



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVII Number 8/9

August/September 2023



## Editorial

This summer is just whizzing by, and what with the somewhat Autumnal feel to August, some would say Blink and you Missed It. July saw our annual Open Studios Village Art Exhibition with the Cage being used as a venue for the first time. What talent we have in this village - as you can see from the Crier cover every month. This month's cover is by Thomas Newbolt who won the critically acclaimed biennially awarded Ruth Borchard self-portrait prize in 2013 and is a delightful sketch of his wife Clare in Italy.

Many congratulations to Linda and Colin Evens who have just celebrated their DIAMOND Wedding Anniversary (see Letters). Now it's Blue Sapphire (apparently! 65 years) that's next on the list...

The Harvest Show is approaching and we hope this issue will include a leaflet detailing all the events and how you can enter. It always kicks off with the very popular Dog Show, so we need to get training for that Best Doggy Trick not to mention the mysteriously named Treat Run. If this means disappearing down the Fen at 60mph only to return half an hour later for a treat, then our dog is a dead cert to win.

But who can remember that the Village Feast always used to start with a Fun Run down the Fen? Our Reporter can, and what a delightful addition that would make to next year's Feast which will need to be on its toes to compete with this year's, which surely must have been one of the best ever.

Meanwhile, some additional info about the heating scheme with some snippets from Other Ed concerning our personal experience (p 13), and additionally some news about the new County broadband (p 9). More roadworks? More like pavement works! See PC Notes. And don't forget to sign up before the end of August for a good deal.

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**Caroline Matheson**

**Cover Picture:** *Clare in Italy* by **Thomas Newbolt**



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Keeping footpaths clear**

As many will have noticed, the vegetation has been growing madly. Ours is a village criss-crossed by many footpaths, some of which have become overgrown. If a footpath runs next to or on your property, please would you consider cutting back overhanging plants so that everyone can make use of the footpaths. And many thanks to those who have already done so.

*Jude Griffiths*

On behalf of the Parish Council

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Dear Editors

### **Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning, Friday 29th September 10.30am-12noon at Ruth Scovil's, The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior**

It's that time of the year when I need to let you know about the Macmillan Coffee Morning! I can hardly believe that it is the **30th** year that I have been hosting it. I do hope that even more of you will be able to come this year. Macmillan Cancer Relief raises so much money to help people undergoing treatment for cancer and is a vital organisation for those people. Most of us will, sadly, know somebody who has, or had, cancer so I hope you will be able to support this worthwhile cause.

As usual we will have a Cake Stall to which all home made contributions will be very welcome, sweet or savoury. If you're not a baker then please come prepared to buy something! There will also be a raffle to be drawn at the end of the morning. Last, but most definitely not least, there will be coffee and biscuits and lots of chat.

Everybody is most welcome and, if you're new to the village, it's an excellent place to meet new friends.

Looking forward to seeing you on **Friday 29th September, 10.30 am - 12 noon.**

*Ruth Scovil*



## Huge Congratulations to Linda and Colin Evans of Commissioners Farm who celebrated their **DIAMOND** Wedding Anniversary in July

The card from the King and Queen reads:

*My wife and I were so pleased to hear that you are celebrating your Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 20th July 2023. This brings you our warmest congratulations and heartfelt good wishes on this happy occasion.*

*Charles and Camilla*

### **BON MOT NUMBER 141**

“Some people fight hard for the arts in this country.  
Frankly, I think the government  
over the past decade  
has been dedicated to philistinism.”

*Melvin Bragg (1939– )*

## From our Reporter

George Hurrell issued an interesting challenge in the last *Crier* in response to Russell Arnott's comment about our "monoculture farmland". He is offering a Farm Walk to show that Newton Farms is working to the "highest environmental scheme possible." All 50 acres of the "floristically enhanced grass margins", etc. It is to be hoped that Mr Arnott, and also possibly Mr Lewinsky, will take up this kind offer and then write separate pieces for the *Crier* about their findings. Interestingly, just the other day, Alan Titchmarsh advised against rewilding domestic gardens claiming "that rewilding gardens is a catastrophe for wild life and will reduce diversity."



While on the Farm Walk I hope they note the number of insects. In this country, flying insects have declined 60% in 20 years. In Germany they have declined 75% in 26 years. And globally all insect species are declining with one third now endangered. Potentially disastrous. This is already noticeable in our daily lives. No longer are flies a nuisance in hot weather. There are now so few they must be treasured, even perhaps the blue bottle. Without a dog or a cat a small fly can become a sociable companion as it lands next to you at the table, perhaps exploring your hand or the book you are reading. With great sensitivity it never touches the glass of white wine. A small fly can just be a friendly, curious, warm hearted companion for a time. He is such a chipper little chap. Big flies do not have the same attraction.

**That really great Village Feast reminded me that once it always opened with a Fun Run. This three or four mile run started down Station Road and then round the fen. Refreshments were provided half way round.**

The Parish Council has made a huge breakthrough. They now have three ladies on the Committee. Kate Muscroft has joined. The Pankhurst Family and all the other brave ladies did not labour in vain. The PC also ran a very successful Annual General Assembly as recorded in Jude's excellent report in the last *Crier*. It was well attended, gave news about all the village organisations, and was the perfect place to ask questions.

