



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVII Number 11

November 2023



## Editorial

What an extraordinary month for the Crier. Two serious complaints and a bombshell! Last month's Crier reported a number of concerns from readers (in *PC Notes*, *Letters*, *Our Reporter*) that the Heating Scheme was running a generator 24/7 and Our Reporter asked if David Greenfield could tell us just what it was running on, with humorous comments about Just Stop Oil boycotting Heath Road. We can now tell you (see p. 11) that the fuel is Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil, (HVO) a bio-fuel, and the generator is just used to power the offices. We highlighted the issue specifically to get clarification and many apologies if a misleading impression was thereby caused.

Next, one of the two competing fast fibre broadband companies has written to us complaining that despite having a "Broadband Champion" (what dat?) AND the ear of one of our Parish Councillors, our Broadband reporter was still woefully unaware that they are planning to build in Swaffham Prior next year - see their letter and our response (p. 6).

But then the Bombshell. **We are to have no more PC Notes.** Readers must go on the Web and read the Minutes if they want to know what the Parish Council has been doing. David Greenfield pointed out that last month there was a factual error and that the report is from unapproved minutes, and somehow or other this led to the decision that forthwith and immediately there should be no more reports to the Crier. So that error will remain uncorrected then! Extraordinary! Up to date PC Notes have been published in the Crier since its inception, the other village magazines have them too and in our opinion Jude's monthly concise and readable reports (the minutes are much lengthier) are crucial to the magazine's duty to inform - we have written to the PC and will be challenging this decision at the November 9 Meeting. We hope we have your support.

Meanwhile, has another error has occurred? This month's draft minutes now say something different - so maybe this was not the decision that was taken? All may become clear on the 9th. Wish us luck!

We were very sorry to hear that our ex County Councillor James Fitch has recently died (see Charlotte Cane, p26), he was a lovely person and will be much missed. Meanwhile, Hooray! The Red Lion has FINALLY reopened and a big welcome to John O'Grady (from Tipperary) and Svitlana Hordiykop (from Ukraine) the new incumbents — by all accounts, the pub is now doing a roaring trade and we hope to hear from them in next month's issue.

*Caroline Matheson*

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**Cover Picture:** *Lime*, oil painting by **David George**



## Letters to the Editors



*Further to last month's correspondence, we dug out an artist's impression of the Heating Centre as originally envisaged, and here are Chris's comments, including an update on the all-night lighting .*



Dear Editors,

The dark-coloured cylinders are much less obtrusive than the bright silver ones installed, and the 'hedge' is a very impressive height.

Fingers crossed we end up with something similar.

The new lights have been installed and, though they are still on all night, are definitely much better than the previous ones.

***Christine Carrington***

Dear Editors,

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

**Thank you to everyone** who contributed to the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 29th September. You have raised the staggering amount of **£744.23p!** Macmillan will be able to help so many more people with this sum. It was lovely to see so many of you, some new faces as well as the regulars. Everybody made a welcome contribution. It was the 30th year that we have held the coffee morning here and I couldn't do it without the help of several people: Margaret on the Cake Stall, Robin selling raffle tickets and our niece Yvonne, who has become a regular and works for Macmillan.

The number of faces of Colin the Caterpillar was won by Jenny Brand with 243 faces!

Once again thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you all again next year on the last Friday of September!

***Ruth Scovil***

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Dear Editors,

## **A TO B1102 Transport Group**

I write on behalf of the A to B1102 Transport Group (representing the villages from Fordham to Quy including the Wilbrahams and Bottisham) to ask you to take part in our transport survey. The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete and you can find it online at [www.atob1102.org/travel-survey/](http://www.atob1102.org/travel-survey/) . Paper copies are also available in St Marys Church if you would prefer to complete the survey in paper form. You can also return completed surveys there.

The survey is being conducted to enable us to better understand the travel needs of our communities, to build an evidence base to inform future decisions - to understand where people need to get to and when. We will use this information to lobby the various authorities who make decisions which affect our transport system, to safeguard and improve our existing (and potential future) bus services, to maintain vehicle access along our key routes, to build attractive transport alternatives as we all look to find ways to reduce congestion and get us to our destinations in reasonable time.

We realise there have been lots of surveys and consultations of late, but with our MPs, Local Councillors, County Council, District Councils and the Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority engaged in our work and over 300 respondees already having completed the survey, this information will be a key lever to inform future funding decisions which will affect us all!

Thank you in advance for your support and time!

***Jonathan Cook***

Chair, A to B1102 Transport Group

[www.atob1102.org](http://www.atob1102.org)

Dear Editors,

## Crier too late for Tower Open Day

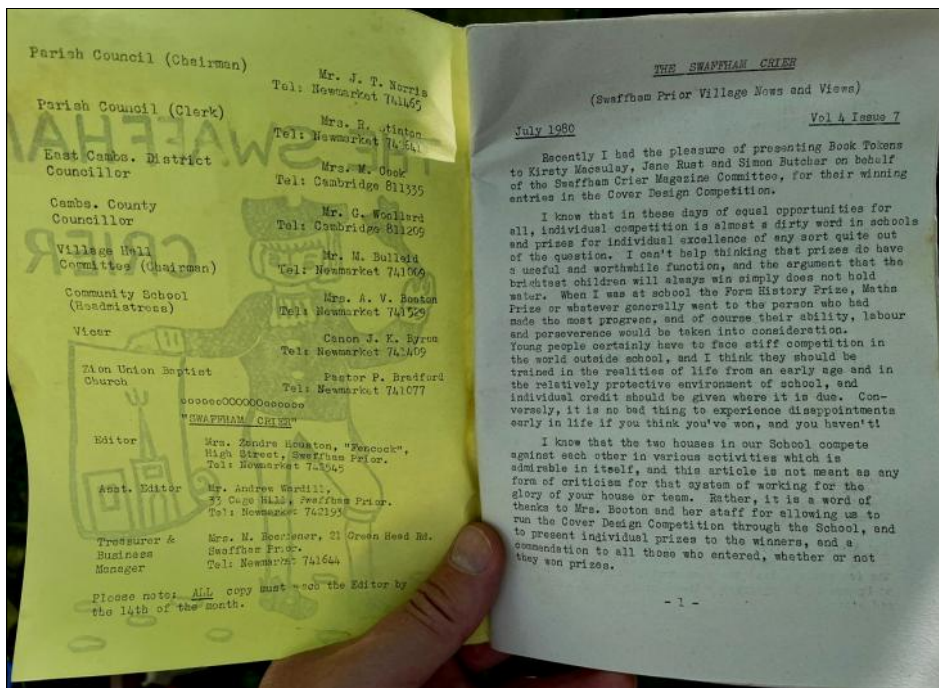
Thank you for another informative edition of the Swaffham Crier. I refer to the October print. I was a bit disheartened to read about the Tower Open Day event that was held on Friday the 6th October. Why? Because I had missed it. Maybe I had missed reading about it in a previous edition. I guess my point is, can events that are taking place early in the following month be advertised as early as possible, in an edition at least a month before the event taking place. Maybe 'dates for the diary' page should include future events not just for the month of that particular edition. Of course, I completely understand that the onus is also on the timely notification of an event by those holding it. If you are only made aware of an event close to the date there is little more that you can do. However, I am also unsure of when you send copies out for distribution. It might well be that these go out in the previous month but are delivered late. I didn't get my copy until last week.

