



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVII Number 1
January-February 2023



Editorial

Goodbye Sue! Our lovely Vicar is leaving us and you can see the report of her leaving do on our centre pages. This was a splendid affair, starting with her last service in the Church (bar two funerals she will still attend) which was packed to the gunwales and then followed by a magnificent spread in the village hall. Many thanks are due to chief-organiser Dee Noyes and all her many helpers, and all our good wishes go to Sue and Jonathan in their retirement.

We won the Boxing Day Hockey! For the first time since the trophy was purchased apparently! Read Mandy Kingsmill's blow-by-blow account on page 9. The trophy should go on display in the Red Lion, but alas our pub is shut again, and no news about when it will re-open, but we very much hope soon.

Many thanks to Kate Musgrove for her beautiful account of Advent by Candlelight in this month's issue, it was indeed a magical do and if you missed it this year, do give it a try next—it's well worth the St Cyriac's chill.

What better way to start the New Year than with a new hobby? Mandy Kingsmill and Janet Willmott have been learning to ring the church bells and are encouraging us all to have a go in preparation for the King's coronation. It would be wonderful if Swaffham Prior could have its own bell-ringing team again, and we look forward to hearing the results down at this end of the village..

Meanwhile, the Council have been courting controversy by testing the gravestones, some say to destruction. If they wobble under this process, they are knocked over and laid down flat, but did they wobble before? This reminds me of a friend's encounter with a dentist: "This tooth is coming loose, sir" - "Well, don't wobble it then!"

And a belated Happy New Year, everyone! This year, there were difficulties in getting a January issue out in anything like a timely fashion, so we decided to run a combined Jan-Feb issue instead. We have talked about doing this before, but in practice we're still not sure if it's a good plan...

Many thanks to everybody who helped with the magazine last year: our distributors and correspondents and not the least those of our loyal advertisers who have remained with us despite the vagaries of the pandemic. Don't forget Pancake Tuesday!

Caroline Matheson

Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Julie's Recipes	14
Heating Scheme	15
Bon Mot	24
CROSSWORD	18
Village Gardeners	20
Freecycle	20
WI	21
Mothers' Union	21
Clubs Cane and Trapp	22
Wicken Fen	25
PC Report	26
Church Services	31
Diary and Clubs	32

News, Views & Reviews

SB Christmas Fair Thankyou	6
Advent by Candlelight	8
Boxing Day Hockey	9
Learn Belling!	10
Time to get walking	11
Sue Giles Retirement	16

What's On

Village Hall Events	9
Anglesey in Stiches	12
Village Gardeners Calendar	13

Cover Picture: *Galanthus Snowdrops* by **Rachael Ainscough**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Heating Scheme

I understand that the attached (last months Heating Scheme letter) went out in the latest crier. Unfortunately I did not see the attached email in time so that we could provide comment and correct the information in the article. It is again inaccurate and can provide the context but I fear this will just perpetuate more inaccuracies and my name being published again.

Instead, please see attached (p15) for an update to add to your next edition.

If there is an article that will be published, please send to the HeatingSwaffham-Prior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk email and someone in the team will be able to view it and provide comment.

Maggie

Sorry, Maggie, we can't always guarantee to give sneak previews, but we will endeavour to see our website is up-to-date. Eds

An open letter to Maggie Pratt

Hello Maggie,

The Heath Footpath

I think this was another SPHN bold, but untrue statement.

Just removing the fencing is not correctly reinstating – ie returning to original state.

Have you walked it? If you do you will see that the ground has not been levelled in several places.

Please correctly reinstate and level the ground along the route of the public footpath, then you can correctly claim to have reinstated the path.

Here's hoping, so many thanks.

Peter Hart

Dear Peter

...And from Maggie

Thank you for your email. Can you clarify if you are referring to the path that cuts across the field at the Energy Centre Site?

Also, I am not sure what statement you are referring to. We provided an update to the Crier in November that the public footpath across the borehole field had been reopened on 1 November but we recognise that this needs to be reinstated which is currently being planned in.

Maggie

Dear Editors,

The Upware Chain Ferry

I am wondering if you, or someone in your readership, can clarify when the Upware chain ferry closed please.

In a Swaffham Crier article "Wicken Lode Cock-up Bridge and the Fen Drovers" from 2003 (*See our web archive at www.swaffham-crier.co.uk, Eds*), Joy Fuller, says that it was still being used in 1910 but doesn't say when it ceased to operate. I would be most grateful if someone can help me on this.

Neil Ford
07702 505 703

Dear Editors,

Re Dog Waste Bin at the playground.

In response to a request for another dog waste bin to be put by the playground gate, East Cambs have said they will monitor the area to see if there is a need. If you see dog fouling in the village please report it to East Cambs via their website, otherwise the village is unlikely to get another bin.

Many thanks

Jude Griffiths
On behalf of Swaffham Prior Parish Council.

HELP REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY OF THE SWAFFHAM CRIER

Is there anyone who could help with the delivery of the Swaffham Crier on the Church side of the High Street? Please contact Pam Waters 01638 741035 (Distribution Manager) for more details.

As a result of safety checks to the grave stones in the cemetery, 31 stones were found to be unstable and laid down. I will contact the owners of these stones where I can, but if you would like to get in touch with me earlier, please do at swaffhampri-orclerk@gmail.com or on 01638 745 106

Jude Griffiths
Clerk to Swaffham Prior Parish Council

From our Reporter

December thoughts

Our Parish Council now has another interesting question to consider as well as the Heating Scheme.

On 6th December Sustrans held a meeting in Burwell to discuss cycle routes. I am reliant for all the following on Jude's excellent PC minutes. The only gap is that it appears the conclusions of the Sustrans meeting was given in an "Appendix" – which I could not locate. It seems that two possible routes were proposed. One was along the old railway line though none of the owners of this have yet been approached. Agreement may be difficult. And the other is along the existing one along the B1102.



John Trapp favoured the railway route but John is a such cycling enthusiast that he finds it hard to appreciate that not everyone is able to cycle. About three years ago I discussed this with John and mentioned some of my difficulties. He thought none were any reason for my not jumping onto a bike. The mind boggles at the thought of a large number of geriatrics on the cycle paths.

The other route was that the path should come through the village. There were the inevitable objections, though some PC members thought it a good idea. This is certainly going to make a lively village discussion and for a time will put the Heating Scheme into the shade.

**Our
congratulations
must go to
Charlotte Cane
for having been
selected as the
Parliamentary
candidate for
South East
Cambridgeshire.**

I have not followed all the arguments for extending cycle paths throughout the nation. I can see that it is welcome for the relatively few serious cyclists on their racing machines, and also for families at the weekend, and for the retired who like gentle cycling exercise and viewing the countryside. And other small groups. But I think the aim is to get cars off the road. This would reduce carbon emissions in an effort to combat climate change. But how would this be in practice?