Mind you questions at our PC meetings are not nearly as lively and challenging as those at Reach PC meetings. Their meetings can be dynamite and I have recently been alerted to this. The online edition of its magazine *Within Reach* gives a very full extensive record of their meetings. In the first few months of this year a resident demanded a step by step review of how the PC reached its decision and that three councillors should not be part of that review; that the draft minutes were "riddled with

errors”; that there is “no confidence in the integrity of the PC”; that they “lacked trust in the PC”, while, so I hear, there was also much personal abuse about some of the councillors. How about that for a story. if anyone is interested in such “tittle tattle” just look at *Within Reach* online. I haven’t seen a printed copy.

That really great Village Feast reminded me that once it always opened with a Fun Run. This three or four mile run started down Station Road and then round the fen. Refreshments were provided half way round. Many joined the fun just by walking it. This is unlikely to happen again. But we could follow Madrid and have a 100 or 200 yard High Heels Race up the High Street. The Spanish rule is the heels must be at least 15cm (5.9in) high. Perhaps a little less for us in the first year. But what a Feast it would be, starting with the High Heels Race and ending with the Egg Throwing. Over to the Village Hall Committee.

It is so worrying that Starmer is thinking of enforcing section 40 of the Leveson Enquiry which would impose all costs for any claim against newspapers, whether found guilty or not. This would be such a threat to press freedom. Ever since the middle of February, when the Times began it’s “Clean it up Water Campaign”, the dire water and sewage situation has been fully exposed. There was nothing new about it. Everything had been known for years, yet no one (and this includes so many from all quarters) had fully exposed it. All newspapers have made important exposures at some time – the *Guardian*, the *Mail*, *Telegraph*, the *Mail*, even the *Mirror*. We need the freedom of the press. The next full exposure will be the National Grid, which is just waiting in the wings. In less than twelve months I predict.

Of course we know that the Press can go to unforgivable extremes as Prince Harry and the others are claiming having been brought together by the astute lawyers. But, nothing is perfect. Prince Harry’s claims have just been dismissed by the judge as silly.

A ragbag of trifles for the summer holidays. Bedbugs are on the rise in French hotels and houses, and across Europe. They have no respect for social class, and like to travel. Don’t bring them back. Prince George was ten in July, and it is always quite alarming how quickly the young do age. Extremely disturbing. But some things become easier and a recent TV ad offered Christmas Gift Ideas which will “Take the stress out of Christmas Shopping”. Everyone should now feel better knowing that. But Andrex are at it again. To keep their rolls at the same price they had already reduced the number of sheets in a roll. They are now shrinking the size of each sheet, still keeping to the same price. One unhappy customer had calculated that this will result in ten fewer visits per roll. Finally, it is very worrying that soap sales have shrunk by 40%, particularly with Covid on the rise again. Just be very careful who you shake hands with.

***Alastair Everitt***

# FUN DOG SHOW



SWAFFHAM PRIOR

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Village Hall **1.45 pm** in conjunction with the

## **Village Harvest Show**

Six Classes: Agility, Waggiest Tail,  
Most Obedient (sit, down, stand, heel),  
"Treat Run", Best Doggy Trick,  
Fancy Dress – Off to a Music Festival, let your  
imagination run away with you (dog and owner)

**Classes £1 each or £5 for all six classes**

Entries on the day, enquires in advance to

Janet on 07833 960 678

Prize and rosette for first place and  
a rosette for the runner up in each category

Proudly sponsored by





**Join POP**  
**(Proud of Prior)**



## **COMMUNITY LITTER PICK**

## **FRIDAY TIDY**

**Meet at the sheds by the play park  
on the High Street**

**18<sup>th</sup> August 10.30am**

**Participating in East Cambs District  
Council's Litter Picking Contest to collect  
the most Rubbish over Three Months -  
We can do it!! Join us for the third one**

**Adult Hi Vis Jackets provided  
You participate at your own risk  
Your Safety is YOUR responsibility**

**Please bring your own gloves  
All other equipment provided**

**Come and join friends and  
neighbours on this tidy up**

**Look forward to seeing  
the results!**





# WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING



**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

## **Ruth Scovil's house**

**The Oaks, Manor Farm Court**

**Lower End, Swaffham Prior**

**Friday: 10.30 am - 12.00 noon**



# **29th September 2023**



# PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

*“The Little Chapel in the Fen”*

All welcome to our

## Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 3pm

~

Traditional harvest service and hymns

Produce welcome



~

Find us at CB7 5YJ, between  
Upware and Swaffham Prior.  
Be early to guarantee a seat.

~

**For more information  
contact**

**Trish: 07979 868676**

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## County Broadband - Update

In our April edition we carried an advert for fast fibre broadband coming to the village. We've since had a visit from Matthew Briggs on behalf of County Broadband (<https://countybroadband.co.uk/>) who are planning to offer a service starting here early next year. They are offering a similar scheme to the Heating Project whereby those who sign up early get a very good deal but in their case the threshold to go ahead is 20% of households signed up **by the end of August** and they'd already reached 18% when we spoke to him a few weeks ago so it looks very likely it will go ahead. Work has already started in Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck.