This is not a moan, but intended to be a helpful observation. What you and your team do in producing the Crier is quite simply brilliant. Thank you.

I attach a photo of an edition I recently came across whilst having a clear out.

**Rob Frost**

*Thank you for your kind comments and many apologies Rob. Absence of advanced warning was due to the Crier's preceding September holiday and then October's printed version was a few days late. The online Crier ([www.swaffhamcrier.co.uk](http://www.swaffhamcrier.co.uk)) was on time. Many thanks for the photo below! Eds*



Dear Editors,

## Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

Once again the time has come to remind everyone who lives in Swaffham Prior and who considers himself or herself eligible for our Christmas Grant, now is the time to apply.

The majority of applicants come from pensioners, in particular those who have to manage on the State Pension, and it may be that in the present times of uncertainty support is required. If you are in need of help, or know someone who may be in difficulty but who are unlikely to apply on their own behalf, please do get in touch.

The Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance and confirm that ALL applications will be dealt with in confidence. Financial support will be available throughout the year, not only at Christmas.

Please apply to:

Pam Waters

Clerk to the Trustees

01638 741035

*Pam Waters*

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**That Magnificent Harvest  
Show Scarecrow by  
Hugo and Ralph Cooper**



Dear Editors,

## QUIZ

Another quiz over and thank you to everyone who came. Dee was our quiz mistress this time and did a brilliant job so thank you Dee.

Congratulations to Lucky Harry who were our winners and the runners up were A Mixed Bunch.

A big thank you to the ladies in the kitchen, Shirley and Kay and also Dee and Jenny who helped them serve the food.

Thank you to April who organized the quiz again which we are very grateful to her for and to the people who donated prizes.

We raised £240 for St Mary's Church so thank you. Our next quiz is a bit earlier next year, it's on the 13<sup>th</sup> April, hope to see you there.

*Lynne and Jenny*

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Dear Editors,

### **Gigaclear DOES intend to build in Swaffham Prior**

I am writing as the Community Engagement Manager for Gigaclear.

I have been made aware by a resident of the community about an article in your magazine that states that Gigaclear "do not appear to be planning to include Swaffham Prior".

Having had a look at previous articles I can see that you have already confused us with County Broadband. Can I ask where this information has come from? I report to a Broadband Champion and a member of the Parish Council every 6 weeks or so about our progress so was shocked to see this statement.

I will be posting on Facebook to say that we **are** building to the area and our works are due to start in the New Year.

Please can someone respond to this email as to:

Where this information came from that we are not building

What will be done to put it right

As we are building commercially, this could damage our ability to build to the community, and there is no guarantee that County Broadband will either.

I would appreciate an answer on this so I can tailor my social media post accordingly.

*Roisin McGettigan*

Community Engagement Manager

**Eds Response:** We can only publish what information we receive. The full quote from last month is: "I mixed up two different fast fibre broadband suppliers: County Broadband (<https://countybroadband.co.uk/>) who are planning to offer a service starting here early next year; and Gigaclear who have already started work in Bottisham and parts of Swaffham Bulbeck but do not appear to be planning to include Swaffham Prior.". This is a fair reflection of what we have been told by Gigaclear and County Broadband as explained below.

We provided Gigaclear with free advertising space in our April edition and this was accompanied by a letter from David Greenfield drawing attention to your proposed service. We responded to the advertisement expressing a personal interest but we never heard back from Gigaclear and, talking to fellow villagers, we do not appear to be alone in not getting any reply. The Crier has also not received any further information from Gigaclear either directly or via a "Broadband Champion" or via the Parish Council. In his letter, David spoke of us seeing "work commencing in the May / June timeframe" and a mailer being sent to every property starting in March. To our knowledge, neither has happened. It does not seem unreasonable for us to have inferred from all this that you do not (or no longer) appear to be planning to include Swaffham Prior.

County Broadband first contacted us in June and we initially assumed that this was at last a follow-up to your April advertisement, hence the confusion noted above between Gigaclear and County Broadband. We registered an interest in response to this, County Broadband responded almost immediately and they were very helpful in supplying us with full information about their proposed service. On the basis of this, we signed up for their service along with, they tell us, over 20% of the rest of the village. At this point, this appeared to be the only available offer.

Your email above arrived just as we were about to go to press with this month's edition and we have delayed publication in order to publish it and this response. We would be very happy to publish further information from you and/or County Broadband in next month's edition to help inform the village of the relative pros of the two competing Broadband services including speeds, prices, timescales and add-on services.

***James Matheson***

PS Further apologies to Rob Frost (p4) and anyone else who misses an event because of our even later publication this month but at least the first one isn't until the 9th this time.

## **This Month's Cover Picture**

This painting is part of a recent series of small oil paintings inspired by traditional Dutch still life painting. David works both in oil and watercolour and enjoys using colour and tone to accentuate light and dark in order to generate an atmospheric mood and feel in his paintings.