At peak time about 1,000 cars an hour pass along Mill Hill. Just suppose that just 40% of the drivers and passengers are persuaded to cycle. It would make a wonderful cartoon. Extend in your mind the result of 400 cyclists every peak hour cycling along Mill Hill, along the new cycle path, with more being added as they make their way to Cambridge. What would be very helpful if Sustrans or its local representative would put a statement and report in the Crier with all the facts and intentions. Then the Village will be able to form views

There were no objections to the application for a private underground power cable from the North Angle Solar Farm to the Swaffham Prior Energy Centre. The route has yet to be decided. This is such a far cry from those early days when power for the Scheme was to be from a new gas pipe connection from somewhere near the A14. Such is progress. Steve asked David why the Scheme was having such a "slow attachment rate". David explained that there was a significant level of bureaucracy involved, but that it "should get slicker". What on earth could this unforeseen

bureaucracy be? The connection points are only a couple of feet away from the private property. It will certainly need to be “slicker” if they are going to meet Maggie's most recent completion date of June 2023.

As with Cycle Paths the Heating Scheme will at some point need to be reviewed in the “Big Picture”. This has to come.

Nationally and internationally what a year it has been. For the last three or four years we had concluded at the end of each year that there has never such a bad one. 2022 is the worst yet and concluded with that dreadful storm in the America with temperatures achieving minus 45. Prior to that we had, amongst other happenings, Sue Gray at the start of the year, followed by the Ukrainian War, then the Queen's jubilee, The Queen's death, the new King, the three Prime Ministers, all enlightened by Matt Hancock's antics, and the Meghan/Harry entertainments. The only thing missing was the Partygate enquiry.

Only the *Guardian* at the beginning of August showed any concern. Surely this was prime press material. Then on 27 November Sky News revealed all. The documents had been requested by the Privileges Committee in July. In spite of constant reminders and demands the documents were not passed to the Committee until 18th November. Now they have to be carefully gone through before the evidence sessions can begin. This will take us well into the New Year. The name Sue Gray will once appear once again. This matter will have gone full circle. In the meantime Boris earned £1million with his after dinner speeches.

Our congratulations must go to Charlotte Cane for having been selected as the Parliamentary candidate for South East Cambridgeshire. And at long last ECDC has agreed that dog waste can be put in the normal waste bins. Wales introduced this five years ago. Just as Wales was charging for plastic bags five years before Michael Gove introduced it here. At the time he received so much applause for this climate saving measure.

One cannot leave the old year without a positive wish for the new. Having just watched *Calendar Girls* I just wondered whether our increasingly vibrant WI would consider producing their own calendar. This was probably discussed by all WIs at the time, but it is nearly twenty years since the film. Surely worth a thought, and putting on the agenda.

January Thoughts

Potholes! Potholes! Potholes! Ten days of frost and up they pop. The AA reckons that it takes £39.80 just to fix one. So if one thousand it will cost the CCC £40,000.

But does it really cost £39.80 per pot hole? If we had a CCC representative we could ask him. What I always say is that if you take too many jobs you are bound to be hopeless at some.

A number of years ago John Covill, our PC Chairman, gave a detailed description of potholes being repaired in his neck of the woods. It was all recorded in the *Crier* but like so much other interesting village history and material this is probably lost forever. Unless someone wishes to trawl through all the back issues and create an index. Or, if ever OCR becomes so cheap and easy. Meantime I wonder if John could remember what he said. Be good to hear it again.

Climate Change continues to remain top of the agenda and will remain so. This is the second year of King Charles III reign, when he is now recognised as being a

true and brave early crusader against our abuse of the planet. Almost fifty years ago he was considered a bit of a nutter. Now it is only appropriate to remind people that he was not the first. In the second year of the reign of King Charles II in 1662 was published a work giving the same warnings. This was by John Evelyn, that great seventeenth century diarist. Dedicated to Charles II it is called:

FUMIFUGIUM:

or, the Inconvenience of the AER, and SMOAKE of LONDON dissipated. Together with some REMEDIES humbly propofed by J.E. Efq; To His Sacred Majestie, and To the Parliament now Affembled. MDCLXI.

Coal was the villain and it was recognised then. Come the Industrial Revolution and the world's doom was sealed. Should not the National Trust and others track down all those grand houses and families who had an interest in coal mines. Should they not all be outed, and compensation sought where possible. Coal emits that dreaded PM2.5 from which almost 6% of adults (over 30 years of age) die each year. On the other hand coal still has its use. On 23 January the National Grid put on standby two coal-fired plants because of predicted increased cold, wind loss, and, and, and.

Will the Gay Bulleid prize be awarded this year? Covid has prevented it for the last two years. Let's hope Sandra Gynn can arrange it. There is still time. And perhaps it is the year when Martin Mead should receive it. He was born in the village and ever since has done so much for it over the years.

Alastair Everitt

Eds note: Googling Swaffham Crier Colvill potholes comes up with some likely suggestions in answer to Alastair's question.

Thank you for your support Swaffham Bulbeck Christmas Fair

Thank you very much to all of you who came to the Swaffham Bulbeck Christmas Fair. It makes such a difference when those in surrounding villages support other village events. We were so pleased to see so many visitors and I'm delighted to say that we raised a total of £2,102.45.

It was a lovely event, with food, gifts, plants, decorations and art for sale; and complimentary mulled wine and mince pies. For the first time we charged a £1 entrance fee, and were able to see that 125 adults came to the event, children being free of charge.

All proceeds from the Christmas Fair go to charity. The amount raised means we are able to continue supporting our projects in Mara: sponsoring a student at Bunda Girls School; and sending funds to support the vital work of the Safe House, which gives refuge to girls in danger of FGM. St. Mary's Church benefited too, as the cost of keeping this ancient church safe and in good repair for future generations is considerable.

This year's Swaffham Bulbeck Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 2 December 2023, 10am-12 noon.

Lucinda Collison

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Looking to try something new in 2023?

How about one of the regular groups that meet each week listed below

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

Are you looking to celebrate a special occasion with a party; start a new group or just need more space for your existing one. For availability, prices or to make a booking go to www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk. For everything else call Philip Blackburn on 07501230256

Advent by Candlelight at the Churches of St Mary and SS Cyriac and Julitta

Ian de Massini and Cambridge Voices
Sunday 27 November 2022

Twenty-seven years ago the unique Advent by Candlelight concert was first performed in Swaffham Prior and it was thrilling that this year, after a two year enforced break, we were once again able to celebrate the start of Advent with Ian de Massini and the Cambridge Voices, also marking the 30th anniversary of the choir. Being new to the Churches of St Mary and SS Cyriac and Julitta, I was not sure what to expect and I was enchanted by both the music and the readings, which not only threaded seamlessly together, but which also held a few surprises.

The readings explored the theme of Advent and encouraged us to question and challenge many of our conventional ideas. TS Eliot stood centre stage with several extracts from the Four Quartets. The relationship between men and time, the need for spirituality and the importance of consciousness and existence were touched upon. The poetry from John Piper, Denise Levertov and Emily Dickinson reminded us of the idea of choice, courage and freewill of acceptance when it comes to destiny and decision making. A more light-hearted reading was Fanthorpe's poem written from the point of view of the donkey. Even this encouraged us to think about Advent in a different light.