The details are on their web page but speeds are impressive with options between 100Mb/s and 900Mb/s and plenty of bandwidth (100Gb/s) into the village to provide this. Their plan is to use a mixture of BT ducts and overhead connections to houses, i.e. much the same as the existing phone cabling but with fibre rather than copper cabling. This will avoid yet more roadworks but it would have been good if everything could have been moved underground along with the heating scheme's pipes but the timescales didn't match. If you're interested and haven't already done so, you need to get in touch with Matthew (07538399740) quite quickly to beat the end of August deadline.

*James Matheson*



# SWAFFHAM PRIOR AUTUMN SHOW

## COMPETITIONS

PRODUCE ~ BAKING ~ PHOTOGRAPHY

CHILDREN'S CREATIVE

SCARECROWS

2:00 pm

DOG SHOW

CREAM TEAS



Entries to be exhibited 10:00 - 11:50

SATURDAY  
9th SEPTEMBER

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL

**FREE ENTRY**



## Prospects Trust—Snakehall Farm



We love our Volunteers! This summer we wanted to shout out to everyone who has played a part in our 34th year of The Prospects Trust, and as we near our milestone 35th year of Growing Differently there is still time to volunteer your time, talents or team to really make a difference to our little corner of Cambridgeshire.

This summer we have seen a record number of hosted Corporate Volunteering days, with more to come. So far these work parties have planted our seasonal squashes, harvested our garlic and really laid the foundations to our Woodland Nature Reserve in the bottom field. Volunteers also work alongside the teams at both Snakehall Farm and Unwrapped, just easing the workload or gaining new skills. From retired but not tired regulars to DofE youngsters or social care students and every age in between - we have lots of opportunities for people to help Prospects. Our Saturday "Snakers" are a tribe of volunteers who attend a session at Snakehall Farm for a few hours each week, getting their weekend off to an active start, making a real difference to our farm crops and greening up their green fingers.

All volunteers are important to the smooth running of our charity but those that are vital are our Trustees, without them well we couldn't be a charity let alone a multiple award winning one. We will be looking to welcome a couple of new trustees to our Board ready for our 35th year. Are you looking for a new challenge?

## **Julie's Recipes: A taste of the Caribbean**

### **Jamaican Jerked Chicken**

25g allspice berries  
2 inch cinnamon stick  
1 tsp grated nutmeg  
1 fresh red chilli, finely chopped  
4 spring onions, thinly sliced  
1 bay leaf, crumbled  
Salt and ground black pepper  
1 tbsp dark rum  
6 chicken joints or thighs

### **Pineapple chutney**

2 fresh pineapples, peeled and chopped  
1 inch fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped  
1 onion, finely chopped  
1 fresh red chilli, seeded and finely chopped  
125ml vinegar  
250g dark brown sugar

To make the jerked seasoning, pound the allspice berries and all the dried ingredients together in a mortar, or grind in an electric grinder. Add the chilli, spring onions, bay leaf and continue pounding into a thick paste.

Stir the rum into the paste and mix well. Slash the chicken deeply on the skin and rub the seasoned paste over the chicken. Cover and leave in the fridge for a couple of hours.

Meanwhile make the pineapple chutney. Put all the ingredients in a saucepan and stir well. Place over a moderate heat and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Bring to a boil, cook vigorously until the chutney thickens.

Pour the chutney into sterilized jars and seal.

Roast the Jerked chicken at 200c for 20-30 minutes until golden brown.

Serve with the pineapple chutney and Rice.

### **Rice and peas**

250g dried red kidney beans,  
600ml coconut milk  
2 sprigs of fresh thyme  
2 spring onions, finely chopped  
1 fresh green chilli, seeded and finely chopped  
500g long grain rice  
Salt and freshly ground pepper

1. Put the dried kidney beans, leave to soak in cold water overnight, the following day rinse and drain well. Put the kidney beans in a large pan and add 900ml boiling water. Cook for 30 mins until the beans are tender.

2. Add the coconut milk, thyme. Spring onions and chilli to the pan, season well and bring back to a boil for 5 minutes.

3. Add the rice and stir well, cover and simmer on a low heat until the rice is tender and the liquid has been absorbed. Any remaining liquid can be drained.

4. Transfer to a serving dish and serve with the Jerked chicken and pineapple chutney.

Serves 6

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## Snippets from the Heating Project

Craig Middleton from Bouygues, the Heating Project's main contractor, paid us a post installation visit the other day and we discovered a few interesting things about how the system works:

- We'd noticed on one occasion that the input temperature was mid 50s °C, well below the guaranteed supply temperature. They confirmed that this was the case and was because they'd been performing tests to optimise the system now that they had some load from attached houses. They've since done another similar test but this time they emailed everyone in advance.
- They've been monitoring particulate emissions in the village over the last year and will continue to do so for some time to come to see if there's a measurable decrease, and/or change in the mix, as a result of the drop in the use of oil burning.
- The metering is smart, i.e. it can be read remotely, and is accredited by the Renewable Heat Initiative (RHI), so of guaranteed accuracy. Unlike smart electricity meters which send the readings over their own private network, the Heating Project uses the mobile phone network, sending regular updates. Neither needs to make any use of WiFi.
- The flow rate through the external pipe-work is varied to cope with the demand. Judging by the time it takes these pipes to heat up when it turns on, the flow rate is pretty low at the moment as one would probably expect with little call for heat for central heating. The flow rate in the house's hot water and central heating systems is independent of this, it just affects how rapidly heat can be transferred to the house.
- The hot water tanks at the plant on the Heath Road store enough heat to keep the system running for 24 hours under the anticipated load, were anything to go wrong with the heat pumps, etc.