Email [drgeorge459@gmail.com](mailto:drgeorge459@gmail.com)

*More of David's work can be seen at the Village Hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November at the Prior Arts Pop-Up Gallery & Cafe. 16 local artists are taking part, including textiles, paintings, ceramics, beads and jewellery, sculpture, cards and prints. The gallery is open from 10.30-4pm, there's no entry charge and everyone is welcome.*

***Celia Tyler***

## From our Reporter

As September ended and we moved into the short season of Party Conferences several new changes were made. The one of most concern to us is Climate Change. For some reason Rishi decided to defer for a few years the targets on electric cars etc. At this point I decided to read *Not Zero* by Ross Clark, our local national roving reporter who lives in Reach. Always worth reading. This had been published earlier in 2023. It is inevitably interesting and what emerged were two extremely important facts.



First, we had nodded through Parliament in 2019 an amendment to a previous Climate Change Act of 2008 which now committed us to achieving Net Zero by 2050. There was no discussion how this was to be achieved or the costs. Just nodded through. We are now legally committed to this and could be taken court by any pressure group if we fail, or do anything which may cause it to fail. We are the only country which guarantees to achieve Net Zero. Other countries add “if possible” etc. We have no such get out. We must repeal that law.

Secondly, Ross Clark points out that we are helping to reduce our carbon emissions by importing more and more. For example we only produce 61% of our steel. The rest comes from abroad. We are loading carbon emissions onto the countries which provide all the goods we cannot or are not producing, and thus enabling us to be better than them at reducing emissions. Paul Latchford made this point at two Parish Council meetings when all the early discussions about the Heating Scheme often focussed on the amount of emissions being saved. Where was the Heath Road plant made? To be realistic and really honest we should have a Consumption-Based Net Zero target.

So, simple. Repeal the legally binding commitment to achieve Net Zero; and make it a Consumption-Based Net Zero Target.

We all know Climate Change is happening, and probably faster, or more slowly, than people think. And the world is putting its shoulder to the wheel with thousands of projects and trillions of money being spent. Many helping enormously. But the only solution is to find *100% reliable* replacements for oil, gas and coal. WE ARE NOT THERE YET.

Many will disagree with the above. I do not expect anyone to read Ross Clark, no matter how interested they may be in Climate Change. But it would be useful if all MPs read it. And you can pick what interests you as there are chapters on home and heating (our village is mentioned), transport, aviation and shipping, agriculture, green jobs etc.

After last month some people have queried the £22 billion I said it would cost to repair the House of Commons. “You must be joking” they say. I do admit I did take the worst figure from those in last year’s review. See below.

There are roughly three options. 1) Remove everyone out for between 12 and 20 years at the cost of £7 to £13 billion. 2) Have a “continued presence” in a “more

condensed space” for more than 26-43 years at a cost of £9.5 to £18.5 billion. This will involve moving the House of Lords out at some point. 3) Move no-one out for between 46 to 76 years at a cost of £11 to £22 billion. This assumes there is “no business” for 4 months each year. These costs do not include inflation. Take your pick. Would you guarantee the repair, or achieving Net Zero, by 2050?

Last month was an exciting time for Swaffham Prior. As many in the village now know our PC for some reason made the decision to stop the *Crier* from publishing Jude’s excellent “Notes from the PC meetings”. Nothing like this happened for a very long time. The last occurrence was in July 1914 when the Parish Magazine made the following announcement. “With much regret and very reluctantly the Vicar has felt compelled to close the Churches on weekdays after the services are over. The present arrangement will continue until the wave of sedition, privy conspiracy and rebellion promoted by certain wicked women has passed.” Goodness me. We only need a body and it could become another episode of Midsomer Murders. We are not told what the wicked women were doing. Have our Editors been wicked in some way?

Read the full story in the December *Crier* when all will be revealed. Does anyone know what a “privy conspiracy” is?

*Alastair Everitt*

Eds note: Don’t know on the privy conspiracy front but, on the subject of wicked women, one of us isn’t even a woman!



**Start your Christmas celebrations!**

**All welcome to  
Community Carol Singing  
with village band**

**Wednesday 13 December  
6.30pm  
Swaffham Prior Village Hall  
Mulled wine and mince pies**



## *Mince pies!*

Every Advent Sunday - this year 3 December - the two churches of Swaffham Prior ring to the sound of Cambridge Voices' Advent Concert in aid of Emmaus. After the second half of the concert, choir and audience return to the warmth of St Mary's for mince pies and mulled wine. If you are able to donate a quantity of warm mince pies - homemade or bought - please let me know by 1 December. Many thanks

Dee Noyes: [admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk)

01638 743864



## **Christmas Coffee Morning**

**"Pop-up Teashop" - Festive Fare**  
**Stalls selling Christmas Cards and Gifts**  
**Raffle**

**In aid of St Mary's Swaffham Prior and  
Jimmy's, Cambridge (Winter Night Shelter)**

**Friday 24 November 10.30am - 12 noon**  
**Swaffham Prior Village Hall**



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

### One year anniversary event success

Thank you to those who came to the Anniversary Event on 18 October, we had about 40 people turn up despite the wind and the rain! So a big thank you to all who took the time to come down and enjoy some teas and cake with the officers and contractors who have been working hard on the scheme. We really enjoyed meeting all of you and putting faces to names where we had until now only been in contact via email.

It was great to hear from existing customers who are on the heat network and to see them sharing their experiences with people who wanted to join the scheme. We had some useful feedback as well as also some challenging questions from some residents. Where we weren't able to address these in full on the night, we will be in touch shortly. If you were expecting to hear from us but you haven't yet, then we do apologise, please drop us a line to [heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

A matter which was raised on the night was the access issue there is for some properties around how to get the heat network pipe to the property. This only affects a handful of properties in the village and we will be working with these properties these householders to see if we can overcome the difficulties surrounding getting the heat network connection to their homes. We anticipate coming to a decision on this issue in the new year.