The candlelit interior of St Mary's was a magical backdrop to the choir's evocative rendition of *Vox clara ecce intonate* by Gabriel Jackson, who this year is celebrating his 60th birthday. *Autumn leaves*, arranged by Ian de Massini, was sung beautifully and the poignancy of the French lyrics was enchanting. The concert continued with a beautiful traditional English carol arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, yet another birthday celebrant born 150 years ago. Ian de Massini's arrangement of The Ukrainian Bell Carol brought the sounds of bells pealing into the church, followed by the moving and emotional Prayer for Ukraine with the music by Valentyn Silvestrov and words by Ian de Massini.

Before walking across to the rather chilly SS Cyriac and Julitta's Church we were held spellbound by a solo version of the traditional English folk-ballad, *Dives & Lazarus*. The clarity of the story telling together with the traditional tune, which many of us might know from The Star of the County Down, was mesmerising. The single voice was followed by the Cambridge Voices, which then crescendoed into the congregational hymn. Pure magic.

The acoustics in St Cyriac's were perfect for the compositions by the two late Renaissance composers, Thomas Tomkins (this year being the 450th anniversary of his birth) and Peter Philips. A final rousing congregational hymn nearly brought the concert to an end but not before the Cambridge Voices gave us their rendition of *I wanna sing!* By Ian de Massini, based on the melody of the Mexican pop-song, La Bamba. A toe-tapping and heartwarming end to a wonderful evening of Advent by Candlelight.

There are many people to thank for making this evening so special and making sure that this unique village event remains firmly on the Advent calendar. Thank you to Ian de Massini and Andrew Grant for putting together a programme in which the music and spoken words complemented each other beautifully. Thank you to the Cambridge Voices whose melodic tones painted so many pictures. Thank you to the

readers drawn from the village of Swaffham Prior and nearby. And a final thanks to the many people who provided the delicious mulled wine and mince pies, who helped with the tickets, the lighting and the programmes. All proceeds from the concert went to the invaluable work of the local branch of EMMAUS. The warmth of St Mary's was carried home with us all that evening.

Kate Muscroft

Boxing Day Hockey Match 2022

It has been 3 years since the last hockey match, thanks to Covid and a Boxing Day downpour in 2021. This year the teams assembled again with enthusiasm and treated a huge crowd of spectators to four quarters of very entertaining hockey. Swaffham Prior welcomed some new players, some regulars, and some returning after a break, it was great to see you all! Two very well matched sides worked tirelessly for three of the quarters but the score was still nil-nil and everyone was well aware that one score could win the game.

Halfway through the last quarter Swaffham Prior triumphed in a goal-mouth scramble (with some diversionary tactics employed!) and the score was 1-0; and so it remained, Swaffham Prior winning the trophy (see photo) for the first time since it was purchased many years ago.

Congratulations to all for a very enjoyable game and we hope to have the trophy on display in the Red Lion soon. Thanks again to David Turner for organising the Bulbeck team, preparing the pitch and collecting for MAGPAS. Thank you to Jo Jones for umpiring with style and keeping everything flowing, also to Phil Kingsmill for running up and down the touchline.

Mandy Kingsmill



LEARN BELLRINGING AND RING FOR THE KING

Plans are already being made to ring the bells at St Cyriac's on 6th May for the Coronation of King Charles III.

If you would like to help celebrate that historic event there is an opportunity to **start learning bell ringing now**.

We are recruiting people to join the bell ringing team and keep the bells of Swaffham Prior sounding out for royal, church, and village events as they have done for more than two hundred years.

We can currently accommodate up to 4 new recruits. Would you like to learn together as a couple or as a whole family (we are particularly keen on attracting young people)? Would it help you towards a Duke of Edinburgh award or a school project? Are you retired and looking to combine volunteering with learning a new skill?

If you might be interested, email Gareth Davies (swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com) to arrange a taster session at which you can see the bells and find out what is involved. Even if you then decide its not for you, we guarantee that you will have an interesting and informative one-off experience.

To give you an idea of what you might expect, two recent recruits, Janet Willmott and Mandy Kingsmill, describe their experiences since beginning to learn in September.



Learning to ring the Bells!

We thought it would be fun, we thought it would be a challenge – we were right on both counts but had absolutely no idea just how much we were going to enjoy ourselves. An hour and a half practice session whizzes by when you are concentrating so hard. The focus on what you are doing allows no stray thoughts at all!

We started on the silent practice bell in the church tower at Swaffham Bulbeck under the patient, experienced and amazing tutelage of Gareth and Lesley. The emphasis is on learning the correct techniques and skills right from the start, so no bad habits are formed that will hinder progress as you move on from doing not only the back strokes or hand strokes (with lots of assistance) to attempting, and achieving, doing one, two then three or four complete pulls all on your own. The feeling of accomplishment is immense.

Initially we met twice a week to really get us off to a good start so we could get lots of practice and progress to a point where at the monthly group practice in St Mary's Swaffham Prior in January this year, we both rang in a round of six. We weren't brilliant, and certainly not faultless, but neither of us could believe what we had achieved in such a short space of time. Even when we weren't ringing, we learnt a lot, just watching the talented ringers that were there that evening. It has

certainly given us something to aspire to.

There are many opportunities to ring at other towers all over the country, it is a very social activity, and we are both looking forward to making the most of the numerous sessions that are held more locally once we are of a standard to be able to do so. One of the team sent a recent holiday snap of themselves ringing in the Cathedral in Cape Town – now there's a thought!

Come and join us, try it out – you won't regret it.

Mandy Kingsmill & Janet Willmott
Aspiring, but still very very novice ringers:-)

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Cambridgeshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cambridge> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cambridgeshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk





Keen Knitter?

Crazy about Crochet?

Mad for Macrame?

Bring your needles and balls of wool!

Here's two local, relaxed social gatherings, for all levels of skill and interest

Lode & Bottisham

Day	Date	Month	Location
Tuesday	3rd	January 2023	'Anglesey in Stitches' Lode , The Shed
Wednesday	18 th		'Wool & Wine Wednesdays' Bottisham , The Bell
Tuesday	31 st		'Anglesey in Stitches' Lode , The Shed
Tuesday	7 th	February 2023	'Anglesey in Stitches' Lode , The Shed
Wednesday	15 th		'Wool & Wine Wednesdays' Bottisham , The Bell
Tuesday	21 st		'Anglesey in Stitches' Lode , The Shed
Tuesday	7 th	March 2023	'Anglesey in Stitches' Lode , The Shed
Wednesday	15 th		'Wool & Wine Wednesdays' Bottisham , The Bell
Tuesday	21 st		'Anglesey in Stitches' Lode , The Shed

Anglesey in Stitches Further Information:

- ☛ Every odd numbered **Tuesday** of the month, **more than once a month at 8pm**
- ☛ Email Clare to be added to the distribution list clarewilkes33@btinternet.com

Wool & Wine Wednesdays Further Information:

- ☛ Every third **Wednesday** of the month, **once a month at 7:30pm**
- ☛ Keep up to date via the [Bottisham Events Facebook Page](#)





SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE GARDENERS



Programme for 2023

Tuesday 17th January	Sharka Baxter	Born to Garden
Tuesday 21st February	Nigel Start	Coping with Climate Change
Tuesday 21st March	Pam Bullivant	National Garden Scheme
Tuesday 18th April	Paula Dyason	The Day of the Daylily
Tuesday 16th May	Peter Jackson	Drought Resistant Plants
Tuesday 6th June	Evening Visit	Janet Hall's Garden, Reach
Tuesday 20th June	Evening Visit	Isaacson's, High St, Burwell
Saturday 1st July	Coach Outing	Saville Garden, Windsor Gt. Park
Tuesday 18th July	Evening Treat	Summer Garden Party in a Member's Garden
Tuesday 17th October	AGM	
Tuesday 21st November	Margaret Nimmo-Smith	Fashion in Plants and Gardens

Indoor meetings at 8.00 pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Details of summer visits will be confirmed nearer the time

Membership: £20 per person

New members and visitors always welcome: £4 per evening

Co-chairs: Sophie Rowell 01638 602833 & David Whitehead 01638 742560

Treasurer: David Whitehead

Secretaries: Margaret Joyce 01638 744390 & Ruth Scovil 01638 743720

Julie's Burns Night Recipes

Haggis, Clapshot & Whisky sauce

500g haggis
500g floury potatoes, peeled and chopped
500g swede, peeled and chopped
50g butter
75ml cream
Salt and pepper
1 tbsp chopped fresh chives

For the whisky sauce
500ml double cream
2 tsp wholegrain mustard
1 tbsp Dijon mustard
2 tsp whisky
½ lemon, juice only

1. Preheat oven to 180C, wrap the haggis tightly in foil and bake in the oven for 45 mins - 1 hour

2. Meanwhile boil the potatoes and the swede in separate saucepans until tender, drain and mash thoroughly. Add the cream, butter and seasoning, mix them both together, stir in the chopped chives, set aside and keep warm.

3. Now for the Whisky sauce. Heat the cream in a pan on a medium heat, add the mustards and whisky, simmer and cook for 2 minutes. Remove from the pan, season and then whisk in the lemon juice.

4. To serve, place the clapshot (potatoes) onto plates with a portion of haggis alongside and spoon over the whisky sauce.

Serves 4

Cranachan

50g pinhead oatmeal
350g double cream
1 tbsp honey
150g raspberry coulis
2 tbsp good malt whisky

1. Toast the oatmeal in a dry frying pan until it has darkened in colour. Remove from pan to cool.

2. Whisk the cream with the whisky and the honey until it stands firm.

3. Assemble the dessert in either individual glasses or a large glass bowl, by forming layers of cream, coulis and oatmeal, to end with a layer of cream. Cover and allow to chill in the fridge for at least an hour.

Serves 4

Heating Scheme News—Connections Resume

We have started connecting customers to the heat network following the Christmas and New Year break. We are working on the installation at a couple of properties on Cage Hill and then will move to Green Head Road, Tothill Road and Adams Road. The outline schedule for the connections is shown below. We have a lot of connections to make and appreciate the patience of all our customers and members of the community as works take place. We will be connecting over 120 properties across the village to the heat network in the coming months and we will let customers know individually about any changes in the programme.

We have had great feedback from the first customers connected to the heat network. Customers are happy with the system and they have been pleased with the quality of the installation. Residents have found the controls easy to use and the units operate quietly. The system is keeping them warm - and has been throughout the recent spells of very cold weather. System users have also found that they have plenty of hot water.

Section A – Cage Hill	Start	End
Pre-installation Surveys	Completed	
External Works	Jan 2023	March 2023
Internal Works	Feb 2023	March 2023

Section B – Green Head & Tothill Road	Start	End
Pre-installation Surveys	Completed	
External Works	Jan 2023	March 2023
Internal Works	Feb 2023	March 2023

Section C – High Street	Start	End
Pre-installation Surveys	Completed	
External Works	Feb 2023	March 2023
Internal Works	Feb 2023	March 2023

Section D – Lower End to Rogers Road	Start	End
Pre-installation Surveys	Feb 2023	March 2023
External Works	April 2023	June 2023
Internal Works	May 2023	June 2023

Section E – Mill Hill to Fairview Road	Start	End
Pre-installation Surveys	Feb 2023	March 2023
External Works	April 2023	June 2023
Internal Works	May 2023	June 2023

There have been some articles recently in the Crier that has misinterpreted information. If you want to receive the latest information about the heating scheme, we can add you to our newsletter mailing list, please email us on the address below.

We want to assure you all that we are working very hard to ensure we provide you with high quality installations. This project is the first of its kind in the country and has provided us with challenges as it is historic where almost each home is unique.

If you have any questions about the heating scheme, please do not hesitate to contact us on heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Goodbye Sue!

Sue Giles Retirement Do

Swaffham Prior Village Hall, Sunday, 22nd January, 2023



Our much loved vicar, Sue Giles, has been the driving force of the Anglesey Benefice for ten years, always there, always doing something; difficult to catch on the phone but always available if needed; inspiring but accessible. I remember very clearly as part of the interviewing panel at Quy, thinking she was the outstanding candidate (the only woman) and desperately hoping everyone else would agree. She has been a blessing throughout her time with us though it hasn't been easy for her: coming from a single, large, urban parish to five diverse, rural parishes and bonding them into a more or less single unit has been a tremendous achievement. It took a considerable amount of effort on her part to do so, but the pattern of services we have now has be-

come settled. This has resulted in the villages getting to know each other better, to feel more a part of the wider church, and hopefully a little less parochial. We must not lose that. Her sermons have always been thoughtful and inspirational - (I wish she would print them so we can have a second go at them!), her christenings delightful, her funerals to die for!

Throughout her time with us she has reached out to the people around her; through her school work here and in Swaffham Bulbeck; with mothers and toddlers in Lode; with the film group for secondary youngsters; her regular visits to care homes in the Benefice, in fact to all those who had need of her, bringing her very special qualities of compassion and empathy to bear.

In all her time with us she has managed to maintain her own interests, passions and hobbies: home, horse, birds and of course, hens. We wish her and Jonathan every good wish in their retirement.

Brenda Wilson, Churchwarden





Just some of the delicious spread the five parishes combined prepared. As hosts, Swaffham Prior's job was to organise the drink and especially the fizz for the toast...