*James Matheson*

Stop press: they did another advertised test last week but the supply temperature is still (Monday lunchtime) only mid 50s °C. More next time ...

# News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

## September

By early September, most swallows are preparing to migrate, and we often see them clustered in groups on telegraph wires. Many birds are leaving their breeding grounds to head south for the winter, but there's still plenty to see around the reserve. Many dragonflies are still on the wing, including the larger migrant hawker, southern hawker and emperor. There should also still be the purple globes of devil's bit scabious amongst the wildflowers still in bloom.



### **Pop-up Dragonfly Walks**

Did you know that Wicken Fen is home to 24 species of dragonfly and damselfly? We'll be hosting free pop-up dragonfly walks with the British Dragonfly Society in August and September – keep an eye on our social media channels for the next dates.

### **Lino Print Workshop – 17 September 2023**

Local mixed media artist, Judith Handley, will be leading a lino printing session, taking inspiration from the natural world. Tickets are £65 and are available from our website.

### **Mucky Pups – 22 September 2023**

Our popular Mucky Pups outdoor adventures resume in September after the summer break. The sessions are for pre-school children (aged 2+) who enjoy getting grubby, with seasonal activities, crafts and stories. £7 per child, accompanying adult free. Booking is essential via our website.

### **Vision Festival – 23 September 2023**

Join us to celebrate our Vision project and Footprints Project – we'll be offering activities that we have been developed thanks to our National Lottery Heritage Fund grant. Enjoy a wellbeing walk, handle artefacts we have found during archaeology activities, see the photographs of the natural world that young people produced, and much more. Full details available on our website. For the latest reserve information, please visit our website [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen).

Details of our events can be found on our website at

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on>



New for the Autumn Term at Swaffham Prior V. H.

### *THE STORY OF VENICE*



**Tuesday afternoons or Wednesday Mornings**  
**Starting September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

Discover how a mercantile and naval city emerging during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries was built on 100's of islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic sea, a very unlikely place for an empire !

It would become the chief commercial link between east and western Europe.

Where commerce is strong, culture always follows, so this art history course will present the history of this unique city through the story of its painting, sculpture and architecture from the earliest times up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Learn about Venetians and their way of life, but also the visitors attracted to the city who breathed new life into it, making it a must see tourist destination.

It is a story about colour, light and space, together with an opulence and sensuousness that are its defining qualities, which differentiate Venice from the more intellectual art of Florence.

*Look out for more info coming on the website in August*

*go to [arthistoryincambs.com](http://arthistoryincambs.com)*

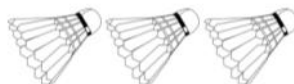


### *Badminton*

*Small friendly badminton group are looking for a few new players owing to a couple of people moving away. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 at Bottisham sports centre.*

*Approximately £5 per session*

*Either give Jane a ring on 811592 or drop in to meet us one Tuesday*



## **FREecycle**

Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail ([junthompson44@gmail.com](mailto: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**

A large box of War Hammer figures to give away (quite old but fun for a new enthusiast). Nicola or Daniel, 01638 742184 (Ans Machine)

cold frame - 4 foot by 2.5 foot. Jane, 01223 811592

### **Wanted**

Under counter fridge in good working order; Children's plastic jewellery and/or small toys eg tennis balls for Christian project in Kenya. I will be taking these out to the children who are living in poverty. Jackie 07594 450530





## Message from the Heating Swaffham Prior Team – July 2023

### Connections update

Connections are being made each week and from the middle of July we have 78 external pipework connections installations completed and of these properties we have 37 customers whose heat and hot water are now provided by the heat network.

The contractor has reinstated the surfaces around properties to a high standard and on the couple of occasions where there have been minor issues, the team has returned to sort this out swiftly.



### Further connections

Works are currently taking place on Lower End and then the contractor will be moving to Mill Hill to complete some external connections. If you have not been connected yet or would like to be connected to the heat network please get in touch, our email is below.

### Ground Source and Air Source Heat Pumps & Renewable Heat Incentive Accreditation

The Ground Source and Air Source Heat Pumps at the Energy Centre have been officially commissioned and are certified fully functional. This was necessary to achieve the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive Accreditation.

To meet government standards, we had to undertake some testing of the system. This is highly unlikely to have been noticeable to those on the heat network however we made sure to notify customers ahead of time. We are still having positive feedback from our new customers that their system is working well and they have plenty of hot water.

You may notice some Bouygues Energies and Services staff around the village over the next month taking photos of the front of some customer homes. This is also a requirement for us to claim the Renewable Heat Incentive, so please don't be concerned if you see them out and about. Please feel free to ask these individuals for their work badges if you would like reassurance of their purpose. All Bouygues staff have been asked to wear their company high vis, so they are easily identifiable.