### Energy Centre generating renewable heat

We were disappointed to see a suggestion in the last Crier that the Energy Centre might not be operating sustainably. We can assure you that our site is a renewable energy centre. Like most construction sites, there is an onsite generator that uses HVO fuel (Hydronated Vegetable Oil) which is being used to power the site offices and facilities.

Please note that whilst we are powering the Energy Centre from the grid at the moment, it is due to be connected to the solar farm next year – this will make it a very green, sustainable network.

We have no idea where these rumours come from and they are simply not true.

### Speed and number of connections

At time of writing this article, 58 properties are fully connected and receiving heat. We have two remaining connections to complete which will take us to 60 private customers. We are also working with Sanctuary and their contractor CCS to arrange dates to connect four of their properties. This will take us to 64 fully connected customers with one more to do.

The next phase of connections will start in Spring 2024. If you are interested in connecting to the heat network, scan this QR code to complete a form to express your interest or our email is below and we can send you the form.



### Heat temperatures

We take regular readings of the heat temperatures leaving the Energy Centre and these are in the high 60s getting into the 70s and we are seeing these temperatures when they are reaching customers properties. We guarantee heat at above 62 degrees in the summer when water reaches the customers property at the Heat Interface Unit (HIU). Both heat temperature sensors in the HIU and at the Energy Centre are RHI accredited.

Email us on [heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## **Julie's recipes for November**

### **Sausage bake**

1 tbsp sunflower oil  
2lb coarse cut pork sausages  
1lb leeks, thickly sliced  
1 ½ lb potatoes cut into slices  
3 oz red lentils  
Salt and pepper  
2 bay leaves  
2 cloves  
1 garlic clove, crushed  
1 ½ pints of chicken stock  
Chopped parsley to garnish

1. Heat the oil in a large pan and brown the sausages, lift out and cut into slices.
2. Layer the leeks, potatoes, sausages, and lentils into the casserole, adding seasoning, the bay leaves, cloves and garlic among the layers, finish with a layer of potato.
3. Pour in the stock, cover tightly and cook in a preheated oven at 160c for 2 ½ hours, checking the liquid level occasionally.
4. Remove the lid, increase the temperature to 200c and cook for a further 30 mins until the potato is browned. Garnish with parsley and serve hot.

Serves 6

### **Steamed Jam or Syrup pudding**

4oz soft butter, plus extra for greasing  
4oz caster sugar  
3 tbsp jam or golden syrup  
2 eggs beaten  
6oz self raising flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
About 1 tbsp milk  
2 pint pudding bowl

1. Lightly grease the pudding bowl, and spoon the jam or syrup into the bottom.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together, then add other ingredients and blend until smooth, adding enough milk to give a dropping consistency.
3. Spoon the mixture into the pudding bowl and smooth the top. Cover with greaseproof paper and tie with string.
4. Put the pudding into steamer. Cover and steam for 1 ½ hours, topping up with water if needed. When ready turn out on a plate and serve with piping hot custard.

Serves 4-6



## **ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER**

**AT**

**THE TWO CHURCHES**

**OF SWAFFHAM PRIOR**

**4.00pm Admission £10 (children free) including mulled wine  
and mince pies afterwards.**

**In aid of Emmaus and The Churches Conservation Trust**

**HEAVEN AND EARTH AND ALL CREATION:  
A CANDLELIT CELEBRATION OF ADVENT IN MUSIC AND VERSE**



**With choral music from  
Cambridge Voices**

**And poetry read by  
members of the village  
community**



## ELY FOOD BANK

The Ely Food Bank is part of a network of more than 1,300 centres, run by the Trussell Trust. It was founded in 1997, started in Salisbury by the son in law of Betty Trussell, with her legacy, after he was approached by a woman who was struggling to feed her children and was worried about them going to bed hungry. He studied the data on poverty and deprivation in the UK and found significant numbers of people going hungry as a result of a sudden crisis.



The Food Bank model spread through church networks, inspiration drawn from a verse in St Matthew's Gospel: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you visited me."

The Trust's vision is a future without the need for Food Banks. Its aim to provide



a minimum of three days nutritious, balanced emergency food, to people: families, couples and singles, who have been referred to them and to support them in the crisis they face.

Between April 2022 and March

2023, close to 3,000,000 food parcels were distributed by the Trussell Trust network, a 37% increase on the same period 2021- 2022. The number of people using Food Banks for the first time between 2022 and 2023, was 760,000.

The Ely Food Bank has 8 distribution centres: Burwell, Soham, Ely, Cottenham, March, Waterbeach, Chatteris and Haddenham. Food is donated at a range of places: schools, churches, super markets and businesses, sorted by volunteers at a local warehouse and redistributed to these centres. Vouchers can be generated by teachers, health visitors, social workers, doctors and housing associations and exchanged for a food parcel at a food bank. Household goods, cat and dog food is also available.

A member of the CAB attends most sessions and can offer additional, invaluable support to clients: advice on debt, housing issues, mental health and benefits, help filling in forms and contact useful organisations.

For more information, please go to [trusselltrust.org](https://www.trusselltrust.org).

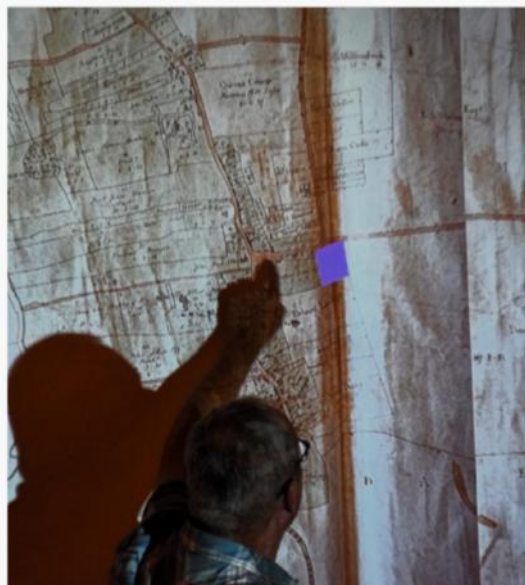
**Margaret Joyce**

*Margaret is currently working as a volunteer for Ely Foodbank. Eds*

# Harvest Supper 2023

This was a tremendous success (see over) and we enjoyed it immensely, the company, the gorgeous food, and of course the fascinating talk by Julian Luttrell. Many congratulations and thanks are due to Dee Noyes and all those helping. Amongst other things money was raised for projects in Mara, Tanzania. The lower right-hand picture shows the Revd Roger Bowen with his wife Wendy, and for some interesting background on the Africa connection read this month's Mother's Union (p. 23) for Wendy's fascinating account of some of Roger and Wendy's early days in Africa.