...and from Sue and Jonathan

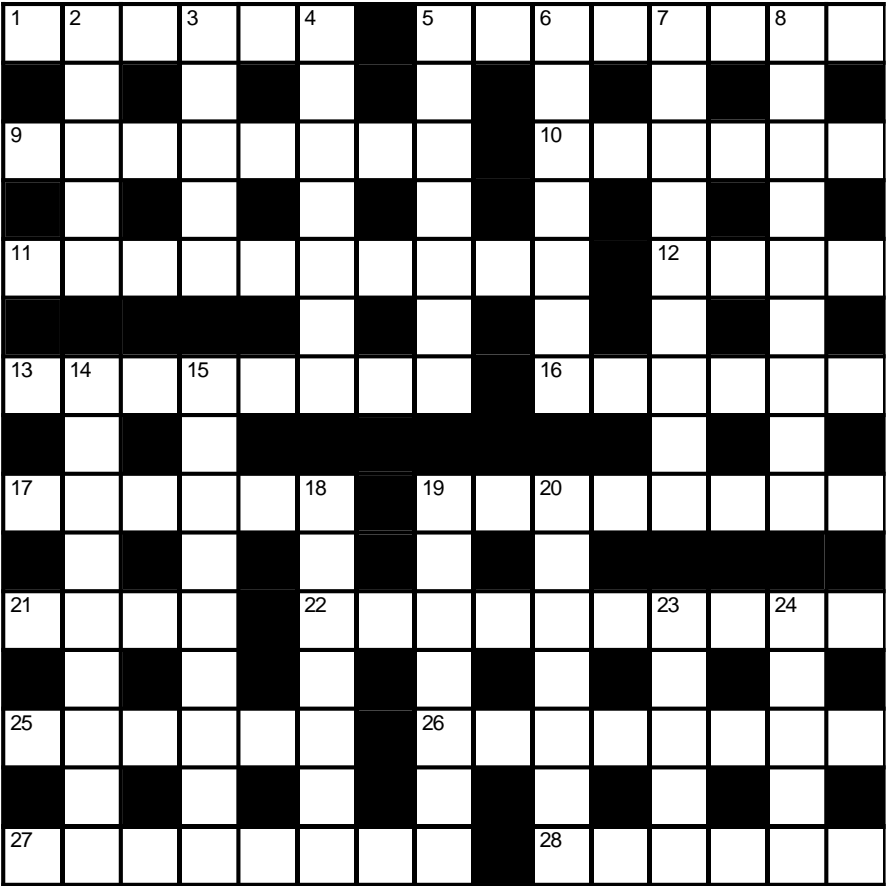
Thank you so much for our wonderful send off last Sunday. It was lovely to see so many friends gathered together. Also, a big thank you for the very generous cheque and the many other thoughtful gifts, some handcrafted. We were both very touched by your kindness. Hopefully my garden will flourish, and it will remind me of you all. We will miss you and would love to hear how you are getting on. With love and prayers,

Sue & Jonathan

Crossword Number 202

Compiled by **NIBOR**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 27th January 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 In charge? then step back to polar covering (3,3)
- 5 Speculate that the gold is found before the end of June (8)
- 9 Importers leave dodgy retirement pension at a young age (8)
- 10 Change head of state and old hag follows (6)
- 11 Second hand but mend and how smashing it looked (4-2-4)
- 12 Quarrel when Dad sat in street (4)
- 13 Join metals and swept old ruin (4-4)
- 16 Missile from former love on Central European Time (6)
- 17 Refuge admits fantasy lumberjack (6)
- 19 Outrage of Tory men I reformed (8)
- 21 Twinge starts Peter and Nigel grumbling (4)
- 22 Trap to get student, old boy, good man and old queen to go to Post Office on time (7,3)
- 25 Block the detailed lump (6)
- 26 I lug cars out with great precision (8)
- 27 Overturned pot; massive but unstable (3-5)
- 28 Did some gardening, we are pushing up the daisies it's said (6)

Down

- 2 Tea is around in the Far East (5)
- 3 Belief that North American language should end (5)
- 4 Give in to confused rep and lead the way (7)
- 5 X bend many times (7)

- 6 XNN is said to be the natural character (7)
- 7 Artist in gale and downpour (9)
- 8 Ritual in South Africa before car crash; but chaps arrive on time (9)
- 14 Thai cops I upset must be nuts (9)
- 15 Paper cable (9)
- 18 Reservists on motorway set fire to retreating robots (7)
- 19 Cigarettes found in legation (7)
- 20 Become too large taking in lager lout growls (7)
- 23 Lift up beams to the listener (5)
- 24 Speak or eat stew (5)

Solution to crossword no. 201

A	M	A	T	I		M	A	T	R	I	A	R	C	H
R		S		T		I	A		S		A		A	
C	H	I	A	S	M	A		T	R	A	M	C	A	R
H		A				S			A		I		S	
A	S	T	I	R		M	I	M	I	C		S	H	H
I		I		A				A				T		
S	I	C		S	T	A	R	R		M	A	S	T	S
T					T		T	I		A				C
S	A	C	R	A		T	R	A	C	T		T	A	I
		I				A			C		H		M	
A	R	T		S	A	R	A	H		H	A	I	T	I
T		H		H			A				R		T	
T	S	A	R	I	S	M		H	A	R	I	S	S	A
I		R		R		A		A		I		T		R
C	H	A	R	T	I	S	T	S		M	I	S	T	S

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



Village Gardeners

January 2023

Our talk this month, beautifully illustrated by power point, was by Sharka Baxter, entitled Born to Garden. She was born in the Czech Republic - then Czechoslovakia and as a small child, spent many years, living with her Grandmother, in a totally rural community.

Everything they grew, was harvested, pickled, bottled, made into jam, stored and eaten.

When she came to England, in her late teens and had children, her greatest wish was to create a garden, in which they could have as much fun and had learn as much about plants as she had done. Ponds seemed to figure quite highly! One of her sons loved frogs and they are the arch enemy- slugs.

She went to college and later volunteered at Anglesey Abbey and then Wimpole Hall for many years, where she said the real foundation of her practical skills for garden design was formed. Later she worked at Scotsdales where she did displays and later on garden design for their clients and what sounded most stressful of all, a Trade stand at Chelsea. This was obviously immensely enjoyable and rewarding.

She said that gardens ‘ make her heart dance ‘ and the whole talk was indeed a celebration of plants, colour and design. Utopian Gardens, her business, encourages, supports, inspires, guides and nurtures the clients for whom she’s designing.

Our next meeting is on February 21st, when Nigel Start from Gt Wilbraham, will talk on Coping with Climate Change.

All are very welcome.

Margaret Joyce

FREECYCLE



Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail (junthompson44@gmail.com) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues.

Offers

1 full-length lounge garden chair with full length green cushion.

6 Garden cushions, 4x maroon, 2xgreen

2 wicker cane chairs suitable for conservatory

Teresa 01223 811517

Old iPod 16gb and USB charging cable. Stuck on shuffle mode, so no good for audiobooks but is OK for music.

GU10 light bulbs.

Jacqui 01223 811190

Rabbit Hutch- approx 1m by 50cm. Ramp to access grass underneath.

Very good condition.