If you have any questions or want to join the heat network contact us on [heating@swaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:heating@swaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve - August

## Summertime highlights

Butterflies and dragonflies are easy to spot if you're visiting on a warm, dry and still day. Gatekeeper, small skipper, painted lady, ruddy darter, and emperor are all likely to be on the wing on the reserve in August. Summer family adventures await whether you explore on two wheels by hiring a bike or discover our new sensory trail on Sedge Fen. We've also got some bookable activities if you want to plan ahead and enjoy our nature inspired events:

**Dragonfly Collage Workshop** 23 August, Pond Dipping 9, 12, 15, 21 and 31 August, Summer Buzz Games and Crafts 17 and 29 August.

More details available on our website.

**Meet the Moths** – Saturday 12 August 9-10:30am. Drop in and discover more about these mysterious and beautiful night creatures. Come and see what has been found overnight in the moth traps on Sedge Fen, with help from local experts.

## Footprints Community engagement

A big thank you to those who came over to White Fen for our BioBlitz last month. We found over 200 species including a white admiral (rarely seen on the reserve) and a male cuckoo.

Our wellbeing walks continue every Friday morning from 10-11am. On Friday 11 August we'll be taking the route round the Summer Nature Trail so we can enjoy the beautiful lush tall herb fen and wildflowers. No need to book, meet us in the Visitor Centre a few minutes before the walk starts. See our website for more details.

We're planning some archaeology activity at Reach over the weekend of 14/15 October – if you'd like to help us investigate some test pits, save the date and keep an eye out for more details nearer the time.

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen). Details of our events can be found on our website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on>.

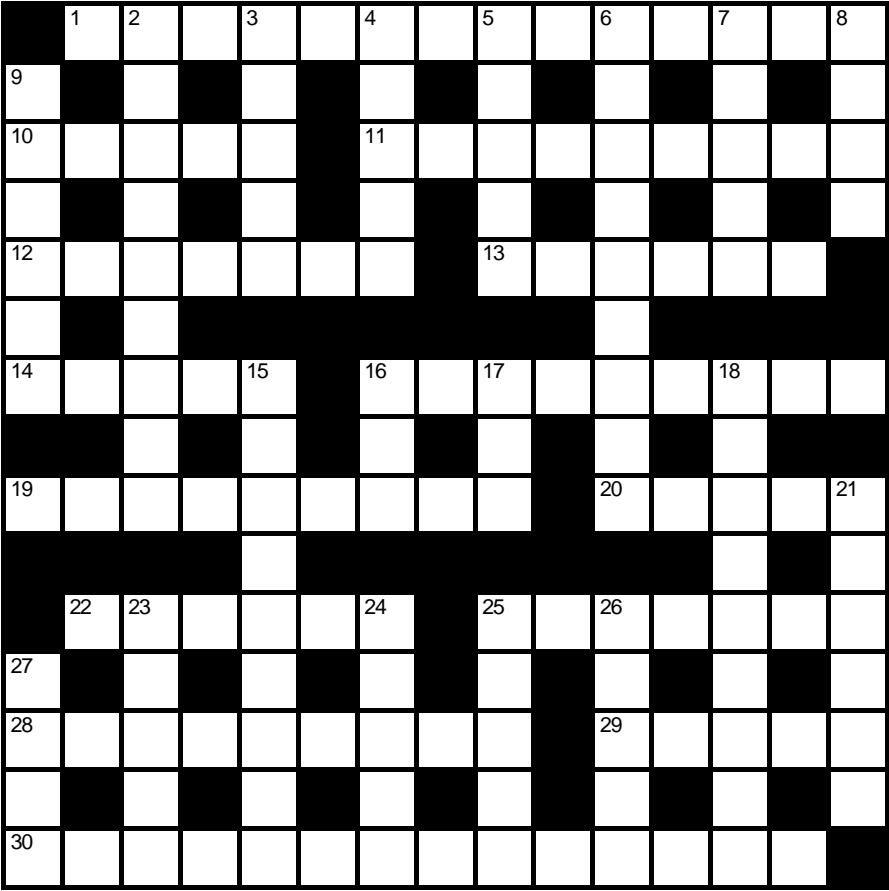


**Migrant Hawker  
at the Fen**

Crossword Number 208

Compiled by OUNCE

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



Name:.....

Address:.....

.....Tel:.....

## Across

- 1 I prove agnostic mixing (8D, 10A, 20A, 22A plus 16D) for tea time treat (8,6)
- 10 Powder little girl found by ancient city (5)
- 11 Sermonising whilst madly capering about end of March (9)
- 12 Abnormal toenail detests leaving Downing Street's misbehaviour (7)
- 13 Gnat flies from untidy flat garden to one burning 1A? (6)
- 14 Miraculous food for man and woman (5)
- 16 Oriental adjuster cultivates tall purple-flowered plant (5,4)
- 19 Hailed current shellfish swallowing one journalist (9)
- 20 Cubed carbohydrate? (5)
- 22 Fat Billy? (6)
- 25 Lace-makers' rags (7)
- 28 Sewing kit; one of the "Desperate" ones? (9)
- 29 Provide for; befuddled about iron (5)
- 30 Jumbled languages drain caring spirits (8,6)