*Editors*





- Sixty meals provided, including takeaways.
- £550 raised for St Mary's Church; £260 for projects in Mara, Tanzania.
- Thank you to all organisers, raffle prize donors, pudding providers, setter-uppers, tidy-aways, decorators and everyone who pulled together for this wonderful village event.



- Special thanks to Julian for the fascinating talk on how the village layout changed with enclosure in the early nineteenth century; we learned a lot!

- See you next year!

*Dee Noyes*

**Harvest Supper  
2023**

## **The Cantilena Singers**

is a well-established chamber choir that performs regularly in Cambridge and the surrounding villages, often in churches. The Cantilena Singers brings its 40th anniversary year to a close with an evening of seasonal music for Advent, featuring works by William Byrd, in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of his death.



### **Christus natus est**

**Saturday 9 December 2023, 7.30pm**

**St James's Church, Lode, Cambridgeshire CB25 9EW**

Refreshments will be served during the interval.

No need to book, just come along.

There will be a retiring collection

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## **Get your Charity Christmas cards, with local scenes, before it's too late!**

Order your local scene Christmas cards to support Arthur Rank Hospice Charity before they sell out! There are many to choose from, including the River Cam, The Round Church, Parker's Piece, Ely, Wisbech and lots more! The full collection can be viewed on their website [arhc.org.uk/shop](http://arhc.org.uk/shop). The cards are beautiful in appearance



## Our Reporter's Entomophilia

I much enjoyed From our Reporter in the August/September edition of the Crier, not least for your reporter's revelation of his previously unsuspected entomophilia - a much underrated enthusiasm.

Alastair may like to know that he is in good company in his regard for the companionship of insects in general and flies in particular, as the following poem by Robert Frost exemplifies.

Andrew Grant

### A Considerable Speck

A Considerable Speck  
(Microscopic)

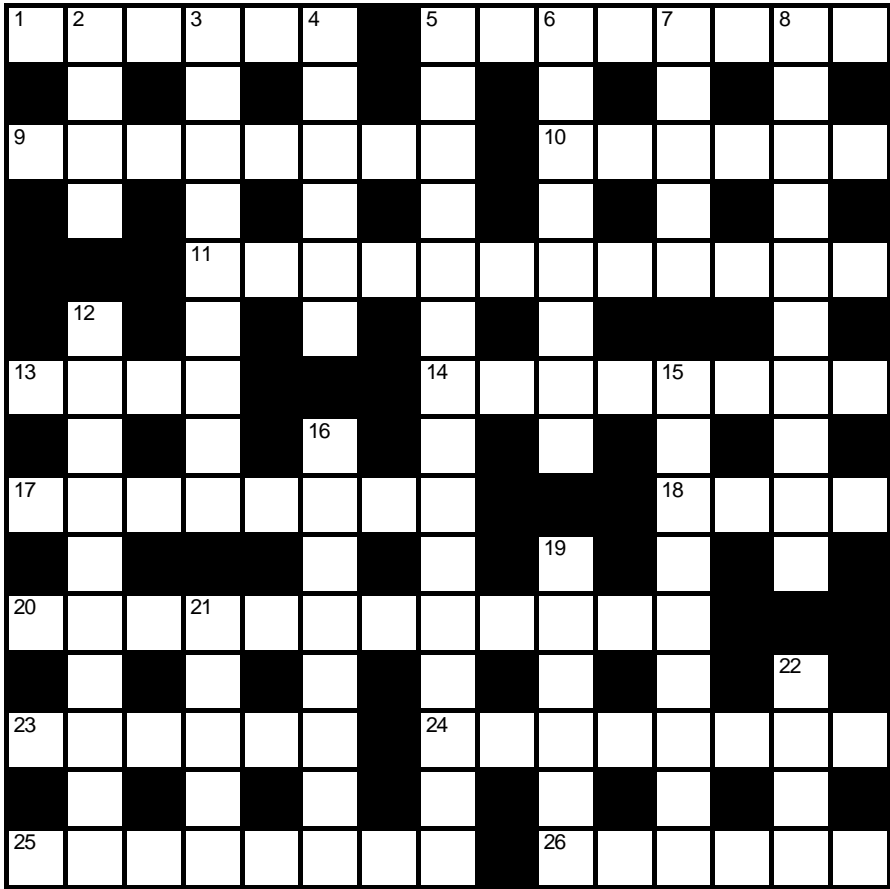
A speck that would have been beneath my sight  
On any but a paper sheet so white  
Set off across what I had written there.  
And I had idly poised my pen in air  
To stop it with a period of ink  
When something strange about it made me think,  
This was no dust speck by my breathing blown,  
But unmistakably a living mite  
With inclinations it could call its own.  
It paused as with suspicion of my pen,  
And then came racing wildly on again  
To where my manuscript was not yet dry;  
Then paused again and either drank or smelt—  
With loathing, for again it turned to fly.  
Plainly with an intelligence I dealt.  
It seemed too tiny to have room for feet,  
Yet must have had a set of them complete  
To express how much it didn't want to die.  
It ran with terror and with cunning crept.  
It faltered: I could see it hesitate;  
Then in the middle of the open sheet  
Cower down in desperation to accept  
Whatever I accorded it of fate.  
I have none of the tenderer-than-thou  
Collectivistic regimenting love  
With which the modern world is being swept.  
But this poor microscopic item now!  
Since it was nothing I knew evil of  
I let it lie there till I hope it slept.  
I have a mind myself and recognize  
Mind when I meet with it in any guise  
No one can know how glad I am to find  
On any sheet the least display of mind.

