Paris, Newmarket Cinema [16]					
Tue	18	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm [18]					
Thu	20	Mothers' Union, Fassage Hall, Lode, 2.30pm [19] Cllrs Surgery, Swaffham Bulbeck Pavillion, 6.30pm					
April	1	Easter Egg Hunt, Wicken Fen. To the 16 th [20]					
May	1	Bank Holiday Monday. Reach Fair [15]					
June	14	Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre. To the 17 th . [12]					

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place	
FOSPS			2 nd Mon of	8pm	Village	
			Term		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	