

The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

And finally, here it is. Coronation Day! We hope that, Roundhead or Royalist, as many of us as possible will attend the Coronation Picnic (see page 9) on Sunday. When I was young, I always made a point of NOT standing up for the National Anthem whenever it was played (at the end of practically anything), and it seems from the polls that the youth of today are similarly inclined. It's only with age that one comes to recognise what a remarkably good job they do, not to mention how they compare with possible alternatives (eg. First Lady Carrie Johnson, she of the gold-plated wall-paper...).

For Coronation Day itself, we're going to have the Bells too, with new recruits Mandy Kingsmill and Janet Willmot, who have certainly been sounding good as they ring out over the village in practice. Read John Chalmers article on page 8—apparently, when he himself trained, his Tower Captain just said "Useless". But things have changed since then, so he assures us!

The Heating Scheme is in full flood in this issue with contributions from no less than 4 authors: Warren Singer

(Letters), Maggie (? The Heating Team, anyway), Alastair, and James Matheson with expert advice from Charlotte Cane. The official reply didn't quite answer Alastair's questions last month, so James recruited our District Councillor Charlotte Cane (standing for re-election on Thursday) to tell us exactly how this scheme is to be financed (see page 13). The only thing is, we don't know how much the debt is!

TWO working Mills in Swaffham Prior, what a sight. See Jon Cook's article (p. 10) where he tells us about the refurbishment of Stock's Mill and look out later this month as the sails are re-installed and all being well, in June, see both Foster's and Stock's Mill turning together—a sight not seen for 100 years, says Jon.

Just one bit a Bad News. Alas, the so-called Fast Track Bus Service has not been kicked in the long grass, as we had been hoping. This is where the bus whizzes down the B1102 missing the village and gets into Cambridge a full minute (let's test it!) earlier—except you won't, having had to labour up Cage Hill to catch the wretched thing. We note that the enthusiastic proponents are all young and fit, cycle, power-walk up hills, and may not need to use it whereas those who DO need the bus **may not agree.** See you at the Coronation Picnic and the Village Feast!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: The Coronation of Charles III, May 6, 2023

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors.

Cooper's Green Daffodils

Cooper's Green has been looking particularly lovely with its display of daffodils and while the Parish Councillors understand the temptation, the PC would request that no-one pick the daffodils, instead leaving them for everyone to enjoy their beauty in the setting where they are growing.

Many thanks

Jude Griffiths

On behalf of the Parish Council

Dear Editors,

QUIZ NIGHT

Full house at the village quiz night on the 25th March, thank you to everyone who attended, it was nice to see a few new faces who have moved to the village, welcome.

It is good to know the quizzes are still popular and that you all enjoy them. Jenny and I have been doing the quiz for more than 25 years now so we are pleased that it is still popular.

Congratulations to The Generations who were the winners and the runners up, Densa, well done and well done to everyone as the scores were very close this time.

There are a few other people to thank which make these nights possible and that is, Shirley, Maddy and Gerry who help in the kitchen and serve the food. Shirley also makes the chilli and has done for a few years now, so thank you. Also a big thank to Janet once again who stepped into Andrew's shoes to be the quiz mistress on this occasion.

Unfortunately April was unable to organise the raffle this time so thank very much to Pip, Marian and Jude who stepped in, which was their first time and did a very good job, and not forgetting everyone who donated prizes for the raffle, thank you.

We raised £380 for St. Mary's Church. Our next quiz is September 30th so put the date in your diaries and hope to see you there.

Lynne and Jenny

Dear Editors,

More Ivy!

Ivy is not a big thing in my life. And I don't desperately want to get into correspondence about it. But I had to laugh when I saw the first few pages of the April Crier were somewhat taken over by ivy.

First, our esteemed Ed Caroline challenged me to find a tree not at the end of my garden that was 'similarly encumbered' with ivy as the ones in my photo. Caroline, it

was in what I wrote, "And so on, all the way up the hill to the Top Road. The taller ivy-clad ones get taken down first by the wind eventually. Some have already gone." Point 1 dealt with.

Point 2. Over the page, 'From an expert', University of Cambridge Plant Science Sainsbury Laboratory Science Education Programme in Bateman Street in Cambridge, Dr Russell Arnott says 'as someone that works closely with trees and nature' that the article by Keith Carter suggesting that ivy damages trees is 'absolute piffle and conjecture at best'. He goes on to list five bullet points answering questions about ivy, categorically denying 1) that ivy damages trees and adds 5) that ivy does not compete with the tree for light.

And he further condemns Keith Carter's writing was 'presented as 'fact'...in future these pieces should come with citations / links to reputable sources of information.'

Case closed. With extreme prejudice (to borrow a phrase from a film). Apparently.

But wait. Two of those categorically refuting bullet points by Dr Arnott have the same small qualifying addition:

'unless the tree is on its last legs or if the ivy has gone unpruned'.

So whoa, there, Neddy! Does our 'expert' (see how derogatory it is to quote key words in parentheses?) think we in Swaffham Prior must live in a kind of rural botanical garden, something like the one in Bateman Street, where all the ivy on the trees must be nurtured and neatly pruned - into topiary shapes, perhaps? Does Dr Arnott expect that everyone round here takes their secateurs each morning to the very many ivy- covered trees trees up and down this village, even where most, like the ones at the end of my garden, are not even on our own land? Or perhaps he assumes that, like the University, the village employs a retinue of gardeners who go round and do it for us?

And has our 'expert' actually walked round Swaffham Prior and seen all the unpruned ivy?

It does rather seem he hasn't, or he might have addressed what unpruned ivy does to trees.

So, Dr Arnott, your article, unsupported by the citations or the other kinds of evidence you complain others did not provide, is clearly incomplete, a partially-made case based on assumptions and with evident bias by omission.