*Robert Frost*

Crossword Number 210

Compiled by NIBOR

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th November 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 Old boys ramble out on a limb and take boot off (6)
- 5 Get up to cure Virginia in confusion (8)
- 9 Bird gets urge to find flower (8)
- 10 French woman is crazy and maybe excitable initially (6)
- 11 Frenetic gals go wild when cooking for themselves (4-8)
- 13 Cooker for witches with no leader (4)
- 14 Actors follow four points to produce bulletin (8)
- 17 Fillet steak is sold more cheaply (8)
- 18 Leon goes back for Christmas (4)
- 20 Kalian water pipe (6-6)
- 23 Priest in broken circle (6)
- 24 Hatch for forged postal orders, no less (4,4)
- 25 Near gap young Edward avoided (8)
- 26 Thin pole in front of shaft (6)

## Down

- 2 Blade found in noble Africa (4)
- 3 Be logical to create five points (4,5)
- 4 I'm white, so run through (6)
- 5 Crudest nocturne adapted but not reconciled to current orthodoxy (15)
- 6 How Monet changed his place of residence (8)

- 7 Trainee falls off ladder and finds reptile (5)
- 8 Organise priest in charge of marketing (10)
- 12 Match on centre court; supporter follows at last (10)
- 15 Deceive gentle competitor (9)
- 16 Physics or chemistry perhaps may lead to rapid removal from strange discrepancies (8)
- 19 Get old boy to give thanks at home (6)
- 21 Start buttoning up really kinky articles of clothing? no, very modest clothing (5)
- 22 Old bird may carry out function (4)

## Solution to crossword no. 209

T	A	H	I	T	I		K	E	Y	H	O	L	E	S
A	A		H				T	E		I		P		
B	O	R	E	A	S		C	H	A	R	I	S	M	A
U		M		N				I		M		B		R
L	O	O	F	A	H		A	C	H	E	L	O	I	S
A		N		T			I	T	S		S		N	E
T	R	I	T	O	N		R		G					
E		A		S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M		S		E
					X		P		P	O	N	T	U	S
A		L		A		E	O	S		R		E		C
T	R	A	W	L	E	R	S		S	P	I	R	E	A
L		C		T		E				H		N		L
A	B	U	D	H	A	B	I		H	E	M	E	R	A
S		N		E		U			U		S		T	
T	H	A	L	A	S	S	A		T	S	E	T	S	E

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

## The Swaffhams' WI

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October W.I. members welcomed Helen Ackroyd to tell us a little about the history of Anglesey Abbey. The name 'Anglesey' possibly originated from the original name of a lost hamlet of Angerhale which stood somewhere in the vicinity.

The original building was not an abbey but a priory belonging to the Augustinian canons built around 1135, in wood until they could afford to build in stone, where their purpose was to look after the local population. After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 the land was acquired by the Hynde family who used the stone to build Madingley Hall. Only one room remained of the priory which eventually became an entrance hall to the private house it became in the early 1600s.



Among the owners through the years have been Thomas Hobson, the Cambridge carrier, who bought it for his daughter and her family, when it was renamed Anglesey Abbey, and the Downing family.

It was finally bought in 1926 by Urban Huttleston Broughton and his younger brother Henry as a bachelor country house to enjoy country pursuits such as horse racing at Newmarket and shooting parties with their friends. The brothers had inherited a fortune from their maternal American grandfather which enabled them to live a life of leisure and to alter the house to suit their lifestyle, making the old entrance hall into a dining room and moving the original entrance to the corner of the two buildings where it can be seen today.

In 1932 Henry married and moved out of the abbey leaving his brother, now the first Lord Fairhaven, having inherited the title which had been about to be bestowed on his father, also Urban Huttleston Broughton when he died. Lord Fairhaven was an avid collector of books for which he built a library to accommodate all 9,000 of them; clocks, tapestries and paintings for which he added a two storey picture gallery. He also found time to design the gardens.

On his death in 1966 he left the house to the National Trust, stipulating in his will that nothing in the house and gardens was to be altered, it had to remain as a home in an English country house.

Further meetings:

December 11 Christmas Party

2024

January 15 The importance of Gut Health, Dr Yeo

February Women's rights in Africa, Ian Harvey

March Annual General Meeting followed by Button Bingo

Our monthly meetings, if you would like to come along, are held in Swaffham Prior Village Hall once a month, at 7.30pm, usually on the third Monday. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

The WI offers women the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills and campaign on wide ranging issues. Lifts can be arranged if required.

Further information can be obtained from the secretary Hilary Grant 01638 741433.

*Hilary Grant*

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## VILLAGE GARDENERS

We held our AGM this month and were reassured that we can go into 2024 in a sound financial state and our membership can stay at £20 per annum. We are however losing our current committee for various reasons- one being a defection to the North, but are very fortunate to have volunteers who are going to take over these roles.

Ruth's quiz certainly strained our global horticultural knowledge- "which country is the largest producer of roses" and "what's the world's most widely consumed vegetable" plus 38 more! The winners received bags of bulbs - the origin of which was Scotsdales of course.

Our last meeting of this year is on November 21st, when Margaret Nimmo Smith's topic will be 'Fashion in Plants and Gardens'.

Everyone welcome.

*Margaret Joyce*

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## Mothers' Union

At our September meeting, Wendy Bowen (wife of Revd Roger Bowen) gave us a talk on 'The Transformation of women's lives at the Jungle Doctor Hospital in Tanzania'

We began by looking at a modern map of Tanzania, highlighting Bunda in the north, where a girls' boarding school and safe house are built and supported by funds raised by the Anglesey Group of Parishes.

One hundred and sixty years ago missionary work began in Tanzania. The famous physician, explorer and missionary David Livingston (1813-1873) being one of the first. East Africa was divided into British and German spheres of influence by the Anglo-German agreement of 1886. British East Africa (now Kenya) came under the formal control of the British government in 1895, while immediately to the south lay German East Africa (now Tanzania). Germany not wanting Zanzibar or Uganda negotiated with Britain to acquire Heligoland and Britain take over Uganda and Zanzibar.