Apollo Fusion 10 speed racer. Flat front wheel - otherwise in very good order

Nick 07922 941530

Scruffy but working deep freeze 62x56x85 cm

Steve 07917 697259

Almost new 80/20 175cm tall retro style fridge freezer

Ciaran 07968 968844

The Swaffhams' WI

2023 started on a high with award-winning 'Lady Marmalade' Nikki Booth giving a talk on top tips as to how to make gold standard marmalade. Nikki, who lives in Burwell, started her business in 2010 after making a life changing career move from being an Employment Law Solicitor to creating a highly successful business making marmalade, jams and chutneys. Nikki talked us through how best to approach making orange marmalade using the traditional Seville oranges and her biggest tip was to scrub, take out the 'eye' of the orange and then freeze your batch of oranges before turning them into marmalade. She discussed playing with different flavours until you find the perfect combination and when not using Seville oranges Nikki encouraged us to think local with the produce we might use, including the sugar, when making our jams and chutneys. Apart from Nikki, who is the biggest influencer with regards to marmalade? Paddington, of course! The evening was inspirational and Nikki was keen to stress that the pleasure of making your own jams, marmalade and chutneys can be felt by the very young as well as those of us who have had a few more years to practise. A huge thank you to Nikki for her tips and advice and I certainly will be looking out for her produce at the local farmers' markets. Our next meeting will be on February 20th and our speaker will be Alison Giles from the Whipple Museum, talking about "Seeing Science". All are very welcome.

Kate Muscroft



Mothers' Union

At the time of writing, we look forward to the start of our 2023 programme. This year we are linking with the regular Thursday morning Holy Communion Service at St. James' Church, Lode on the 19th January for our New Year Holy Communion. This will be the last service Revd. Sue Giles will lead in Lode before

her retirement. Following the service, we will be serving a soup lunch in church to express our farewell and good luck to Sue and Jonathan.

Thank you to all of you who have donated used postage stamps to aid The Leprosy Mission. We began this project at the beginning of 2022 by placing a collection tray in Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck and Quy churches. Collection of postage stamps has been significant, with a total of four full carrier bags passed on to MU project co-ordinator. We hope this continues to be as successful in 2023.



Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month, at 2.30pm in Passage Hall, Lode. On 16th February we will be welcoming Ros Wright, who will speaking to us about Christ's Cross in the World. You are most welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langan

Last month we informed residents that the District Council's Advice Bus would visit Burwell every Thursday morning and Bottisham every Thursday afternoon. Unfortunately, this did not happen regularly in December for a variety of reasons. Although we are assured it will be visiting regularly on Thursdays from January, we must advise anyone planning on visiting the Advice Bus to ring ECDC on 01353 665555 first to check it is coming. Alternatively, the CAB in Newmarket offers phone advice Mon-Fri 9.30am-3.30pm on 0808 278 7868, or drop-ins Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.30-2.30.



The Operational Services Committee received the Q1 (April to June) performance report on waste and street cleansing services—a reminder of how long it took the Council to get to grips with the problems which led to our rubbish not being collected.

- Overall performance of the waste collection service: target 90 per cent, quarterly performance 33 per cent
- Overall performance of the street cleansing service: target 90 per cent, quarterly performance 21 per cent

Even by Q2 (July to September) waste collection performance had only recovered to 58 per cent against a target of 90 per cent, and street cleansing to 48 per cent also against a target of 90 per cent. As well as inconvenience to residents, these problems meant the crews were asked to work significant overtime in order to catch up on missed collections. Its hard work collecting our rubbish, and the crews deserve and need their rest days – they shouldn't have to work those days for several weeks in a row.

Another report to the Operational Services Committee on the condition of housing in East Cambridgeshire has produced some interesting headline findings.

- There are 37,556 dwellings in East Cambridgeshire. 72 per cent are owner occupied, 15 per cent private rented, and 13 per cent social rented.
- 5,338 dwellings in the private sector have Category 1 Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) hazards. This equates to 16 per cent of properties.
- 951 dwellings in the private rented sector have category 1 HHSRS hazards. This equates to 17 per cent of properties in the private rented sector.
- The average Simple SAP rating (checking energy performance) for all private sector dwellings in East Cambridgeshire is 58, which is worse than both England (60) and East of England (60). For owner occupied stock the figure is 57 and for private rented stock it is 61.
- The total cost of mitigating category 1 hazards in East Cambridgeshire's private

sector stock is estimated to be £20 million—16.5 million in the owner-occupied sector, and £3.6 million in the private rented sector.

- 10.7 per cent (3,487) of private sector dwellings, and 8.6 per cent (472) of private rented dwellings in East Cambridgeshire are estimated to have an EPC rating (based on Simple SAP) below band E.
- In the private sector stock, there are an estimated 4,680 dwellings with un-insulated cavity walls, and 3,251 dwellings with less than 100mm of loft insulation.
- Analysis of the energy efficiency variables indicates that the owner-occupied stock has the highest average figures for the majority of variables (Simple CO₂, energy and heat demand). The key objectives of the policy are to
- Enable elderly, vulnerable and disabled people to live in comfort and security in their homes.
- Increase the proportion of private sector housing that is of a decent standard, with a focus on those that are occupied by vulnerable households.
- Reduce fuel poverty.
- Support initiatives to bring long term empty homes back into use.
- Provide accessible information to the public to enable them to obtain assistance and advice on all matters around housing disrepair and energy efficiency.

The report concludes: “It is therefore important for East Cambridgeshire to develop suitable targeted strategies, policies and schemes to tackle these issues, working pro-actively with different departments and partner organisations, using enforcement action, where appropriate.

The Council’s Finance & Assets Committee agreed unanimously last month a new Interim Nature Recovery Network for East Cambridgeshire report and Biodiversity Net Gain document. The former document identifies a number of priority areas for biodiversity, namely Wicken Fen, the Ouse Washes and surrounds, Newmarket chalk grasslands, Chippenham Fen and River Snail, Breckland Edge, Soham grasslands, Boulder Clay woodlands, Chettisham Meadows to Ely North Country Park, and the river corridors of the Great Ouse, Cam, Lark, Little Ouse, and Soham Lode. The latter document is an interim working document prior to the implementation by the Government of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain expected in late 2023.

For January and February, we will be holding our Councillors’ Surgeries by zoom, to save people coming out in the cold and the dark. Our next Surgery Zoom will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17 January – Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by ‘phone, the number is 01314 601196. Or you can contact us directly at any time – charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk, 07976 607512; john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01223 812120

February: The Combined Authority found £3.5m this year, to provide the funds to keep the number 11, and other buses running for 6 months when Stagecoach suddenly pulled the services. They will shortly be finalising their budget for 2023/24 and Charlotte was a substitute member on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to review the draft budget. She was disappointed to find that only the £3.5m was included – only half what would be needed to keep the buses running for a year. She raised this and the rest of the Committee agreed to ask the Combined Authority to find at least £7m for each of the next two years to fund our bus services. This just maintains the current position, we still need improvements not least to get the number 11 stopping at Bottisham.

The Combined Authority is consulting on its bus strategy, with a closing date of Friday 24th February at 5pm - <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/news/>

[combined-authority-to-relaunch-6-week-bus-strategy-consultation/](#). There have been a lot of consultations recently, but if we want better bus services we need to take every opportunity to make the case.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Making Connections 2022 consultation closed on Friday 23 December. Around 23,000 responses were received, and the Greater Cambridge Partnership expects to publish a final report on the consultation outcomes and next steps, for consideration by its Board in June 2023.