You did not explain how the damage manifests itself that you admit is done to trees by ivy which is unpruned, neither short- nor long-term impacts. You did not explain the effects on trees that you admit are affected by competing for light with unpruned ivy.

Dr Arnott, try to visualise this, if you can. Nearly all the ivy-covered trees in this village are unpruned.

Has no-one pointed this out to you before?

That being so, we need to hear the expert knowledge you have decided we either don't need or don't deserve, we ignorant village people who have neglected to prune our ivy.

You didn't explain. You just called the other view 'piffle'.

And actually, if you read my letter on the facing page to yours in the Crier, although unsupported by any citations (it's a village magazine, for heaven's sake) nor by my academic credentials (I do have some) you might find I am probably much of the same view as you on the points made. Except I wasn't rude to anyone.

Mark Lewinski

PS and Dr Arnott expressed concern that as the result of Keith Carter's views, 'the denizens of Swaffham Prior will go on an ivy-culling rampage much to the detriment of our local wildlife.' If he thinks people here will rise up and start gardening wildly as the result of something they read in the Crier, he doesn't know what people round here are like. There hasn't even been enough rising up to go to the pub to keep it open. And most people don't know what a denizen is either.

Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Heating Scheme

I have read with interest (and some amusement) the heated comments from some village members, with very strong views on the heating scheme (mostly expressing frosty views).

A lively debate is a healthy sign of living in a democracy, and everyone is free to choose what they think is the best heating option for themselves. I believe that this scheme will need the full support of our small village community if it is to succeed in the long run.

I also initially had some reservations around signing up. This is after all a pilot scheme, one of the first of its kind in the UK. As such it is not entirely risk-free, and is possible that unforeseen issues may arise. On the other hand, free connection to a guaranteed and continuous supply of hot water, at the same price as operating an oil boiler, but without the additional maintenance and longer-term boiler replacement costs, seems a no-brainer.

For the Cambridge County Council's perspective, this scheme is probably also a no-brainer. Part of the construction costs are being subsidised via the government grant; the council can also recuperate their remaining costs over the long term through annual heating fees. For the Council-maintained houses in the village, a heating scheme provides a more cost-effective way to maintain a heating supply, without the ongoing costs of boiler maintenance and replacement.

My view is that we need to wean our village off oil —I don't think it's a viable option to bury our heads in the sand and believe we can carry on using our oil-fired boilers indefinitely. Putting aside the issue of climate change (which is one of the main reasons we should all support this scheme), from a cost and supply perspective the future of oil (and gas) is uncertain, as we have seen recently in the price upsurges and gas supply shortages that coincided with the war in Ukraine. It is also possible that the government may in the next decades ban the use of oil-fired boilers. When last I checked, we don't have gas in the village and self-funding solar panels and heating pumps is expensive. While self-funding green energy alternatives may be a

viable option for the wealthier members in our community, it is not an option for many others.

Some of the negative comments towards the heating scheme in my view reflect small-mindedness.

Yes, there may indeed be other ways to provide clean energy and heating to the village (such as solar and wind, and possibly hydrogen in the future). At the moment, the UK government is not willing to dole out free money to private homeowners to pay for such heating upgrades; it is possible they will decide on other ways to do this, for example through a loan scheme or by mandating that the major energy suppliers invest in home heating and energy upgrades. Chances are that these options will be means-tested and that those on middle and higher incomes (the majority of the village) may not be eligible for discounts.

All things considered, the Heating Scheme is available now, and it is a viable and cost-effective option for householders in the village who want to wean their households off gas and oil and help reduce our carbon footprint as a village.

Warren Singer

Eds note: see pages 12-14 for the latest news and feedback. Further views would be very welcome on what, whichever side you take, is an important part of the village's history and is likely to be of interest in years to come.

Swaffham Prior Annual Village Assembly

Wednesday 31st May 2023, starting at 7.30pm

This is your yearly chance to catch up with how the village and its various organisations, groups and clubs are and to make suggestions of things you would like to see for the coming year.

Hear the proposals put together for a fast track bus service by the A-B1102 group.

Discover the plans the school has for the next 12 months.

Find out who has won the Gay Bullied Good Neighbour Award (still open for nominations)

Talk about your brilliant idea for a community activity or event.

Free to attend and all very welcome.

BON MOT NUMBER 138

"Remember, it is better to be the forefront of a rabbit than the hind-quarters of an ox".

An Ancient Chinese Saying

From our Reporter

The Coronation cometh and excitement mounts. Some senior ministers are miffed because they haven't been invited. Others, invited, are miffed because they

cannot bring their wives/partners. Whereas former prime ministers are allowed that privilege. The good news is that Prince Harry has decided at last he is able to come. A lot of people must be very pleased because until the middle of April his book *Spare* was still number two in the list of top selling Hardback Non-Fiction books – three months after publication! That's pretty good for any author. The only title which regularly beat it is the one on hot "Air Fryers".

King Charles has made a very popular move by inviting a large number of common "do-gooders". I can think of one or two in the village who would be worthy of such an invite. That is unlikely to happen. But we do have our very own Gay Bulleid award. This has been allowed to fall into the dust by the Parish Council. That's a pity. There are at least two PC members who have been awarded it, and who at the time felt pleased and honoured, perhaps even flattered. Let's hope our PC arranges the Award next year. (Actually, its presentation is in the agenda for the Annual Village Assembly, and nominations are still open. Eds)

The PC had a very full agenda for the April meeting and you really must read Jude's report to discover what was discussed and perhaps even decided. They will be looking at the Greenways proposal. At the moment we are at the one end of their plan as it makes its way to Cambridge. The only bit affecting us is at the top end of the High Street – which is of great concern to many. Greenways do, as is their wont,

Greenways —
pastoral pictures with
two or three cyclists
idling along in their
leisure wear, a couple
of people with a
child's pushchair, a
couple of walkers,
and even a horse....

produce their wide range of idealistic pastoral pictures with two or three cyclists idling along in their leisure wear, a couple of people with a child's pushchair, a couple of walkers, and even a horse. It all looks like those wonderful 1930s bicycle ads, except in those days they were whizzing along.

Why not show a picture of what Greenways is really aiming at. This would be many hundreds and hundreds of cyclists on the path, and include walkers amongst them and even the occasional horse to which they are committed. Surely this is what they want. Get the cars off the road and put all the drivers onto bicycles. As far as this village and Burwell are concerned the Sustrans

report is far more informative and certainly more professional. One gets a very good idea of the traffic chaos which would ensue.

The PC also has on its agenda a motion "To adopt an equality and diversity policy". Help! Are we going Woke? This is going to be a very interesting discussion and I hope Jude reports in full. Will they need to hire Stonewall to make sure they an okay organisation? This could be quite exciting. So many firms and organisations

are forced to do this to make sure they are acceptable. And will they also need carbon credits which many firms are also forced to purchase. This is known by many as the big "carbon credit rip-off."

Mind you our WI has its own dilemma. The National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) had pronounced that anyone who says they are living as a woman can join any branch. This may be a real problem for some of our local ladies. The NFWI has said that it is "unhelpful" to ask if there is a difference between a transgender woman who has undergone gender reassignment surgery and one who has not. It adds it would be "very offensive and hurtful" to ask for written evidence. An active opposing campaign group 'Women's Declaration' argues that the NFWI "fails to define what a woman is."

A quick look in a Dictionary of Quotations or a Google search provides many definitions of what a woman is or can be or should be. (Also works with men.) Sky Masterson (a crooked gambler played by Marlon Brando) in *Guys and Dolls* had his own views – "I am not knocking dolls, they are something you only have when needed, like cough drops." Oh, where has all the light hearted humour gone. They are now getting to work on PG Wodehouse. Penguin Random House are cleaning up a couple of his 1934 novels and stripping out anything which a modern audience might find offensive. Thank goodness Penguin does not publish the Old Testament. But our local ladies may still be left with a problem. Perhaps they would like to air their views in the *Crier*.

This coincides with the recent news that men dominate 95% of local authorities in Britain. London has the highest proportion of women with 45%, and Northern Ireland the lowest at 26%. Swaffham Prior is exceptional and for the last 35 years at least (apart from three) the percentage of women on our PC has been 11%. However the PC has been immaculate in always having one token female.

The only surprise at the PC meeting is that the emails sent to the PC on the 15h March are not being discussed. There appears to a real spat between Anna Bailey, Leader of ECDC and Charlotte Cane about the East Cambs Trading Company. It seems that more details are needed before those very sharp financial minds on the PC can comment. It will all come out in the wash in due course.

Data and statistics are nearly always fascinating even though occasionally we may wonder about their truth or even necessity. One recently released fact is that Johnson in the December 2019 election only attracted 360,000 new Tory votes while Labour lost 2.6 million. This may be a fact worth remembering with the general election coming next year.

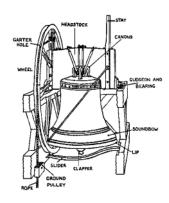
Perhaps less significant is the data provided by the Many Pets insurance company. They show that careless eating by your dog could be pretty expensive. Letting a dog eat an onion could cost more than £300. Also keep dogs well away from grapes and raisins as the cost could jump to £500. Cats are far too savvy to be a problem.

Alastair Everitt

Ringing the village bells – the learning process

The bells in St Cyriac's, cast in 1791, were rehung in 1991 and a recruitment drive was organised to attract new ringers from the village. My teenage daughter agreed to sign up only if I did as well. I'm still ringing...

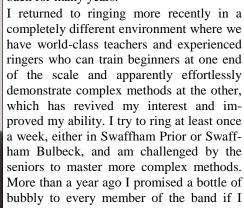
In those days the Tower Captain and our teacher was the redoubtable Peggy Stanier, a polymath academic with multiple interests including being Chair of the Sundial Society. She had learned bellringing without any formal training, and assumed that every-



one else could get the hang of it with a bit of help and encouragement. We had a mixed band of elders and teenagers, most of whom have now found other things to do, and a couple of stayers including Alastair Everitt, who rang until recently, and myself.

The learning process moves on from simply being able to handle the bell safely and make it sound at the right moment in a sequence, to memorising patterns 'methods' in which the bells change around each other before coming back to a simple sequence. I found this difficult, and one evening when ringing in Burwell the then Tower Captain described my efforts as useless, so I walked away and didn't come

back for many years.





This is a pic that Gareth found, probably staged for the local newspaper after the rehanging, showing Peggy with Gareth, Lesley, Simon Everitt and two others that I will try to identify. It's poor quality but shows Peggy just as I remember her.

managed to ring a plain course of Cambridge Surprise Minor (don't ask). They haven't yet received the bottles, but it's not their fault. Hang in there, John.

Meanwhile I am pleased to be able to help with training our new recruits from the village, who are making excellent progress and will be ringing our bells for the Coronation. They are just approaching the stage where I quit years ago, but I have every confidence that with the friendly environment of training and support now available they will not be discouraged, and eventually able to show me up.

John Chalmers



Programme of Events (subject to change)

Friday 5 May

5.30pm Meet at Village Hall to put up bunting along High Street

(with ladders if possible)

8pm Decorate Village Hall

Sunday 7 May

12noon Scouts and organisers on site to set up

From 1pm Guest arrive to set up

2pm Event opens

2.15pm Loyal Toast, followed by Afternoon Tea

Games, Competitions, Quizzes — prizes for winners! including judging of the Best Crown competition for adults and children. Thoto booth — have your photos taken with the King and Queen

4.15pm National Anthem 4.30pm Village Photo 5pm Event closes

Monday 8 May

Times to be confirmed Scout Village Litter Fick

CELEBRATING OUR WINDMILLS

2023 is a year of celebration for our windmills here in Swaffham Prior and National Mills Weekend which takes place on the 2nd weekend in May marks the start of those celebrations!

Later in May, James Forsyth and his team will be installing the windmills sails at the Smock Tower Mill creating a sight which has not been seen in Swaffham Prior for almost 100 years. Since 1927, no sails have turned on the Smock Mill – by June 2023, they will be turning along with Fosters Mill creating a sight which cannot be seen anywhere else in the UK – two mills in close proximity working together! We have been enjoying the sight of both mills facing into the wind for some months



since the cap was installed and commissioned on the Smock Tower, now James is ready for the next stage in the re-birth of the Smock Mill!

Fosters Mill (www.priorsflour.co.uk) reaches an important milestone in 2023, celebrating 25 years of the Priors Flour, the brand which carries the Swaffham Prior name across the whole of the UK at least in terms of flour! The business continues to enjoy great success working with shops, bakeries, restaurants, direct customers and a click & collect / mail order business which sees flour go across the UK and into Europe. A new shop and packing shed were commissioned in January 2023 increasing the space available and improving the production, customer and visitor experi-



ence. More and more local people are coming to the shop on Thursdays from 9am to 1pm or ordering flour to 'click and collect' at other times by arrangement – why not drop in if you've got time and meet the Mill Team - Sarah Dodge, Tim Young and Jon Cook!



found at https://www.spab.org.uk/mills/visit-a-mill.

Both mills will be open to visitors on Sunday 14th May from 2pm to 5pm with refreshments available. You will be able to meet the team at the Smock Tower and see the new mill sails ready to be hoisted into position. Wind permitting, Fosters Mill will be working with tours of the mill and the opportunity to buy flour, muesli, oats and other goodies for tea!

Mills in Burwell, Wicken and Lode will also be open if you would like to extend your tour, appreciating the fantastic milling heritage our local area has to offer. More details on National Mills Weekend can be

Jon Cook

Answers from the County Council to the Questions in Last Month's Crier about the Heat Network Project

No hidden extras

The Swaffham Prior Heat Network project was started locally, by Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust, to address fuel poverty and local environmental issues caused by the village's reliance on oil heating. After securing support from Cambridgeshire County Council, it drew down funding for the feasibility study from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, and after this was completed, the project made successful applications for Government funding and substantial investment from the County Council.

The charges for the heat network is set out in the <u>Heat Supply Agreement</u>. These are the standing charge and the variable charge for each unit of heat they use. For residents signing up after 1 April 2023 there is also a one-off connection fee of £1000. Other than the adjustments for inflation set out in the Heat Supply Agreement, the Council cannot increase these charges. There are no other charges or financial liability for heat network customers. Please disregard any reports that suggest otherwise, there will be no hidden 'extras'.

Customer Connections

We are really busy organising the connections to properties and we will be looking to carry out more surveys once we have the majority of our current customers connected. It's true that it's proving a bit slower than expected to connect properties and we are working closely our contractors Bouygues to accelerate the connection schedule. Those that are connected to the heat network have been highly satisfied with the heat they are supplied with and with the way the installation works.

78 sign ups to date, with a commitment for 49 more.....

We have 78 private owners signed up and we have commitment from the two Housing Associations in the village to connect their 49 properties to the heat network. Since we have started connecting customers to the heat network we have had an additional 18 properties interested in signing up.

In the spotlight

There has been some great national reporting about our scheme as it is being widely recognised as something unique. So far we have not only had local media interested but also national media including the Sunday Times, ITV, BBC, Channel 4 and now Sky news. Closer to home the project team will be posting monthly updates in the Crier (see p14) so we can get the most accurate information directly to you. It's a fantastic scheme to be part of and it is really putting Swaffham Prior on the map. Other communities around the country want to replicate what is being done in Swaffham Prior and our village will always be able to say 'Yes we were the first'.

Cambs CC

Eds additional notes: With help from our District Councillor Charlotte Cane, we're able to provide some further clarification of the two key points.

Finances: The funding solution for the project includes the development costs funded by government, for example the planning application, the heat supply agreements etc; the grant funding from government for the primary heat network; and the Council borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board. All borrowing undertaken by the Council will be paid back through the Renewable Heat Incentive (the project is eligible to collect income for the ground and air source heat pumps) and the income from residents' bills. There is no local taxation paying for the project.

Installations: The end customer connection programme is behind schedule - 78 properties should have been connected and receiving heat by mid June. Progress has been much slower than everyone wanted for a number of reasons including the range of systems and procedures to get in place ahead of works progressing on each house. As of 19 April, 11 of the 78 private homes were connected to the heat network, receiving heating and hot water generated by the energy centre. A further 34 external connections have been completed and are now waiting for the internals to be completed. It is anticipated that 15 Sanctuary properties along Green Head Road will be completed by mid May.

James Matheson (from info supplied by Charlotte Cane)

THE HEATING SCHEME - MAY 2023

It all appeared to be going so swimmingly well. Maggie had guaranteed completion by the end of June. There was just the small matter that no-one knows how many houses she is guaranteeing. But this is a minor matter when you consider what has been achieved over the last five years.

Mike Barker proudly declared in that now famous (the right word?) *Sunday Times* article of 12th February, that "It's just plumbing – it's not complicated." He had also said this in 2018 when the costs were a mere £2-3million. In that same *Sunday Times* article Emma said "It's like flat screen TVs. A few years ago they were terribly expensive, but now everyone has one." To my mind this is such a strange and false analogy.

But let me move on to the latest and rather surprising set back. A number of signed up houses in the High Street had had their external pipes laid in March. It was a success. They had made a lovely job of it. But there was a small snag. They could not get hold of the necessary internal appliance to connect the houses to the system. As the *Crier* is about to go to press they have still not been connected. At least one person has needed to buy more oil. And this cannot just be one litre. No date has been given for the completion. One might say this has just been a little unfortunate.

It is early days but in the not too distant future there will need to be a cost benefit analysis as well as the CCC's proposals for the next two Cambridgeshire villages chosen for this break-through huge environmental benefit. Meantime there is that worrying clause in the agreement that stipulates that if the scheme needs to close down, for whatever reason, there will be a two year warning to give people time to install another form of heating.

Alastair Everitt

Message from the Heating Swaffham Prior Team

Swaffham Prior Renewable Heat Network registered with the Heat Trust



Great news, we are now registered with consumer champion The Heat Trust.

The Trust are an independent, non-profit consumer champion for heat networks, that holds suppliers to account for the benefit of everyone involved.

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

Connection Agreement with Sanctuary Housing Association
Sanctuary Housing Association have now formally agreed to join the Heat Network.

This means we can install all the heat network pipes from the main heat network in the road up to each of their properties across the village.

Cambridgeshire County Council, our contractors and sub-contractors will be working closely with Sanctuary and individual households to make sure works within individual homes including the installation of the Heat Interface Unit are scheduled on suitable dates that work for all involved. We have already had interest from six properties who are very keen to connect to the heat network and once they are connected we hope that more residents will follow.

We are also close to completing the formal agreement with Cambridge Housing Society for their properties in the village.

Works underway to make connections

The Council is working with Bouygues Energies & Services to accelerate a programme to connect customers to the heat work. The external installations are:

- nearing completion on Green Head Road, Tothill Road and Adams Road
- scheduled to complete on the High Street by mid May
- due to start on Lower End and The Beaches by mid May

Internal installations are also underway and our contractor will be contacting customers on the High Street, Lower End, Rogers Road and Fosters Lane to arrange installation dates.

Connection fee

This is a reminder that the connection fee to join the heat network is now £1000 from 1 April 2023. This is for those that that have not signed their Heat Supply Agreement or that are newly interested in connecting to the heat network.

If you would like to join the heating scheme, or have questions about the works, please get in touch via heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Julie's Coronation recipes Coronation quiche

250g plain flour, plus a little extra for dusting
50g cold butter, diced
50g lard, or replace with butter if preferred
4 tbsp milk
Or use 250g ready made shortcrust pastry

For the filling
125ml milk
175ml double cream
2 medium eggs
1 tbsp fresh chopped tarragon
100g cheddar, grated
180g cooked spinach with liquid squeezed out and lightly chopped
60g cooked broad beans

- 1. Sieve the flour into a bowl with a sprinkle of salt, add the butter and lard and rub together into a bread crumb like texture. Add the milk to the mixture gradually to form into a firm dough type ball. Cover and rest in the fridge for a while.
- 2. Grease a loose bottomed tart/quiche tin. Line the bottom and sides of the tin making sure all is sealed. Bake blind for 20 minutes using baking beans to keep its shape at 180c, remove the baking beans and then cook for a further 5 minutes at 160c.
- 3.Beat the milk, cream, eggs and some of the cheese together. Scatter some more of the cheese on the pastry base and then top with the chopped spinach and beans, then pour over egg mixture and ensure it is evenly dispersed. Finish off with any remaining cheese.
 - 4. Bake in the oven for a further 20 minutes until firm and lightly golden. Serves 6

Coronation chicken

2 cooked chicken breasts, diced 1-2 tsp Madras curry paste 150ml mayonnaise or chilli mayonnaise

75ml crème fraiche

1 large mango, diced

4 spring onions, finely chopped 1 red chilli, finely chopped

2 tbsp chopped coriander

Salt and pepper

50g toasted flaked almonds

Baby Gem lettuce

1.Mix the Mayo, crème fraiche and curry paste together, stir well and add the chicken breast, spring onions, and mango. Finally add chopped red chilli if desired and coriander, leaving a little to decorate the top. Season well and top with toasted flaked almonds. Place on a bed of little gem lettuce and it is ready to serve.

Serves 4



The Swaffhams' WI

It was so lovely to walk to the April WI meeting with the sunshine highlighting the spring blossoms and almost hearing the grass growing and the leaves unfurling. New life ahead. It was

therefore very fitting that our meeting this month was all about how to save a life. Gabriel from the East Anglian Air Ambulance delivered a very clear and hands on session on what to do if we are in the situation where we are the first on hand should

someone be in cardiac arrest. We learnt that a cardiac arrest is where the heart simply stops and therefore the most important factor is how quickly intervention can take place using compressions (CPR) to keep the blood flowing to the brain until medical help arrives. With good early input the death rate is reduced drastically and interestingly almost one third of all call outs to the East Anglian Air Ambulance are due to cardiac arrests. Knowing how to do compressions correctly and understanding what to do with the defibrillator are lifesaving skills something that we are all capable of mastering. Confidence in our own ability to cope in such a situation is key and I would urge everyone to familiarise themselves with CPR and where the nearest defibrillator is. We are so grateful to the Air for Ambulance team refreshing knowledge about this very important subject.



Our next meeting is on Monday 15 May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The talk in May is on the life of William Morris. Everyone is welcome and so do please come and join us.

Kate Muscroft



VILLAGE GARDENERS

We had an interesting talk on day lilies, otherwise known as hemerocallis! Paula Dyason came with her husband who gave a short introduction. He used to work in America, where he met his wife, Paula. They were married and both returned to England where

Paula started growing day lilies. The flowers are so called as they only bloom for one day before another one takes over the next day.

In 2012 they saw that a grower in Norfolk was retiring and had some day lilies for sale. Paula was so delighted with them that they ended up buying the whole stock of 300 cultivars and travelling home with the car completely full! Paula now holds the National Collection.

There is a vast array of colours and forms. Paula's interest was probably started by her mother who also collects day lilies in America. They are not a true lily, in fact they are an entirely different family and mainly come from Asia. They are very long lived and there is a day lily for every taste and climate. They come in a multitude of colours, yellow, red, purple, pink and melon. There is no true white, black or blue. There can be various patterns and stripes on day lilies with some single and also double blooms too. There is also a spider form with long thin, petals that curl underneath.



The smallest blooms are two and a half inches and the largest are an impressive 17" in width! some varieties can bloom in early May and others can continue to grow into autumn. It is possible to have repeat blooms with some plants now.

Hemerocallis prefer full sun, any soil and are not fussy about the ph. It's important that they have water in March and April. The only problem that affects them is the gall midge. A bud that looks different from the rest may be a sign of gall midge. This can easily be removed but it usually occurs with early flowering hemerocallis.

Paula is keen on propagating new plants at her nursery in Histon and she is very eager to reproduce clear colours. Slightly murky and it's sent to the compost heap! Lockdown Baby was one successful plant she propagated when we were all in lockdown. She and her team had a stand at Hampton Court Garden Show in 2018 and they were awarded a Silver Gilt medal. However, it was an exhausting experience, not to be repeated!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 16th May when Peter Jackson will be giving a talk entitled 'Drought Resistant Plants' and, as usual, it will be in the Village Hall and start at 8.00pm. We look forward to welcoming old and new members.

Ruth Scovil



Mothers' Union

We held our Spring Social and Bring and Buy in March. Members used their creative crafting skills to make some very colourful and attractive Easter cards. The Bring and Buy stall raised over £35. A good afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month, at 2.30pm in Fassage Hall, Lode. On 18th May Sue Claydon will be our guest speaker. Sue visits our link areas in Africa, and will be speaking to us about Shyogwe, in the south province of Rwanda, and education for women initiatives in Africa. We hope that fellow MU members in the



Deanery will attend, and anyone in the Anglesey Group of Parishes is most welcome to come along and join us for the afternoon.

Ann Langran

Spring News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

We were excited to be involved in the recent BBC Wild Isles series that featured our konik ponies in episode 3: Grasslands. You can still catch up on BBC iPlayer and watch our follow up film with Ade Adepitan on the National Trust's YouTube channel. If you are interested in finding out more, we have a **Grazing for Landscape Conservation guided walk** to meet the herds on Saturday 3 June – check out our events page via the 'Things to see and do' section of our website.

Bioblitz at White Fen and Norman Moore Pond – Saturday 8 July

We'd love people from our local communities to get involved with our bioblitz in the wider reserve. Keep the date if you'd like to come along and help us find as many species as possible – more details to follow. If you're involved with a local wildlife, nature or community group and would like your group to be involved, please contact Julia Hammond email julia.hammond@nationaltrust.org.uk

Events for adults

Our popular **Dawn Chorus Walk** is back on 7 May. You'll need to set your alarm for an early start at 4:45am, but you'll be rewarded by the full spring fenland chorus, and breakfast in the café afterwards. Booking essential.

We'll also be celebrating another of the Fen's spring highlights on our **Fen Flowers Walks** (24 and 27 May). You'll be the first to preview the beautiful Summer Nature Trail before it opens for the season with our expert guide. Booking essential.

Family events at May half term

Drop in anytime over half term for our 'Let it Grow' trail or book in for pond dipping (29 and 31 May), making a seed bomb (30 May and 1 June) and our 'Green is the Colour' crafts, games and outdoor fun sessions (2 June).



For details of all the above-mentioned events and booking information, please see our website.

Books and jigsaws

Do you have any books (especially children's) and jigsaws that you could donate to us? We sell second hand books and puzzles to support our conservation work. Please drop your donations off at the Visitor Centre – thank you!

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-national-nature-reserve/events information, please visit our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-national-nature-reserve/events

18



From our District Councillors Charlotte Cane & John Trapp

We hope everyone will enjoy the three Bank Holiday weekends in May, with Reach Fair, the Coronation Big Lunch and the Spring Bank Holiday. Because of these holidays, there are changes to the bin collection days in May. For the weeks beginning 1, 8 and 29 May bins will be collected one day later than usual. Rubbish will be collected on the normal days in the weeks beginning 15 and 22 May.

The GCP is expected to publish the results of its consultation in May or early June. It has been reported that they received over 23,000 responses.



We are pressing them to listen carefully to the responses. Although we haven't seen the responses yet, we have heard the views of many people locally and expect the responses to the formal consultation to be similar. People overwhelmingly agree that better public transport is needed in Cambridgeshire - restoring Sunday buses, the direct buses to Hills Road and Long Road sixth form colleges and evening buses come high up people's agenda. Many also agree that the Newmarket Road Park & Ride site should be on the Ouy side of the roundabout, to ease congestion and provide a choice of routes, eg to Cambridge North, the Science Park and CRC as well as into Cambridge centre. But very few people agree that these should be funded through the proposed Sustainable Travel Zone, or congestion charge. We agree that better buses are needed but that the proposed congestion charge is not fair or equitable for residents here in Bottisham or across East Cambs and so should not be introduced. Unfortunately, East Cambs is not part of the GCP, so we cannot vote on any proposals. But we will continue to meet with representatives of the GCP to highlight the needs of local residents and press the GCP to drop their plans for the congestion charge and work across all local Councils to deliver better buses.

It was reported to the Operational Services Committee that waste collection rates had improved in Jan-March 2023, with 99.87% of all collections achieved first time. But that "resources have continued to be focused on collection services and this has challenged the ability of the street cleansing service to complete requests. Priority in the street cleansing service is in turn given to higher profile areas within the District." Unfortunately, this means that in Jan-March 2023 just 15% of fly tipping was removed within 2 working days, against a target of 98%. This was also considerably down on last year when 61% was cleared within 2 working days.

Crossword Number 205

Compiled by **BYWELL**

* Clues have no definition. Answers are of a type, one being concerned with rising sealevels. Send your answers to the editors by 18th May 2023. The sender of the first correct solution out of the hat will be awarded a *Winner's Certificate*. Emailed solutions are acceptable but please include "CROSSWORD" and the crossword number in the header.

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

Name:	
Address:	
	Tel:

Across

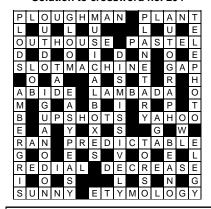
- 1 Materialist with no tie wrongly bringing bad news (8)
- 5 Make up for unpalatable scenery (6)
- 10 Mattress smuggled from Corfu to Naples (5)
- 11 Novices recycling green bins (9)
- 12 Put to death around 4 PM for example (9)
- 13 These characters from northern Europe incur maltreatment (5)
- 14 New leader leaving now, as arranged beforehand (6)
- 15 Banking group is out of trellises, sadly (7)
- 18 Lively young woman's run away from lively laundrette (7)
- 20 Piano set on fire a difficult situation (6)
- 22 Mythic at heart, Ireland has no end of them (5)
- 24 Nationalising and redeveloping a smellier Mediterranean port (9)
- 25 Smash in the plug, and feel the better for it! (7,2)
- 26 Timeless redesign of turret makes it straighter (5)
- 27 Angry words from one in business (6)
- 28 Lawrence runs whenever just short of a century magnificent (8)

Down

- 1 * RAF-led rebellion (6)
- 2 * After prolonged match, listen to both sides in the middle (9)
- 3 How some fats are tenuous, and at random, distributed (15)

- 4 Get by middle of bomb site in suits turned up at the bottom (7)
- 6 May run a cremation in molten ferrite cauldron (7,8)
- 7 * Around the end of day comes intelligence from the south (5)
- 8 Accountant, clutched by balls which are twisted, finally generates legal action (4,4)
- 9 * Let's say, a friend of Ernie (6)
- 16 * Fuel poured over laundered wealth, after middle class banished (9)
- 17 Leading Teletubbies mountainclimbing - it's in the blood (8)
- 19 * Journalist getting mostly mundane letters (6)
- 20 Nothing eaten by boiled kipper? Don't believe it! (4,3)
- 21 * Ingredient of spiced rice (6)
- 23 * Buried in walled gardens (5)

Solution to crossword no. 204



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

Notes from the Parish Council April Meeting

Cllr Greenfield chaired the April meeting of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council, attended by 6 Parish Councillors and 6 member of the public.

Cllr Greenfield noted that this was Cllr Camps's last meeting and thanked him on behalf of the PC for his years of contribution.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

- Tenancy of the Red Lion. Cllr Greenfield noted that although the PC has applied for and received an Asset of Community Value status for the Red Lion, it is important that the PC continues to be involved in parishioners' discussions regarding its future. Cllr Greenfield volunteered to take on this role. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that care was needed to prevent the PC appearing to interfere in a private business and that the pub was currently due to reopen at the end of August after a refit. It was noted that the PC had the ability to promote tourism to the parish e.g. through visitors to the pub.
- Grave checks. Cllr Greenfield stated that the Parish Council is made up of a number of individuals with a number of skill sets. It is also guided by trade bodies and organisations that can contribute to the discussions and ultimately the decisions we make. One such example is the policy put in place regarding the safety of gravestones and the procedure followed to ensure we were adhering to guidelines as set by the controlling bodies covering parish graveyards. Within the procedures, published on the website, the PC elected to include any repairs to be done by masons with BRAMM or NAMM registration.
 - The PC is conscious of the sensitivities involved for loved ones and we're always open to input and suggestions, but we need to ensure safety at all times and we are meeting our legal obligations that said we can and are open to modify our written procedures when justified.
- Allotments. Cllr Latchford noted that the work on clearing and tidying the allotment plot was underway and that on that basis, he was happy to allow the renter a little more time to bring it up to standard.

Report from Helen Bartley (headteacher) regarding Swaffham Prior Primary School

(see Parish Council website emails section for circulated report)
Mrs Bartley gave an overview of the school, including the Ofsted report of 'Good' (up from 'Inadequate'), the need for more governors, that the Trust is looking into the school using the Heating Scheme and the aims to resurface the playground and install open-link fencing behind the wall to increase the overall height of the boundary.

A-B1102 Group proposed bus services and concerns about the planned Greenways.

Jon Cook of the A-B1102 group summarised the current position regarding the proposed co-operation between Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Burwell in order to reduce the speed limit on the section of the B1102 that runs between them. As both Burwell and Swaffham Bulbeck have indicated that they are focused on other

areas, any ideas would have to be led by Swaffham Prior.

The Greenways consultations had invited responses and included a proposal to limit the B1102 from Quy to Swaffham Bulbeck to 40mph and also along the sliproad into Swaffham Prior. Mr Cook suggested arranging a meeting between the PC and Highways to look at all issues systematically and to consider wider strategies. Mr Cook also summarised the work of A-B1102 on development of a proposal of a fast bus route that would provide an attractive, viable alternative to car use, linked with Active Travel for short, local journeys that then lead to faster modes of transport. Mr Cook suggested that in order to move forward with this proposal, funding and people would be needed as the point had been reached that more was needed than could be supplied by volunteers.

Cllr Kent-Phillips asked where Sustrans fitted in? Mr Cook said that they report to ECDC and need to be involved in the development of short active journeys which would be part of a viable, practical system.

Cllr Latchford noted the need to look at the B1102 as a whole and the need to keep in mind the connectivity of those who are not able to use active modes of transport. Cllr Greenfield noted that while the PC has to be listened to, it's view can then be ignored hence the need for the support of lobbyists such as A-B1102 e.g. for questioning why the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership hasn't responded to parishioners.

To be discussed further in April.

Correspondence.

Letter - Swaffham Bulbeck PC's response to the Greenways proposal and email from J Cook asking for a Swaffham Prior PC response. After discussion of the Greenways proposal for Swaffham Prior, it was agreed that Cllr Latchford would write to the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership with the PC's objections to the proposal, including a build-out at the church end of the High Street which would narrow the street unnecessarily and the use of red asphalt through a conservation area.

Further responses regarding grave marker checks.

After much discussion involving those members of the public present, it was decided that:

- The clerk would research the circumstances in which the PC would be able to reerect failed or fallen gravestones.
- The PC would consider how to proceed with unclaimed failed or fallen grave stones at the May meeting
- The clerk and Cllr Durrant would check on the condition of the Benstead tall memorial and if necessary, cordon it off and look into structural engineers to examine it.
- The clerk would check that the PC insurance covers all aspects of the cemetery checks.
- The PC would review the policies and regulations referring to the cemetery at the May meeting.

The speed signs

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that the sign facing Swaffham Bulbeck was up and working but that on examination, the post containing the electrics for the second sign that would face Burwell was rotten and full of water and would need an engineer to get it fit for use. It was agreed that the PC would only buy a sign for the post facing Swaffham Bulbeck as repairs to the second post would be disproportionately complicated and expensive.

Annual Parish Meeting

A date of Wednesday 31st May was set.

Heating Scheme

Cllr Greenfield reported:

- There are 78 signed Heat Supply Agreements
- A Connection Agreement has been signed with Sanctuary meaning external connections can be made to all their 45 properties.
- Sanctuary have written to all 45, giving them 28 days notice of intention to install
 the connection no objections have been received to date, with 6 wanting to be
 connected so far.
- No agreement has yet been reached with CHS, who have 4 properties on Mill Hill.
- 25 additional properties have expressed an interest in joining the scheme since connection of properties started. These will be surveyed in due course as the current concentration is on getting properties connected.
- All 44 pre-installation surveys on Section A, B and C are complete.
- 33 external connections (from primary heat network to property) are complete with an additional one property currently in progress
- 3 Sanctuary properties external connections are currently in progress and we will have all 15 Sanctuary properties along Green Head Road competed by 12 May
- External connections are currently being carried out on the High Street
- 11 properties are fully connected and receiving heat
- The cost to connect to the heat network has now gone up to £1000 from 1 April
- The Heating Scheme has been featured on BBC Moneybox, ITV Anglia, Channel 4 News and most recently Sky News 'The Climate Show

Parish Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Hart noted that cyclists were continuing to use the footpath on Mill Hill after it
 was no longer a cycle path, leading to at least one collision between a car and
 cyclist and one recent near miss by vehicles pulling out of the private drive beside
 Foster's Mill.
- Cllr Hart noted that 3 traffic posts had been lost on Mill Hill Cllr Kent-Phillips has reported to Highways and they are on the 'to-do' list.
- Cllr Latchford reported that the B1102 allotment map was ongoing and will be ready for the May meeting.
- Cllr Camps requested that a notice asking all dogs in the cemetery to be on a short lead be added to the cemetery noticeboard.

 Cllr Greenfield requested that the Clerk look into the power to delegate responses to consultations and/or discuss via email where the pressures of timing make it difficult for the PC to respond in time otherwise.

Open Question Time

A member of the public requested that the primroses in the Pound not be removed or sprayed with weedkiller as they enhanced the Pound's appearance.

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, 11th May 2023 starting at 7.15pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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

FREECYCLE

Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail (junthompson44@gmail.com) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow).

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

Offers

Fertiliser spreader for Lawn; Very strong large wooden wheelchair ramp (48 " wide, 39" long, 7.5" at top of slope). Lesley 01223 812901

Sofa-bed Bridget 01223 811016

Wanted:

Adult exercise bike. Diana 01223 811946 (07403 205522)



Swaffham Prior Village Hall

May

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM <u>T'ai Chi & Tea for</u> All 10:30 -12:00 - Contact Fara on 07919857617	АМ	AM PhysiOptima Pilates 09:00 - 09:50 Contact Kristin on 07799323867	АМ	AM Eastern Counties T'ai Chi for All 10:00 - 12:00 Contact Sharyn on 0774017917
PM <u>T'ai Chi</u> for Beginners 17:30 - 19:00 Contact Fara on 07919857617 <u>WI Meeting</u> 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	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

Don't forget the Coronation picnic on Sunday 7th or the Village Feast on Saturday 20th!

If you're 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

Services in the Anglesey Group of Churches:

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

May 2023

Wednesday 3 May

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

Sunday 7 May

9am Online service, on Zoom

10.30am Coronation Celebration Service, Bottisham – with favourite hymns

4pm Village Worship, Quy Village Hall

Sunday 14 May

9am Online service, on Zoom

Holy Communion, Quy

10.30am Rogation Service at the Scout Hut, Swaffham Prior

Thursday 18 May - Ascension Day

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

7pm Holy Communion, St Cyriac's, Swaffham Prior – with Cambridge

Voices

Sunday 21 May

9am Online service, on Zoom

Morning Prayer, Quy

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 28 May - Pentecost

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 May 2023

Wed	3	Bookclub, 6pm, 5 Lower End
Sun	7	Coronation Picnic, 2pm—5pm, VH [9]
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.15, VH [25]
Fri	12	
Sat	13	National Mills Weekend [10]
Sun	14	Windmills Open, 2-5pm [11]
Mon	15	WI, 7.30, VH [16]
Tue	16	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [17]
Wed	17	
Thu	18	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Fassage Hall, Lode [17]
Fri	19	
Sat	20	Village Feast [26] Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club, 11-5pm [25]
Sun	21	Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club, 10-4pm [25]
Mon	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Wed	31	Annual Village Assembly, 7.30pm, VH [5]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date Time		Place
FOSPS			2 nd Mon of 8pm		Village
			Term		School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083			
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