## Down

- 2 Alas, Ionic Gran lacks carbon (9)
- 3 Supercharger turns up revs, burning oil primarily (5)
- 4 Scripture lesson writer used to mature (5)
- 5 Beware! Nasty things hidden in stadium ahead (5)
- 6 Clenched hands after setter returns hat to peacemakers (9)

- 7 Sound I found in hooter (5)
- 8 Urges on for example leaders of Greeks and Sikhs (4)
- 9 Sustain tune, very loud in middle, Mike (6)
- 15 Pirate had corrupt discriminatory policy (9)
- 16 Improvise difficult situation (3)
- 17 Detonation under-developed initially. What a flop (3)
- 18 Ruining return of German atmosphere after soldiers surround George (9)
- 21 Fall back to seaside spa (6)
- 23 Part of palate touring Tuvalu without a shirt (5)
- 24 Side dish of crumbled tiara? (5)
- 25 Recoil from difficult theoretical Greek letter (5)
- 26 Northern Goth weaves whip (5)
- 27 Old Liberal headfirst in hairpiece (4)

## Solution to crossword no. 207

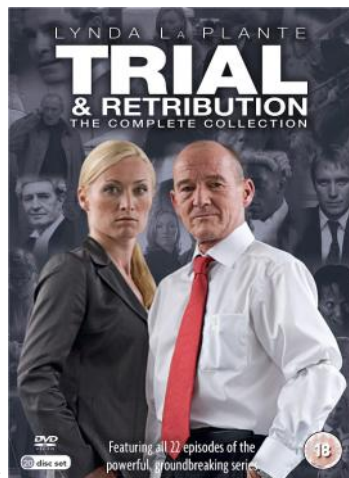


We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors.

## The Reading Group Reads...

### Trial and Retribution by Lynda La Plante

The disappearance of young child is every mother's nightmare and this is the case in Lynda La Plante's crime thriller Trial and Retribution. Little Julie Anne Harris is the young victim. Finally found murdered the police investigation leads to a local man whom the police believe is responsible for the heinous crime committed on the little girl. However during the investigation other suspects are uncovered and it is this aspect of the book and the meticulous description of the police investigation and the criminal court proceedings which makes this book such a good read - an opinion felt by some of the Book Group but certainly not all. Some felt that the characters in the book ranging from a distraught mother, a traumatised police officer, an ambitious young solicitor, a vain barrister and a despicable step father, were lacking in conviction. However exploring such a difficult theme as child abduction, sexual assault and murder, as well as domestic violence, this is a dark and intense thriller. Despite the heaviness of its subject matter, it's a fully immersive and fascinating novel - relentless and gripping from the start through to its tense conclusion as the verdict is read and the reader is left to decide if justice has been served.



*Zelda Stuck*

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## News from Bottisham Patients' Participation Group

### Dispensary Newsletter:

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 the (DHSC) Department of health and social care, introduced a prescription prepayment card (PPC) to reduce the cost of (HRT) hormone replacement therapy. If you pay for more than two HRT prescriptions a month the HRT PPC will save you money.

Each item on an NHS Prescription is £9.65, you can buy an HRT PPC for a one-off payment for a year of £19.30 (the cost of two prescription items) not all HRT medication is covered by an HRT PPC please check the NHSBSA website for a list of medications covered by the HRT PPC

The HRT PPC is available to buy on line at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/hrt-ppc) or at some pharmacies or patients can call 0300 330 2089 for more information

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

**Regular Meetings:** Next meeting is Wednesday September 27th 2023 at 1.30pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting, please email our chairman [s.j.gilson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com) who will send you a meeting invite.



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

We had a wonderful trip to the Savill Garden, in Windsor Great Park, at the beginning of July. It was certainly a royal haven of beautiful gardens, originally designed by Eric Savill, a friend of George V, in the 1930s. Later it was dedicated to the Queen Mother, by the then Queen.

The summer gardens were in full splendour - roses and amazing coloured borders - real flower power; the summer wood with drifts of flowering shrubs; the New Zealand garden, stemming from a gift to the Queen, full of Kiwi grasses and shrubs. All these interlaced with the Spring wood, the Autumn wood bursting with Japanese maples and the Winter wood- miles of peaceful, shady woodland walks. Not forgetting a very impressive tree house.

The visitors centre was very impressive, as were the royal loos! Very nice plants too - many of which will now be planted in Prior, Bulbeck and Burwell.

Our next meeting is the AGM on 17th October. A new committee will be needed next year, so if anyone reading this would like to think about becoming a committee member, we'd like to hear from you.



*Margaret Joyce*



There will be a Youth Fusion Event at Bottisham Sports Centre on Wednesday 9 August 2023. Anyone aged 18 or under is invited to attend this free event taking place between 11am and 3pm. This interactive well-being event is an opportunity to find out what is going on for young people. As well as fun activities such as a climbing wall, Korfball and a bouncy castle, there will also be the chance to find out more about the clubs and organisations operating in East Cambridgeshire. A bike mechanic will also be available to offer advice on bike maintenance and carry out basic repairs on the day free of charge, and the police will be offering bike security marking.