The consultation is about proposals for public transport improvements, and better cycling and walking options, as well as about the element which has been most talked about—a congestion charge. We expect the proposals in the consultation, including the proposal for a congestion charge, to be significantly changed by the public response to the consultation. Indeed, we hope they will be, as we struggle to support them as they stand.

In December the Licensing Committee agreed to consult on the installation of CCTV in Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles, as set out by the Department for Transport. The consultation opened on December 19th and will end at 3pm on Monday 13th March 2023 - <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/licensing/licensing-policies>

There were some missed/late bin collections in January, because of problems with vehicles. The crews have worked overtime to catch up with the collections. If your collections are missed, please report that at - <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/east-cambs-street-scene/report-missed-collection> or call 01353 665555. You can also report it to us and we will chase it up for you.

Black bin bags are now being delivered to households. As we write, they have been delivered to about half of our villages – Lode, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior. They should be delivered to everyone by 31 January. If you haven't received yours, please report it to us and we will chase it up for you.

On the subject of waste, there is information about what can go in your green and blue bins and what needs special collections/disposal at - <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/east-cambs-street-scene/what-we-collect>

For February, we will be holding our Councillors' Surgery by zoom, to save people coming out in the cold and the dark. Our next Surgery Zoom will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15 February – Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196. Or you can contact us directly at any time – charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk, 07976 607512; john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01223 812120

BON MOT NUMBER 135

“My memory is my memory, it does what it does,
gathers and curates as it seems fit,
and there's as much truth in what I remember
and how I remember it as there is
in so-called objective facts.”

Prince Harry (1984 –)

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

World Wetlands Day is on 2 February, when we always celebrate with a guided walk to look for wetland wildlife around the reserve. Wicken Fen is one of Europe's most important wetlands, supporting over 9000 species, including plants, birds and invertebrates. 35% of the world's wetlands have disappeared in the last 50 years, so we're working hard to look after this special place. It is not only special as a wetland because of its biodiversity, but also for its ability to capture carbon. Our work as part of the Fens East Peat Partnership will help secure the peat that is so vital for nature, carbon capture, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Mucky Pups

Mucky Pups is back after the Christmas break. Parents and carers of pre-school children are invited to join us for outdoor adventures and nature exploration at the Fen. Pre-booking is advised for these sessions as spaces are limited. Sessions are monthly – the next 3 dates are: 24 February, 24 March, 28 April, 10:30am to 12pm. See our website for more details and to book.

February half term fun

There's lots of things at Wicken Fen to keep families busy over half term. From 10 February Follow our '**Birds at Work!**' trail on the Boardwalk to find out which birds are work on which nature 'jobs', before collecting your prize - a kit to make a bird feeder at home! £2 per trail, normal admission applies (free for NT members).

Children aged 6+ can book for a **Bird Collage workshop** on 14 February – it should be a real tweet for creative people! Learn how to use marbling and collage techniques to create a fantastic owl picture to take home. All materials provided. 10.30 – 12.00 or 13.00 – 14.30. £6 per child, must be accompanied (accompanying adults free).

Birdmania will arrive on 17 February, in the form of indoor craft for families with children aged 4+. No need to book in advance, just drop in anytime between 11.30 and 3pm to enjoy a selection of fun, bird-themed crafts. £3 per child, must be accompanied (accompanying adults free).

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website 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>



Notes from the SP Parish Council December Meeting

Cllr Covill chaired the December meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council, attended by 7 Parish Councillors and 1 member of the public.

Reports

East Cambridgeshire District Council – report circulated prior to meeting. Cllr John Trapp attended as representative. Cllr Trapp noted that the Community bus would not be in Burwell on 16th December and that he was involved in getting the bus to visit Swaffham Bulbeck as this would fit better with the current public transport bus routes. Cllr Trapp stated he is also looking into grants of money for new playground equipment.

Matters arising from previous minutes

Cllr Greenfield noted in response to a question, that the cost of the Heating Scheme has been £10.6 million. In response to a second question, the back-up boilers are electric.

Clerk's report

A) Sustrans meeting 6th December 2022 2.30-4pm Gardiner Hall, Burwell

Present: Sustrans, Fordham, Reach, Burwell, Swaffham Prior, ECDC

Sustrans are a charity, a collection of engineers, designers etc who want to improve the cycle network. They were asked to look at schemes for the area. ECDC putting money into developing cycle/walking routes, also involved in Cambridgeshire Greenways.

Local Transport Note 1/20 = guidance for best practice on designing these routes e.g. segregation of cyclists/cars/pedestrians, minimum width of 3m, sealed surface, proscribed width of segregation depending on volume and speed of traffic etc. Target of 50% walking/cycle journeys by 2030 – needed for climate targets but mainly aimed at urban areas; need much higher funding to cover rural.

Active Travel England police what is done by Highways and Local Authorities – if doesn't comply with guidelines, all funding has to be repaid.

Swaffham Prior to Burwell or SP-Reach-Burwell proposed routes:

1) Most direct route is B1102, other most direct route involves using the old train track. B1102 will require buying of private land to get separation required for busy, fast road, difficulties crossing the dyke (can't cut through, heritage may object to expensive bridge), difficulties moving through villages themselves as narrow twisty roads don't allow for segregation. Suggested one way system in Burwell using Isaacson Road, Newmarket Road, High Street triangle.

2) Old train track: Highly protected ecology/habitat – high risk that planning would be refused after expensive surveys, environmental reports etc BUT it is the obviously route – separate from road, direct, one of 3 places where dyke is breached (other 2 in Reach and at B1102). Suggestion of using cinder to make track as that is part of the unique habitat there already and would not require as much digging or use of tarmac. Sustrans suggested this could be looked at if there was enough support

There was also discussion of routes between Burwell-Fordham-Soham Station and Wicken-Soham

Need to persuade people – perhaps with mock-ups of segregated roads would look like, recognisable examples of where similar set-ups have worked.

Need for fully integrated systems e.g. hubs where can cycle to, then get train/bus.

Need to entice people to use rather than force them out of cars. Good system will be used, poor system will not and need to be accessible at as many as possible for good cost/benefit.

Also need crossing to Waterbeach Station, particularly if Cambridge North is within the congestion zone.

What were ECDC looking for? Projects they can invest in that will give results. Can't fund whole projects but could contribute to preparation for applying to those who can.

Next steps:

- Need short, medium and long term ideas – can get “quick fixes” while working on other projects.
- Don't think of cycling in isolation; joined up, speed reduction schemes, consult with all, get CCC on board.
- Choose preferred routes and look at how to get them.
- 5 years proposed before congestion charges arrive, so need to find solutions in that time.

Cllr Trapp noted that the railway route seemed the obvious choice as it was away from the busy B1102, and arrived in Burwell at a better and safer point. It was established that the owner of the railway track had not been approached yet.

Cllr Latchford noted that the B1102 was the most direct and used by cyclists currently. Cllr Greenfield noted that cyclists had no other cycle path to use.

Cllr Latchford stated that bringing a cycle route through the village would cause problems of congestion, could cause problems for access for those unable to use active travel and could result in vulnerable pedestrians mixing with cyclists. Some other councillors disagreed.

b) Dog waste bin for the playground. The Clerk reported that ECDC have said that dog waste can be put in normal bins and that for now, they will monitor for a problem with dog fouling. Therefore any dog fouling needs to be reported to the ECDC through the relevant page on their website.

Correspondence for consideration.

Email regarding the results of the Rogers Road speed monitoring.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the numbers of vehicles were roughly 15 an hour at peak times, compared to over 1000 an hour along the B1102 through the village. The direction chosen for the SID to face was because that was the direction the car came from involved in the collision. Given the lack of a significant speeding problem shown, the PC agreed that there was no justifiable reason for either putting the SID up facing the other way or investing in a permanent speed awareness fixture.

Repairing/replacing the speed awareness signs on Mill Hill

After discussion, it was agreed that the PC order two replacement signs with the speed and smiling/frowning face display.

Replacing playground equipment

The PC is looking into more grants and the Clerk to ask Wicksteeds to update their quote.

Report on Heating Scheme

A report was circulated and made available to the public prior to the meeting. 5 houses are connected and 2 more being worked on.

Cllr Covill noted that manhole covers were thawing/drying from some source of

heat; Cllr Greenfield to feed back to check insulation.

Cllr Kent-Phillips asked about the slow attachment rate. Cllr Greenfield stated that there was a significant level of bureaucracy involved but that it should get slicker.

Cllr Gynn noted considerable frustration from some people regarding the wait, e.g. ordering oil to keep heating going is tricky when it's unknown how long it will be required.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Gynn reported that the school had had an Ofsted inspection and has emailed the school to ask for a report for the PC in the New Year.

Cllr Latchford reported that the Allotment Inspection had taken place on 12th November. One plot needed attention and Cllr Latchford agreed to contact the allotment renter in the New Year to discuss a timetable for improvements.

Cllr Latchford noted that the lamppost at the bus stop (Swaffham Bulbeck end of the village) is still not working and is to get the lamp post number and pass on to Cllr Kent-Phillips for to follow up.

Cllr Greenfield reported that the 3-year contract with CGM for grass-cutting has now concluded and that he would like to negotiate a 12 month role-over of the contract to cover the coming time of financial uncertainty, to be put to the PC for approval. The PC agreed to this

Cllr Camps reported that the missing sign on Rogers Road had not been replaced. Cllr Kent-Phillips confirmed that it is on the low maintenance list so will be replaced when enough jobs have been reported in one area to make it efficient.

Open Question Time

A member of the public asked for the position of the B1102 speed signs and asked if the field between the Dyke and the heating scheme had some kind of special status. Cllr Hart noted that the cable from the solar farm could run along side the road if this was the case.

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

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12th January 2023 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

***Jude Griffiths – Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel 745 106. Email
swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com***

And from January...

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meeting

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

Reports

East Cambridgeshire District Council – Cllr Charlotte Cane attended. A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Cane noted that ECDC can again collect waste containing Persistent Organic Pollutants – mainly domestic upholstered seating. They are still unable to dispose of them but have found space to store them for the time being.

Cllr Cane had been part of a scrutiny panel looking at the budget of the Combined Authorities and noted that funding for buses was only budgeting for 6 months, with the same amount again having to be found for the following 6 months and then more found again for the future. Cllr Cane stated that the aim should be to keep the current services for the next 2 years then look to improve them after that. The Combined Authorities had launched a consultation regarding bus services and Cllr Cane urged the PC to respond to it.

Cllr Cane noted that street cleaning had fallen behind due to the concentration on bin collection and asked that PCs look at which streets should be prioritised.

Cllr Covill noted many complaints about the numerous potholes on local roads. Cllr Cane said that it is an issue everywhere and that there are real budgetary pressures, but that CCC are looking at getting money from central government for repairs to the Fen roads and were attempting to fix new potholes as they appear to prevent them getting worse, but cannot keep up. Cllr Cane urged people to report potholes on the County website, so they are at least recorded and the extent of problems are known and confirmed that it would be worth the PC writing directly to CCC regarding the poor state of the roads locally.

Cllr Latchford asked where the costs of consultation fees, design costs etc for the Heating Scheme could be found? Cllr Cane agreed to find out.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

Cllr Latchford noted that the bus stop lamp post had been fixed.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the accessibility statement was now on the website and that the new speed awareness signs for the B1102 were on order.

Planning applications received:

22/01475/FUL Single storey rear extension. 32 Green Head Road, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JT.

No objections or comments were made.

PC budget and precept for 2023-24

It was agreed that the 2023-24 precept remain the same at £14,500.00.

Prior Arts Group to make use of the Pound and Keep for an art exhibition on the weekends of 15th/16th July and 22nd/23rd July 2023.

It was noted that the Pound and Keep had no public liability insurance under the

PCs insurance so the Art Group would have to take this on. No rent would be charged. The clerk will carry out a risk assessment of the site nearer to the summer.

Allotment plots on the B1102 site.

Cllr Latchford to draw up a map of the current allotment plots and the proposed new plots for discussion at the next meeting.

Report on Heating Scheme

Via email, Cllr Greenfield noted that due to Christmas and New Year and homeowners' understandable reluctance to a mess in that period, combined with construction/building industry holidays, there was not a lot to update. A news update is due to be published soon.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk noted that the hedging around one of the speed awareness sign posts had been cut back and the buddleia removed from the playground wall.

An updated quote for the replacement play equipment had been received from Wicksteeds – the total cost was now £14,404.66, held until 31st March 2023.

The allotment report from November had been sent to all the allotment renters.

The Clerk reminded the PC that the inspection of the grave markers was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 18th January, starting at 10am.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the cemetery tap had been found leaking on Christmas Day and had been turned off at the mains - the clerk to check the tap over the weekend.

Cllr Hart noted that the footpath near the Heating Scheme was no longer blocked by fencing, but had not been reinstated. He had emailed Maggie Pratt, who confirmed that levelling the footpath was on the list to do.

Open Question Time

A member of the public suggested that someone from the recycling team be invited to the Annual Village meeting, to talk to parishioners about what can go in which bin.

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, 9th February 2023 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

***Jude Griffiths – Clerk to the Parish Council.
Tel 745 106.
Email swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com***

Services in the Anglesey Group of Churches In February 2023

Wednesday 1 February

8pm CbyC, on Zoom

Sunday 5 February

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

4pm Village Worship, Quay Village Hall

Sunday 12 February

9am Online service, on Zoom

Holy Communion, Quay

10.30am Family Worship, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 19 February

9am Online service, on Zoom

Morning Prayer, Quay

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Wednesday 22 February - Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion, Quay

Sunday 26 February

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; **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 February 2023

Thu	9	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm [30]
Wed	15	Councillors' Zoom, 6.30pm [24]
Thu	16	Mothers' Union, Passage Hall, Lode, 2.30pm [21]
Fri	17	
Sat	18	
Sun	19	
Mon	20	WI, 7.30pm, VH [21]
Tue	21	Shrove Tuesday Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [20]
Wed	22	Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion, 7.30pm Quay [31] Crier Copy Deadline

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

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