Soon after this the Anglican Church Mission Society (CMS) prioritised for



*Roger and Wendy Bowen at last month's Harvest Supper*

conversion of Uganda. Not looking at the map realistically they thought the distance from Zanzibar to Uganda could be travelled by oxen and bullock carts. This turned out to be impossible due to the tsetse fly causing fatal harm to oxen. Arab slave traders from the middle east took a route from Dar es Salam, which the missionaries decided to use. Progress was very slow and their efforts ceased at Mpwapwa 108 km. from Dodoma (the current day capital of Tanzania).

We then looked at a 1930's map drawn in 1940, showing the railway from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma built by the Germans. Wendy drew our attention to the small town of Mvumi, 38 km from Dodoma. As the area became evangelised by the missionaries, a boarding school for girls and Jungle Hospital were built in Mvumi, and a small Cathedral in Dodoma. The hospital mainly dealing with maternity and gynaecology needs. In 1960 Wendy and Roger came to live in the small village of

Mvumi whilst at the Theological College. As a young girl Wendy had read many of the Jungle Doctor books written by Paul White: an Australian Christian Missionary who established the hospital in Mvumi. Little did Wendy know when reading the books that she would actually give birth to her youngest son at the Jungle Hospital in 1969.

Girls were subjected to many harms, including disease, forced into marriage by their uncles, slavery, death in childbirth. Females were highly valued with wealth being valued in cattle. The uncles (not the father) of a female being given a cow when she married. Today it is not allowed to be valued in cattle. Boarding school is the best way of protecting girls from being abducted whilst travelling to and from school.

Wendy re-told an experience she encountered in 1965 that she will never forget. Living in a very rural area, with mainly non-Christians living in the bush. One very dark African night 'Black as velvet', huge clouds, no stars or moon she woke to loud shouting and on looking out a young man was shouting "wake your husband and come to our home we need a hospital". She and Roger quickly responded and got in the car, and with the young man running ahead they made their way along very dark rural tracks. Eventually in the headlights they could see a very poor little house, with two figures standing outside. The headlights soon

revealed a young woman of 16 her face in utter shock and dressed in sacking. Behind was an older woman clutching something in her arms. It was soon revealed the woman was clutching twin babies. In non-Christian Africa when a woman gave birth to twins it was assumed the mother had been unfaithful, and her husband was not the father. Unless mothers were rescued, the babies and in many cases their mother were killed. Roger and Wendy took the young mother and her twins to a place of safety at the Mission Hospital. Unfortunately, Wendy never knew what happened to them after. Those first missionaries got their priorities right by providing safety for girls and women, which has resulted in saving the lives of thousands of African females.

**In non-Christian Africa, when a woman gave birth to twins it was assumed the mother had been unfaithful and her husband was not the father. Unless mothers were rescued the babies and in many cases their mother were killed. Roger and Wendy took the young mother and her twins to a place of safety at the Mission Hospital.**

Our branch meetings usually take place on the third Thursday afternoon of each month in Passage Hall, Lode at 2.30pm. At our next meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November we will be looking at the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, campaign which the Mothers' Union supports. You are most welcome to come and join us.

*Ann Langran*

## **FREECYCLE**

Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

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

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

### **Offers**

Mokee cot bed (140cm x 70cm) with mattress. White and beech coloured wood. Eleanor, 07843 209117



We were saddened to hear that James Fitch had passed away. James was County Councillor and District Councillor for many years for the Bot-tisham ward villages. He loved these villages and worked with and for the residents. One of his longest campaigns was to get safe cycle routes, so he was delighted when the Lode to Quy cycle path opened and looked forward to seeing the path from Burwell to Exning open. He knocked on Charlotte's door the day she moved in to Reach to welcome her and her husband to the area and introduce himself as their local Councillor – they were very impressed! They soon realised that he was regularly out and about talking with residents and helping to get things done. More recently, he has given us advice and support and shared his long knowledge of the area with us. Like many people, we shall miss James greatly.



Everyone should have received their black bin bags by the end of October. If you haven't received yours, please let one of us know, and we will make sure they are delivered.

After years of refusing to answer questions about the finances and management of its trading companies, and a demand this February for an extra £500,000 in fees for the year to 31 March, the Council has finally admitted significant problems with ECSS and initiated major reforms. The Chief Executive, who is also the Managing Director of ECSS, published a report triggered by a review instigated by the Audit Committee, following a proposal from Charlotte. There had been a clear indication of one of the major weaknesses when the Council's Observer at ECSS Board meetings, Cllr J Huffer, was asked how frequently she received and reviewed Management Accounts for ECSS and she admitted that "ECSS Board last reviewed the management accounts on 31 January 2023. Prior to this, as it is essentially on operational budget, the Board did not receive management accounts, instead it discussed and approved the annual statutory accounts". Regular review of Management Accounts is a key control of an organisation's finances. The Audit Committee will be reviewing the report in more detail and Charlotte will be pressing for a thorough and independent review of governance at ECSS and ECTC (which shares many of the same governance procedures as ECSS).

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has dropped its plans to charge people driving into and around Cambridge. We are working with colleagues to ensure that we get the much-needed public transport improvements for our area. This will require significant and sustained investment from central government, not just a one-off

£2.3m. We were interested to see that the idea of a congestion charge in Cambridge goes back to 1990 when the Conservative County Council adopted 'demand management by road pricing'. This was firmed up by the Conservatives in 2009 with bids to Government for £500m funding to implement a congestion charge on very similar borders to the GCP's proposal, and deliver improvements to public transport, cycle paths etc. The Government funding stream was closed in 2010, and without the funding the County Council paused the scheme.

Our next 'Meet your Councillors' is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 6.30-7.30 in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Or you can join us in the Red Lion afterwards, as it should be re-opening in October. You are always welcome to contact both of us directly – [john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk), [charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk)



*Lat appearance of Hill's Farm Ice-cream van at last month's Autumn Show. They are giving up now, and will be greatly missed!*

## **BON MOT NUMBER 143**

**"Those who do not believe in magic  
will never find it."**

***Roald Dahl 1916 – 1990)***

## News from Bottisham Medical Practice

### Patients' Participation Group

**Appointments:** There were **47** missed appointments in August. Please inform the surgery if you are not going to attend your appointment so that other patients may benefit from using the slot.

**Dispensary:** There are still difficulties in getting delivery of supplies. Please continue to follow the 5 working day gap between ordering repeat prescriptions and collecting them.

**Transport:** There is a group looking at the current bus service and investigating what changes could be possible to improve this. They are including how it affects the patients from the village getting to the surgery for appointments and a survey will be set up to monitor this. Sadly we have not been able to re-setup the dedicated car service for patients.

**NAFFI Break:** Next get together is on 1 November at 10am in the café at Anglesey Abbey cafe as usual. Gary will be wearing a green Help the Heroes shirt. This will continue in future months on the first Wednesday of the month.

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

**Change of Meeting:** We have postponed the next meeting from December. This will now be at 6.30pm 25 January 2024 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meeting, please email our chairman [s.j.gilson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com). Or speak to reception.

***Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group***

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## News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Earlier this year, the National Trust acquired an additional 15 acres (6.07 hectares) of arable land adjacent to the 24 Acres at Reach but separated from it by an Internal Drainage Board (IDB) ditch. The new land provides further opportunities for the National Trust to achieve their objectives of enhancing the habitats for the benefit of wildlife and providing access to nature for people.

One priority opportunity relates to Turtle Doves which historically used to be a regular summer presence locally. Unfortunately, British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) records show that the breeding farmland index list of birds have declined by more than 55% in the past 50 years, with loss of habitat a significant contributing factor. Turtle Dove, one of Britain's most iconic species, is now listed as globally threatened and is the UK's fastest declining species, with its breeding population falling by 99%.

Discussions with RSPB's Operation Turtle Dove (a national program set up to target habitat creation for the recovery of the species), identified the two plots of land as a suitable location to assist this species. To facilitate this recovery, the National Trust secured a Species Recovery grant from Natural England (NE).



**Wicken Fen are providing land to help with RSPB's Operation Turtle Dove — which creates habitats for recovery of species**

The grant will fund the creation of four UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats, allowing us to plant 635m of hedgerow, to establish wide arable field margins, lowland meadow and to create ponds. A wild bird crop will also be sown in the remaining arable area and a crossing point will be installed across the IDB ditch to join the two compartments via a permissive footpath from 24 Acres to Hightown Drove, providing an alternative green route between Burwell and Reach and offering greater access to nature for local communities.

We're excited to be able to share this news and will keep you updated on progress.

### **Christmas wreath making workshops**

Make your own wreath using natural materials collected locally on Saturday 25 November. We'll provide everything you need to make your wreath and some handy tips to get you started. £5 per wreath, booking essential. You can find all the details including how to book on our website (see events link below).

### **Mother and Father Christmas at the Fen**

Our popular festive is getting very booked up. We still have some availability for Father Christmas on 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December, and for Mother Christmas on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December. Please see our website for more information.

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

## Swaffham Prior Village Hall

**Are you looking to try something new for this Autumn, why not try some of the regular activities below?**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
		<u>PhysiOptima Pilates</u>	<u>Walking in your shoes</u>	<u>Eastern Counties Tai Chi for All</u>
		09:00 - 09:50	Dementia care & support	10:00 - 12:00
		Contact Kristin on	10:00 -16:00	Contact Sharyn on
		Tel 07799323867	Contact Mike on	Tel 0774017917
			Tel 07884042590	
		<u>Art History</u>		
		10:10 - 12:10		
		Contact		
		deborah.monteiro@btinternet.com		
PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
<u>WI Meeting</u>	<u>Art History</u>		<u>Slimming World</u>	<u>SF- Fit Stretch &amp; Relax Exercise</u>
19:30 - 21:30 (3rd Monday of each month)	13:45 - 15:45		From 17:30 & 19:00 (Two groups)	17:00 - 18:00
Contact Margaret on;- 01638 744390	Contact deborah.monteiro@btinternet.com		Contact Sharon on  Tel 07760192638	Contact Sarah on  Tel 075999072008
	<u>SF- Fit Pilates</u>			
	17:00 - 20:00			
	Contact Sarah on			
	Tel 075999072008			

**Swaffham Prior Village Hall is an important local asset which is used by many groups and functions and entirely run by volunteers. We need your help in order to continue to keep it operating. If you can spare a few hours a month and would like to help please contact Philip Blackburn on 07501230256**

***For availability, prices or to make a booking go to  
www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk For anything else contact  
Philip Blackburn on 07501230256***

## **Services in the Anglesey Group of Churches:**

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

### **November 2023**

#### **Wednesday 1 November**

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

#### **Sunday 5 November**

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

#### **Sunday 12 November**

9am Online service, on Zoom  
10.50am Act of Remembrance, Lode, Quay  
Remembrance Service, Swaffham Bulbeck  
Remembrance Service, Swaffham Prior, with Scouts etc

#### **Sunday 19 November**

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

#### **Sunday 26 November**

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

#### **Every Thursday**

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

We are currently without a vicar. Please contact Brenda Wilson,  
Churchwarden, on [prior@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:prior@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk); 01638 743937

All are welcome to services in any church in the group.

Please be in touch if you would like a lift to a service.

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

## Dates for Your Diary November 2023

Thu	9	PC Meeting, VH, 7.15pm
Thu	16	Mothers' Union, Passage Hall, Lode, 2.30 pm [23]
Mon	20	WI, VH, 7.30pm [22] Meet your Councillors, VH, 6.30 (Red Lion afterwards) [27]
Tue	21	Village Gardeners , VH, 8pm [23]
Wed	22	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Sat	25	Make your own Christmas Wreath, Wicken Fen [29] Prior Arts Pop-Up Gallery and Café, 10:30am - 4pm [19]
Sun	26	Prior Arts Pop-Up Gallery and Café, 10:30am - 4pm [19]
		<b>December</b>
Sun	3	Advent by Candlelight [13]
Wed	13	Village Carols [9]
	31	

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

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