This event is part of the Council's Youth Engagement strategy, which was discussed at the Operational Services Committee in June. We also agreed the updated Environment Plan with the actions for the current year. The plan commits East Cambs to reducing the carbon from its operations by at least 80% by 2030. This is a welcome, but challenging target and there was no clear plan to achieve it, so we supported an amendment calling for officers to draft a plan for achieving the target. The meeting reviewed the finance report for the Committee's areas of responsibility and noted a revenue overspend of £742,000 – 13% of budget. Just under £500,000 of this overspend was the increased fee to ECSS for waste collections. There was an almost £3million underspend on capital, due to delays in programmes – notably the Disabled Facilities programme. In response to her question Charlotte was assured that the Council were taking actions to try to get this programme back on schedule, so that people with disabilities can have the necessary adaptations to their homes.

We also had a very interesting presentation from Voluntary and Community Action East Cambs. Although they are based in Ely, they are happy to help around the District – they offer a community transport scheme and a gardening scheme for people who need help with their gardens. If you need help with transport, and the village schemes cannot assist then contact 01353 666 553 or email [carscheme@vcaec.org.uk](mailto:carscheme@vcaec.org.uk). If you need help with your garden contact 01353 666 556 or email [gardening@vcaec.org.uk](mailto:gardening@vcaec.org.uk).

Finance & Assets Committee in July noted that the Council as a whole had a revenue underspend of almost £2million and a capital underspend of almost £2million. The Committee appointed people to outside bodies and John was appointed to the Swaffham Internal Drainage Board.

The Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee met in June and elected Charlotte as their Chair. The Committee had the opportunity to question the Mayor and his teams about their plans for Cambridgeshire. There is a new senior management team and they are planning to move initiatives forward, including supporting skills training and better



public transport.

Because of the Bank Holiday on 28 August, the waste collections in that week will be one day later than normal. We hope you all enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and the Summer holidays.

There is no 'Meet your Councillors' in August because of holidays. The next meet you Councillors is on Wednesday 20 September at 6.30pm at Brinkley Memorial Hall.

# **Swaffham Prior Village Hall**

## **August**

**Please note the Hall will be closed for redecoration between Monday 14th August and Sunday 27th August.**

Whilst some of our regular groups are continuing to meet during the summer many are taking a break and starting again in September. Please refer to your event organiser for full details.

**SF-Fit Pilates & Keep Fit to music**

Contact Sarah on 075999072008

**Eastern Counties T'ai Chi for All**

Contact Sharyn on 0774017917

**Slimming World**

Contact Sharon on 07760192638

**WI Meeting**

Contact Margaret on 01638 744390

**PhysiOptima Pilates**

Contact Kristin on 07799323867

**T'ai Chi for beginners & Tea for All**

Contact Fara on 07919857617

**Village Gardeners**

Contact Margaret on 01638 744390

**Art History**

Contact [deborah.monteiro@btinternet.com](mailto:deborah.monteiro@btinternet.com)

***Would you like to hire the hall for your special event?***

***If so visit [www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk) to check availability, find prices and to make a booking.***

***For everything else call Philip Blackburn on 07501230256***

## **Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting**

Cllr Covill chaired a meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 13th July, attended by 8 parish councillors and 1 member of the public.

### **Public participation.**

It was noted that emails received did not always appear on the PC website, for example if containing confidential information or information that did not apply to the Swaffham Prior Parish.

### **Matters arising from previous minutes.**

Cllr Greenfield had consulted with CGM regarding weed spraying of the cemetery path and received a quote £75 plus VAT, which the PC accepted.

### **Correspondence.**

Email from Chippenham PC regarding lack of communication between Cllr Josh Schumann and PCs. The PC agreed in principle, suggesting that quarterly attendance in person or provision of a report would be a suitable amount of regular contact.

Emails from ECDC regarding availability of Pride of Place grant and East Cambs Community grants for projects.

Email from GCP representative regarding the results of the meeting on Tuesday 13th June. A virtual meeting had taken place between representatives of GCP, Cllrs Latchford and Greenfield; the GCP response to the meeting had been emailed and circulated. Cllr Greenfield had written a response for approval of the PC which was read out to the meeting, noting factual mistakes in the record of the meeting and again requesting a site visit. The PC agreed to send this response.

### **Repairs and restoration of five benches**

Cllr Kent-Phillips explained that 3 PC-owned benches had needed repairs and the immediate proximity to them clearing (in one case of broken glass) for a cost of £180.00 – this had been agreed on the grounds of health and safety of members of the public. 5 more benches also need work. In total repairs and restoration to 5 benches were quoted to cost £230.00 by Viv Elston. The PC accepted this quote.

### **Co-option of a new councillor onto the Parish Council.**

Kate Muscroft was co-opted to the Parish Council by a unanimous vote.

### **Letter sent to the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership regarding the proposed Greenways.**

The PC noted that due to constraints of time, the response had been sent before this meeting, so without a signature from Swaffham Prior PC. The email had been copied to CCC councillors and to Lucy Frazer MP.

### **New plan of the B1102 allotments.**

Cllr Latchford explained the current condition of the B1102 allotments and explained a plan to leave the three current plots as they are and clear and mark out three more. The PC agreed to this. Cllr Latchford will now get quotes to clear the three new plots of vegetation and will produce a map with the plots identified for the website. Once this is done, the clerk will be able to offer the unrented plot to those on the waiting list.

### **Letter from several PCs regarding a lack of interaction and/or**

## **responsiveness from the CCC representative for the area.**

The PC agreed to co-sign a letter once the contents were agreed, and suggested that a quarterly attendance/report from CCC would be an acceptable level of communication.

### **Report on Heating Scheme.**

76 properties now have external works fitted and 36 are receiving heat from the heating scheme. Connections are now moving at a faster rate although there are still difficulties on the supply chain for some parts.

Cllr Latchford asked if further road closures would be necessary? Cllr Greenfield said he didn't know but if there are it should be minimal.

### **Clerk's Report.**

The new playground equipment is expected to be completed on 7th August – installation date yet to be confirmed.

### **Parish Councillors' Reports.**

Cllr Gynn noted that the winner of the Gay Bulleid Award had yet to be notified, due to confusion as to how this was done. The clerk is to notify the winner, update winners list on the back of the painting and then pass on to Cllr Covill for presentation.

Cllr Gynn also noted that the re-tarmacking of Lower End was due to the completion of all scheduled Heating Scheme attachments for that road.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that following contact with County Broadband, he had been informed that the intention was to use BT ducting and had explained that this was not available for Greenhead Road, Adams Road and Tothill Road. Cllr Greenfield noted that where ducting was not an option, the intention was to have the majority of works along pavements and verges, therefore minimizing disruption to roads.

Cllr Greenfield had attended a meeting organized by the A-B1102 group, involving representatives of all the affected Parish Councils, to discuss reactions to PC interactions with the GCP. Only Swaffham Prior had not been offered a face-to-face meeting. (Update; a site visit has now been arranged).

A-B1102's proposed alternative bus system had reportedly caught the interest of politicians and is being discussed. A former Highways professional was looking into preparing a survey of what parishioners want from a transport system and A-B1102 ask that PCs promote responding to it once it is available.

Cllr Lambert noted that the footpath from Lower End to the old railway line is now very overgrown and volunteered to cut it back.

### **Open Question Time**

A member of the public noted changes to the collection times from the Greenhead Road post box. If anyone would like any further information on any of the above items, please contact the Clerk.

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10th August 2023 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

***Jude Griffiths – Clerk to the Parish Council. Email [swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com](mailto:swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com)***

## Services in the Anglesey Group of Churches:

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



### **August and September 2023**

#### **Wednesday 2 August**

8pm Compline by Candlelight, on Zoom – a contemplative service

#### **Sunday 6 August**

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham – with **Bishop Dagmar**

Morning Worship, Swaffham Bulbeck

4pm Village Worship, Quay Village Hall

#### **Sunday 13 August**

9am Online service, on Zoom

Holy Communion, Quay

10.30am Family Worship or Matins, Swaffham Prior

#### **Sunday 20 August**

9am Online service, on Zoom

Morning Prayer, Quay

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Morning Prayer, Bottisham

#### **Sunday 27 August**

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Prior

#### **Sunday 3 September**

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham – with Bishop Dagmar

Morning Worship, Swaffham Bulbeck

4pm Village Worship, Quay Village Hall

#### **Wednesday 6 September**

8pm Compline by Candlelight, on Zoom – a contemplative service

#### **Sunday 10 September**

9am Online service, on Zoom

Holy Communion, Quy  
10.30am Harvest Festival, Swaffham Prior

### **Sunday 17 September**

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

### **Sunday 24 September**

9am Online service, on Zoom  
10.30am Holy Communion (BCP), 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk), also the address to request the Zoom link.

## **Newmarket Community Cinema**

Please find below details of our film shows for July - September 2023 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket. Please note we are still only having a showing on Monday,

August 21st - Educating Rita (15)

September 18th - Allelujah (12A)

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.

# Dates for Your Diary August/September 2023

		AUGUST
Fri	11	Wellbeing Walks, Wicken Fen [17] (plus other Fridays)
Fri	18	POP Litter Pick , 10.30am, meet at sheds by the play park [7]
Mon	21	Newmarket Cinema, The Stable, Newmarket High St, 7.30pm [27]
Wed	23	Dragonfly Collage Workshop, Wicken Fen [17] (plus other dates)

		SEPTEMBER
Wed	6	Bookclub, 6pm, location tba [20]
Sat	9	Village Harvest Show & Dog Show, VH, 1.45 [6]
Thu	14	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sun	17	Lino Print Workshop, Wicken Fen [14]
Mon	18	Newmarket Cinema, The Stable, Newmarket High St, 7.30pm [27]
Tue	19	The Story of Venice, Art Class, VH, afternoon [15]
Wed	20	The Story of Venice, Art Class, VH, morning[15] Meet the Councillors, Brinkley Village Hall, 6.30pm [22]
Fri	22	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b> Mucky Pups, Wicken Fen [14]
Sat	23	Vision Festival, Wicken Fen [14]
Fri	29	Macmillan Coffee Morning, 10.30-12 noon., The Oaks [2, 8]

		OCTOBER
Sun	1	Prior Fen Chapel Harvest Festival, CB7 5JY, 3pm [9]

*Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article*

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS			2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Variable		
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	6.00pm	TBA
Village Gardeners	Ruth Scovil	743720	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall