



The Swaffham Crier

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August/September 2024



Editorial

Huge Congratulations to Charlotte Cane who became our MP just one month ago with a majority of just 495. Politics aside, few would debate that Charlotte has been a brilliant District Councillor for many years (for just HOW many years, see Our Archives, p. 27—although she did take a break in between). Now we not only have our very own rep in Parliament who will be reporting to us every month, (see her first edition on page 6) but she will also — Yippee! —be staying on as DC. See John Trapp (p. 23).

Big Congratulation also due to Citizen Activist Keith Carter who writes in this edition about his recent exploits in helping to get Little Fen Drove repaired (see p. 9). You have probably glimpsed Keith from time to time, he is the one in the hand-powered wheel chair who has whizzed past before you have had time to work out exactly what that was. He recently won the highly prestigious Crier Prize for his description of the journey down Station Road and back by Reach which he regularly undertakes as part of his morning “stroll” — watch out for those “cliff-edges” though Keith, they’re a menace to cars as well, mine fell off some similar and I needed assistance to get back on.

Meanwhile, not to be outdone, even more Big Congratulations to John and Lana of the Lion who have scored two notable successes recently — see page 2. These awards are most heartily deserved and one reason for the massively improved beer might be that on arrival at the Pub, they set about cleaning the pipes. But no! They were so mucky they threw them out instead. What a difference, and it may well be that contrary to rumour, Batemans’s Beer does travel after all.

Don’t forget! Harvest Show and Dog Show, Saturday September 7th, see you there!

Cover Picture: *Time to Gallop* by Thomas Newbolt

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Caroline Matheson



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Nep

I have just re-read the June "Swaffham Crier" when recently having coffee with my 70+ Fen female friends. I asked "What is a nep?" At once the reply was a medieval turnip. It was the staple diet of the poor before the potato. Due to plant breeding the original turnip is no more. In the second world war we relied on parsnips, carrots, swedes, turnips and mangles to see us through the winter. Personal experience!!

Brenda Doe

Highfen Farm, Upware

In the June Crier, Our Reporter revealed a recently discovered remedy for infertility in women. "Take the wine that Nep has been sodden in ...and give it to Woman to drink, fasting for three days together, and shall soon conceive a child. Proved." But no one knew what "Nep" was. Thank you to Brenda Doe for providing the answer. Eds



Not only have the Red Lion won CAMRA'S Most Improved Pub Award, but also in a "mystery shopper" independent inspection arranged by their brewery Batemans, they were the only pub ever to achieve a score of 100/100.



Dear Editors,

**Macmillan Coffee Morning,
Friday 27th September, 10.30am-12 noon**

Once again we have reached the time of year when I ask you to keep the date free and come along to the Macmillan Coffee Morning! There will be a cake stall, full of home made cakes and a raffle. If you enjoy baking cakes then it would be lovely if you could bring one along. If you don't bake, then please come prepared to buy! There will, of course, be coffee and biscuits, lots of chat and a chance to make new friends and catch up with some old ones. Little ones are also welcome.

The coffee morning is held at my house **The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior.**

I'm looking forward to seeing lots of you then, and don't forget your money! If you need to contact me my phone number is 01638 743720

Ruth Scovil

This Month's Cover Picture

Thomas Newbolt is a highly-regarded artist and teacher of national and international repute who has contributed covers for the *Crier* for many years. He works in a lovely weather-boarded studio just down from the High Street and draws from life and works from his imagination. This month's cover picture is taken from his 2021 notebook of sketches centred on the works of Degas.

From our Reporter

What a coincidence!

On 4th July 1954 the rationing of fresh meat ended in the UK after 14 years of rationing. Seventy years later, also on 4th July, Keith Starmer brought home the bacon for Labour, after 14 years of Tory rule.

Are we now going to enjoy that spirit of joy and hope which swept through Britain in the fifties and following decades? All of us should be wishing the new government well, and success. As soon as the election was announced, with Labour a strong possibility, a large number of "insuperable" problems were listed.

"If you do this you can't do that." Opponents of Labour seemed to be saying it almost with glee. But Their Problems are Our Problems. Hence the wish they have some success.



Not all MPs are charlatans as many think, giving them a reason to announce a moral aloofness over politics with: "A plague on the lot of them." We need people willing to put in their time to help govern the country. Just as we need volunteers at every level of society down to local ones like the PC, the Village Hall Committee, the Support St Cyriac's group, the WI, the Scouts, the Church etc. Read James' excellent report on the Annual Village Assembly in the June *Crier* to see where the need is.

One definitely honest politician is our own Charlotte Cane who has worked so hard for many in the village, and who deserves her success. Equally honest is Lucy Frazer, in my opinion. But the nation's gain with Charlotte is our loss. Who else is going to keep an eye on the ESTC, and ECDC which is not complying with Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidelines, which the Government has always advised all councils to follow. Let's hope John Trapp and even a financial sleuth on the PC take it up. There appears to be two conflicting stories. We don't want another Birmingham problem here, especially as ECDC are rated the second best council in the country.

With Tennis and Football all out of the way we now have the Olympics in Paris. It is almost exactly to the day, a century ago in July 1924, that the 8th Modern Olympics was held in Paris. Another happy coincidence.

But the icing on the cake this year will be found at the Fitzwilliam Museum. In July they opened its Exhibition, Paris 1924: Sport, Art and the Body. In this sport, art and the body all complement each other. The art contrasts traditional representation with the thriving new art of the time - cubism, futurism, surrealism - a new way of looking at life. You don't need to know anything about the various art movements because by just looking you can enjoy and learn. And be amused, puzzled, dismissive or even angered. The exhibition is open until November 3rd. Definitely worth a visit.

Another reminder of the 1924 Olympics was the July showing on TV of the 1981 *Chariots of Fire* film. Certainly worth another watch and especially as it illustrates some attitudes of the time when Europe was still reeling from the impact of the First World War. So many young men had lost their lives. Today lives are being lost throughout the world.

The Bottisham Airfield Museum is currently open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10.30 to 4.30. It is a little gem and an ideal day for the whole family from grandparents to grand children. Or, just by yourself. Enjoy a cuppa and cake in the Flying Tractor Cafe. Look on the Web for details and special events.

There is so much to do over the summer. We are spoilt for choice. The Cambridge Folk Festival, Golf, Cricket, the Tour de France, the Proms, and many other events and activities which readers enjoy and would recommend. One of my greatest surprises and pleasures was watching the All Ireland Hurling Final. It was Cork against Clare at Croke Park in Dublin. Who could resist that line up in that location. I had never seen Hurling before and it is the most amazing sport with seemingly no rules apart from deliberate tripping being a foul. It was 98% all action. They just got on with the game, which was incredibly skilful, fast and physical. If anyone was injured just get up and play or get off the field and be substituted. The commentators claimed this was an outstanding and unforgettable match, just like those from other sports. So I was lucky. The final score was 38-37 after extra time. At times it felt like gladiators in the ring at the Coliseum, fighting to the death

With the print deadline approaching I now end. For the rest of July and during August and September so much will be happening - here, in the USA, in Europe, the Middle East, and the rest of the world. We will be spoilt for news. So just sit back and enjoy the Olympic Games as a start.

There will be an interesting side show. This is the selection of the New Leader of the Conservative Party. On 29th July the nominations close. This time only a minimum of 10 MPs are required for a nomination. During September 4 MPs will be selected. Between 29th September and 2nd October Tory MPs will select two. And then paid up Tory Members have until 31st October to make the final choice. On 2nd November the New Leader will be announced.

A word of caution. 10% of those who voted in Boris Johnson in 2019 have since died. Tory Members are now 5 years older. Think hard before you vote. Or just play safe and cancel your Tory party membership.

“A word of caution. 10% of those who voted in Boris Johnson in 1919 have since died. Tory Members are now 5 years older. Think hard before you vote... ”

Alastair Everitt

MP's Report to Village Magazines, August 2024

Thank you for electing me as your Member of Parliament – it is an amazing honour to represent the constituency of Ely and East Cambridgeshire. I look forward to working with you and to representing our beautiful area at Westminster.

As I write this, I have been your MP for one week, and it's been busy! My first meeting was on Friday afternoon, about 10 hours after my election was announced. After a busy weekend, I packed my bags and headed to London on Sunday evening.

Monday morning, I headed to my first in-person meeting and in the afternoon I entered Parliament and was given my pass and met my 'buddy'. Each new MP (there are about 330 of us) has a member of staff assigned to us who showed us round and has been on-hand since to answer questions.

My buddy showed me the Members' cloakroom, where we really do have a pink ribbon with which to hang our swords, as well as a coat hanger for more prosaic attire! We then went to get my IT equipment and have various briefings on finances, security, standards etc. She showed me around parliament, but I still get lost all the time and am grateful to the staff who set me back in the right direction. Even the floor levels are confusing – Parliament has a ground floor, a principal floor and then first and second floors.

Tuesday was largely training sessions, with some time to use the hot desking to start reading and answering emails. We were told it will be a month or two yet before we get an office, meanwhile we have a locker and hot desk space.

On Wednesday, we had our first session in the Chamber – to elect the Speaker. A great deal of pomp and ceremony, but also a chance for all the Party leaders to make short speeches to congratulate the Speaker. Then they started swearing in the MPs, starting with the cabinet moving through long-standing MPs until eventually reaching the new MPs. I took my oath on Thursday afternoon. That was when it finally sunk in as I introduced myself as Charlotte Cane representing Ely and East Cambridgeshire and felt the weight of responsibility. I will do my best to represent you all.

Parliament didn't sit on Friday, so I made my way home to Reach. I recorded a television discussion and then had a zoom meeting about Sunnica Solar Farm, only to find out about an hour later that planning permission had been given by the Secretary of State.

On Saturday I was able to get to the Ely Farmers' Market, for my bread, cheese, samosas, cherries and strawberries.



On the terrace



Charlotte now has
her own personal
Sword Hanger...

Then I went to the World Pea shooting Championships in Witcham. I am certainly not competition standard, but I did at least manage to hit the practice target a few times.

Over the next few weeks I need to learn my way around and recruit a team of staff so that I can properly respond to all your queries and concerns. But I do, at least have an email address so you can contact me – charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk .

Charlotte Cane



SWAFFHAM PRIOR

Saturday 7th September 2024

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

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

Classes £1 each or £5 for all six classes

Entries on the day, enquiries in advance to

Janet on 07833 960678

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

**The Harvest
Show will take
place
immediately
afterwards —
see the insert
that is included
in your
magazine**

Sponsored by



St Cyriac & St Julitta Church

SAVE THE DATE & PLEASE DONATE YOUR BOOKS REQUEST

St Cyriac's, the elegant magnificent church next to St Mary's Church, is cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust who rely on donations and fundraising to help them maintain the church for us to use and enjoy now and in the future.

On the afternoon of Saturday 26th October we are holding a fundraising event for them, *Look Hoos Coming to St Cyriac's*, a unique opportunity to learn about owls and their habitats & conservation; watch them fly freely inside the church and to get to meet them close up if you wish. This will be a ticketed event which we hope you will support. More details nearer the time...but please save the date for this truly magical experience.

Another way to support the upkeep of St Cyriac's is to buy the secondhand books on sale inside the church. There's a great selection of books, both fiction and non-fiction, hard and soft backs, all available for a small donation of 50p. Whether you're into crime fiction, celebrity autobiographies, classic literature or modern best sellers, hopefully there's something to interest you. And if you are able to donate any

books in good condition, whether you loved them or never finished them, that would be much appreciated too.



If you would like any help donating books, I am happy to collect so please call or leave a message on 07740 171917

Many thanks and hope to see you on Saturday 26th October!

Sharyn, Orchard House, 3 Mill Hill,
Swaffham Prior

Left, Domino the Spectacled Owl. We do hope he's coming too.

Citizen activism on Little Fen Drove

The worst bit of Little Fen Drove was a few hundred yards from Swan Lake, a place less lovely than it sounds, near Reach. Maybe once there was a pretty little lake, with graceful swans; I like to think so. Now it's a huge wind-swept grain store, served by huge vehicles with tyres that are, well, huge. On this stretch, the Drove was an obstacle course of pot-holes, the surface crumbling at the edges leaving a narrow navigable band in the middle between deep sharp-edged puddles. The middle band was convex and, at various times, covered with muddy gravel, or dusty gravel, or the same mixed with horse manure.



Little Fen Drove before the civic activism

I'm making it sound like I didn't enjoy this bit of my morning hand-bike ride, but actually the whole of the Drove was risky fun, from the crazy roller-coaster ride just past the Upware junction end to the obstacle course at the Swan Lake end. I do like a bit of risk, but a moment's inattention could have been disastrous. I was just thinking this one dull winter morning when, concentrating on the cratered road, I came face to face with a white SUV I'd seen a few times on or near Little Fen Drove.

Never have I had anything other than pleasant encounters with other vehicles on my morning roll, but I do sometimes wonder if car-drivers are aware of the

stability difficulties the *camber* at the road's edge can present to my laterally-wheeled chair. For any reader who has come across me in the middle of the road and wondered (as would I in their place) why the hell I was not nearer the left hand side, as is our Great British tradition, my apologies. The answer is the camber. For some reason – prejudice, probably – I always imagine those behind the wheels of SUVs to be particularly judgemental in this way.

**...as she drew
level the lady in
the SUV wound
down her window
- a most
unwelcome
development**

Somehow I managed to pull over to a more or less even part of road's edge and as she drew level the lady in the SUV wound down her window - a most unwelcome development, even though she looked very pleasant. Antisocial at the best of times, I rarely address anyone before 9am – I wasn't even sure my vocal chords would function. What was she going to say? Would I need to explain the camber thing?

We had a very nice conversation about the state of the road during which she disclosed a plan of citizen activism, to approach the council with a view to getting this derelict drove re-surfaced, or at least the deepest and most dangerous potholes filled. Was I in? Was my rabble roused? She had the look of steely determination of a veritable freedom fighter, and I avowed my staunch support, giving her my email address thinking 'good luck with that, Emmeline!' The idea that Little Fen Drove would get any pothole attention seemed fanciful when – well, have you seen the B1102? The issue of camber and my road-hogging habits never came up.

Emmeline's real name was Hilary and I was surprised when, in March, she invited me to join her and a few others at a site meeting with representatives of Cambridgeshire County Council. A small group of unvocal, well-behaved civil activists congregated politely in front of the Swan Lake mega-sheds: Hilary, Andrew – who must be bored of the comments he gets on his surname – Jason and me. We were joined by two surprisingly understanding gentlemen from the Highways Maintenance department – Jon and Neal. My scepticism was beginning to feel impolite, so I nodded along with Hilary who, persuasively and with an authority that brooked no nonsense, outlined the residents' and road-users' concerns. I added a bit about stability and camber but no-one seemed convinced. It's a minority-interest topic.

I hope my amazement was not too evident when Neal whipped out a couple of cans of spray-paint, one white the other yellow, and he and Jon began identifying (in white) areas where the road needed general surface attention and (in yellow) the potholes that needed filling – examples being the roller-coaster and the assault course respectively. Progress! People power! This must be how those activists who spray orange paint on things like prehistoric world heritage megaliths feel when they achieve .. oh, wait

For the next few weeks nothing happened, and each time I made my risky yet exciting way along Little Fen Drove slightly more of the white and yellow marks

had disappeared. Typical, I thought. My first and last involvement with civilian activism.

Needless to say Hilary, ably supported by Mr Trump, were not so easily discouraged. Emails were sent. Reach Fair, with its pressing crowds and mass cycle-rides was mentioned. And, gentle reader, citizen activism is effective in East Cambs! The work was done! The road is safer, less muddy, and generally gives a great foretaste of the stakhanovite efficiency in public services we all have ahead of us under the inspiring new leadership of Sir Kier and, closer to home, Ms Cane. Viva la Revolución!

One thing remains: the ‘cliff edge’ that now best describes the new edge of the road. I know, *some people are never happy* - but in the place of ragged potholes we now have rather a neat mini-precipice even more threatening than the camber! Jon knows about it and has a solution involving scrapings and topsoil. We just need one last push, Jon - as Mrs Pankhurst probably never said.

Keith Carter



Little Fen Drove after the civil action – much improved but with a cliff edge

HEATING SCHEME NEWS

Turning Up the Heat: Swaffham Prior's Sustainable Summer

As the sun shines bright this August, Swaffham Prior is leading the way in sustainable living with our innovative heat network. Here's how we're transforming our community.



Next round of connections starts

Construction will commence in August for the next round of home connections to the Swaffham Prior Heat Network. The work schedule and timings will be communicated to the different households soon.

There will be some traffic restrictions on some roads and footways, as part of traffic management around the works. This is to ensure the safety of both residents and contractors. You may have noticed markings appearing on roads and footways these indicate existing utilities near work sites and are nothing to be concerned about.

We understand that our works, particularly when they are on the road and footways cause inconvenience to local residents and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. Traffic management is essential to ensure everyone's safety during construction works in and around the connection points. Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue the roll out of our community's innovative sustainable heating infrastructure.

Meet Our Team:

Come and meet Business Development Manager, Siddhant Malhotra, at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 14 August, Wednesday 21 August and Thursday, 29 August 2024 between 10 AM to 5 PM. No need to book an appointment, just turn up for a chat about joining the network, how your connection is working or how to recommend a friend.

If you're not available on the above given dates, customers interested in connecting to the heat network can book an appointment or request a home visit by getting in touch by phone or email. For appointments, please call +44 7393146945 or email heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Community Voices:

We'd like to share some feedback from the existing customers highlights comfort and the efficiency that our heat network brings to everyday life.

'The heat network installation is providing warmth and hot water to our home that is comparable to the old oil boiler, but without the boiler noise, oil smell and constant need for checks on oil tank levels' - High Street resident

Once installed it just works without any fuss which is just what you need really. I have friends who live outside the village quite jealous a similar system isn't available in their area. - Mill Hill resident

"Very happy...not having to use heating oil" - Lower End resident

"I am very happy that I made the switch away from oil - I never have to worry about running out anymore and the silent operation of the heat-exchange unit and

lack of smelly fumes outside my house is also a boon. I see no good reason why anyone in the village would not switch over to the heat network.” - High Street resident

Free Connection Offer

We are pleased to confirm that we are currently waiving the £1,000 home connection cost of joining the heat network.



Joining couldn't be easier. **Here's how:**

- 1) Contact us to arrange a call or visit to answer your questions
- 2) We will arrange a visit from our surveyors to assess your household's suitability and needs
- 3) If you're happy, complete the paperwork and we'll book you in for the next available installation date

Our contact details

You can register your interest through our online form at: <https://forms.office.com/e/8mg3xtEpnY>

Email us at heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk,

Call our customer service line at 0345 0455210



Boating at Wicken Fen—see page 25

POEM OF THE MONTH(S)

The Mirror

By A. A. Milne

Between the woods the afternoon
Is fallen in a golden swoon.
The sun looks down from quiet skies
To where a quiet water lies,
And silent trees stoop down to trees.
And there I saw a white swan make
Another white swan in the lake;
And, breast to breast, both motionless,
They waited for the wind's caress. . .
And all the water was at ease.

*...and you thought he only wrote about Pooh, Piglet and Christopher Robin!
2024 marks the centenary of the publication of A. A. Milne's first volume of verse:
"When We Were Very Young", but that beautiful image of a white swan making
another white swan in the lake reveals a serious poet at work, however old the
reader is.*

Andrew Grant

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

Bird cage (on wheels: 150cm high, 75cm x 50cm).
Size 3 roller blades; rock hopper bouncy toy.

Terry, 07787 582410
Jun, 07980 423210





Many thanks to our painter and decorator Andy Pumfrey for discovering this perfect wren's nest hidden in the jasmine. Our Bird ID App has been identifying wrens in the garden all year, and we're planning on going to Village Gardner's "When Birds Sing" in September (see page 21) to see if we can learn to do it ourselves

BON MOT NUMBER 152

"The problem with people who have no vices is that you can pretty sure they're going to have some pretty annoying virtues."

Elizabeth Taylor (1932 - 2011)

Strawberry Teas

Sunday 28th July brought beautiful weather and the return of Strawberry Teas to raise money for St Mary's Church. It was a wonderful afternoon with Janet serving a delicious plate of scones, cream, jam and strawberries and bottomless pots of tea! Many thanks to Janet for her amazing preparation and for all her hard work on the day. We raised over £180 for St Mary's Church (including a very generous donation from a new family to the village). Look out for the date again next year – the sun will be shining again!

Kate Muscroft



**The
Sun
Shines
on
the
Strawberry
Teas
and a
glorious
time
is
had
by
all**



PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

“The Little Chapel in the Fen”

All welcome to our

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 6th October

3pm

**Traditional harvest service and hymns
Produce welcome**

NEWMARKET CINEMA

Below are details of our film shows for August - September 2024 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket. Please note we are still only having a showing on Monday,

August 19th- Yesterday (2019) (12A)

September 16th - The Miracle Club (12A)

Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £6 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats, please either send an email to richardjbowler@outlook.com or call 01638 666810.

Richard Penny

JULIE'S SUMMER VEG RECIPES

Baked courgette with parmesan

A dash of vegetable oil for greasing	25g feta
1 medium courgette, trimmed and grated	1 heaped tbsp grated parmesan
1 rasher of bacon, chopped	Pinch of ground black pepper
1 tbsp plain yoghurt	1 free range egg, beaten
	2 tomatoes, sliced to serve

1. Preheat oven to 180C.
 2. Grease an ovenproof dish with the oil, Add the grated courgette, then add the chopped bacon.
 3. In a bowl, mix together the yoghurt, feta, parmesan, black pepper and egg.
 4. Pour the mixture over the courgette and bacon. Bake in the oven for 20 -25 minutes or until it is set and golden brown. When ready, serve with sliced tomatoes if desired. Serves 2
-

Runner beans with tomato, garlic and chilli

300g runner beans	2 cloves
2 tbsp olive oil	2 x 400g tinned plum tomatoes, drained of juice
2 cloves of garlic, finely sliced	A small bunch of basil leaves, torn
A large pinch of chilli flakes	

1. Prepare runner beans and cut into diagonal pieces, heat the olive oil in a large frying pan and add the garlic, cook for 2 minutes, then add the beans, chilli and cloves.
 2. Cook for 2 more minutes and add the drained tomatoes, cover and cook for 20-25 minutes until the beans are tender and the sauce is thick and rich. Stir through the basil before serving, Serves 4 as a side dish
-

French Peas and butter lettuce

1 large head butter lettuce	1-2 tbsp of chicken broth
2 bunches of spring onions	3 pounds of English peas shelled
1 tbsp butter	Pinch of salt and pepper

1. Coarsely chop the lettuce and finely chop the whites of the onions and half of the green tops.
2. In a large saute pan, melt the butter until it foams, add the lettuce and onions and toss. Add 1 tbsp of the broth, reduce heat to low and cover.
3. When the lettuce is wilted, add the peas, stir and cover. When the peas are tender, add seasoning and it is ready to serve. Serves 4



Mothers' Union

This month I have two meetings to report on.

On a sunny afternoon on June 20th we welcomed the Reverend Paula Spalding to our meeting. As well as working as Associate Priest at St Mary's in Burwell, Paula is the Mothers' Union

Diocesan Chaplain.

Paula spoke movingly of her call to ministry and the journey that has taken her on over several years. She has felt strongly that God has called her to chaplaincy work; this is often supporting the needs of people in a workplace, a hospital, a school, a prison or in the armed forces. This can involve offering help in crisis situations, including family/relationship issues and bereavement.

Paula's work has included working at HMP Whitemoor's Visitors Centre near March, and contributing to Burwell Radio's show during Prison Week when they were able to broadcast the programme from both HMP Whitemoor and HMP Littlehey near Huntingdon. As part of the Visitors Centre Team, Paula set up making Christmas Stockings and Easter Treats each year for the visiting children and their families.

Paula has also been part of a multi-faith Chaplaincy Team at Cambridge Regional College, has been the Padre with Cambridge Army Cadets, and been involved with the Cambridge Workplace Chaplaincy. Paula described how much she had enjoyed all of her Chaplaincy placements where she made many friends.

More recently Paula has taken up the role of Chaplain to the Mothers' Union in the Ely Diocese. Together with the Parish Priest Duty, the Cathedral aims to have a chaplain present whenever the building is open; Paula can often be found walking around and chatting to visitors within this beautiful building.

After thanking Paula for her very interesting talk, we finished the meeting with tea and a piece of special birthday cake as Julie Bard celebrated her 80th Birthday at the end of June.

On Thursday 18th July we met in a garden in Lode, by kind invitation of Julie Sales, for the Branch Summer Afternoon Tea. The weather was beautiful, and we all enjoyed delicious homemade cakes and plenty of tea, all served on pretty china – very British! Donations were made in aid of the Mother's Union 'Summer of Hope' appeal; this supports work transforming the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa by providing literacy classes and agricultural training. A total of £80 was raised.

The meeting on Thursday 19th September will include a visit from Philip Baker, the Burwell MU Branch Leader (in the Fassage Hall, Lode at 2.30pm)

Alison Martin

The Swaffhams' WI

Have you ever walked through the churchyard when the Community Payback team have been working and if so, have you ever thought that you would like to know more about their inspirational work? Well, July's WI meeting saw Liz Coppolaro, who organises the Community Payback team, deliver an inspirational talk on Probation and Rehabilitation. Liz is an Unpaid Work Supervisor for the Probation Service, working 4 days a week all year round.

In 1973 Community Service was set up as a way of rehabilitating people caught up in the criminal justice system. Its aim was to develop a feeling of being valued, a sense of community and thereby encouraging a more positive outlook on life – pro-social modelling. In 2005 Community Service was renamed Community Payback.

Liz works mostly with men, who come from a variety of backgrounds; for example trades people, scientists, teachers, pharmacists. Some of the men may be on a suspended sentence and if they fail to complete their Community Payback hours, they could be sent to prison. However, more often than not the men are proud of their work and work hard. So what do Liz and her team do? They work outside in all weathers on projects to improve the local community including laying paths, putting down a base for a shed, weeding, strimming, etc, etc. At times they might work at the Peterborough base where they make furniture or bird boxes, for example, out of pallets. One of the more unusual items they make is a 'crisp blanket' made out of washed and ironed recycled crisp packets.

Liz's talk was upbeat and inspirational but she was also very articulate about the reasons why so many of these men find themselves caught up in the criminal justice system: childhood trauma, lack of decent housing and lack of mental health support can all have a devastating effect on people's lives. We badly need more support for the Probation Service and the vital work it does.

So next time you see a Community Payback team, please take time to smile or have a quick word. Kindness, respect and understanding can go a long way.

Our next meeting is on Monday 19th August at 7:30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Ian Woodruffe, our local master baker, will be talking about bread making. Do please come along and join us. It was lovely to have some new faces join us in July and we would love to welcome yet more new members.

Kate Muscroft



*July's WI
Speaker Liz
Coppolaro,
who volunteers
for the
Probation
Service*



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardeners needed their waterproofs for their ‘summer’ coach trip to English Heritage Wrest Park in Bedfordshire. We took shelter in the café and visited the historical exhibition and ornate state rooms in the 18th century mansion house until the rain stopped enough for us to explore the extensive gardens and woodlands. Our route took us to the Orangery, the Bowling Green House and on to the Archer Pavilion hunting lodge, then alongside the Long Water and over the Chinese Bridge to the Dairy Sculpture Gallery. The English rose, Italian and French parterre gardens were probably not at their best after the rain and so the stunning Wrest Park would definitely be worth a revisit on a sunny day.

Rain threatened us again for our July evening outing to Netherhall Manor, a historical home tucked away in the middle of Soham where Timothy Clark gave us a very interesting account of his family history and a tour of the walled gardens, courtyard and vegetable plot. Timothy specialises in rescuing and preserving rare and historical plants, and the Heliotropes and Victorian Pelargoniums were looking particularly pretty for our visit.

We’ll be taking a break from organised events during August and September, and our next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th October at 8pm, when Saffron Summerfield will join us in Swaffham Prior Village Hall to give her rescheduled presentation ‘When Birds Sing’. This is a change to the previous programme, with the AGM now scheduled for November. In the meantime, we hope that you can enjoy the summer in your gardens.

Fiona Geraghty

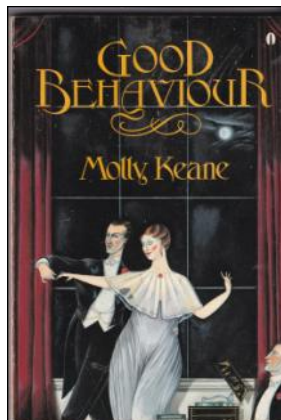


Wrest Park—Village Gardeners say: do visit, but on a sunny day!

The Reading Group Reads...
Good Behaviour
By Molly Keane

Last month, book club read *Good Behaviour* by Molly Keane. It had a mixed reception! This month we read *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Syrouet which was enjoyed by us all. Next month, we will be discussing *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell, a book some of us will be revisiting having first read it many years ago!

Roz



Calling all furry friends and their owners!

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity are inviting you to grab your lead and walk 90km **this September** for Hospice Care. Lead On - The Ultimate Dog Walking Challenge - is back! You have from 1 – 30 September, to see how far you can walk and how much you can raise to support patients and their loved ones in Cambridgeshire. It is **free to register**, and once you raise **£30**, your dog will receive their **Arthur Rank Hospice Charity bandana**, which they can proudly wear on their sponsored walks.

Sign up now at arhc.org.uk/leadon or telephone 01223 675888.



Donations!

Many thanks to Catie Whitely for her very generous donation to the *Crier* last month. Every penny of this goes to printing and production costs of the *Crier*



From our District Councillors
Charlotte Cane &
John Trapp

Not much significant business was transacted this month, due to the General Election. As you might be aware, Charlotte Cane was elected as our MP, but she will continue to be a District Councillor. We don't know yet how Charlotte will be able to juggle the two workloads, but the surgeries will continue, and one of us shall be coming to the Parish Councils. John Trapp may have to take a greater share of the work. Charlotte in her MP's report will outline how she will be making herself available to her constituents once arrangements are in place.



At Operational Services Committee these issues or actions arose:

There was a small annual overspend

There was a large underspend on capital, due to purchases held in abeyance

The reformation and streamlining of the planning pre-application process to make it more realistic and efficient

To note that the performance of ECSS in collecting waste and street cleansing had improved

To note the interim report of the working group on waste management and to anticipate the completion of the report for the next committee meeting

At Finance & Assets Committee these issues or actions arose:

The considerable reserves that the Council has and the current high interest rate has generated a significant capital gain of almost £1.3m

There was an underspend of almost £0.7m on other budget lines, mostly because the spending was deferred or not used (e.g. Strategic Housing)

That there is a significant capital underspend, some of it due to slippage of expenditure.

The Climate and Nature Strategy 2024-28 and Climate and Nature Monitoring Report and Action Plan 2024 was presented, and accepted although there were significant adverse comments made.

The report from the Bus, Cycling and Walking working group was presented; this contained proposals for cycle ways that could be created were there to be funds for doing so.

There won't be a surgery in August, but we shall be having one in September. You are, of course, welcome to contact us via email or telephone.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane – 07976 607512, charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk - and John Trapp – 01223 812120, john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk

ANGLESEY ABBEY AND...

Head over to Anglesey Abbey for an activity-packed **Summer of Play** – every day until 1 September. If you're looking for a great day out for the whole family, look no further! We're talking crazy golf, bubble shows, crafts, facepainting, archery and more.



Sponsored by Starling Bank, we've got five interactive play zones for children to enjoy throughout the summer holidays: a disco den, games area, book nook, creative corner and a trundle track for toddlers on East Lawn. To add to the fun, there will be a story time session every Monday, bubble shows or craft activities every Wednesday and a lunchtime disco each Friday throughout the summer holidays. These events are all free for visitors to enjoy; normal admission to the grounds applies.

A couple of our events are ticketed: brand new for the first time this summer, have a go at our 9-hole **crazy golf course** from **27 July – 11 August**, and see if you can get a hole in one! £5 per person, scorecards included. Please head to our website for more details and to book your place. Then take aim on **20 and 27 August** and enjoy some **archery sessions** in the Arboretum, £4 per person, no need to pre-book.

And if you haven't booked your tickets yet, we are down to the final few for the outdoor theatre performance of **Hamlet by The Lord Chamberlain's Men** on Saturday 17 August at Anglesey Abbey.

Throughout the summer and into September, come and try out our **new Garden Office Café**, located by the house and looking onto the stunning Rose Garden. Having opened on 19 July, this has been a particularly popular spot for visitors to pick up a hot drink and a bite to eat before carrying on with their walk or taking a moment to sit down and relax in the new outdoor seating area in the courtyard. We look forward to welcoming you to Anglesey Abbey and wish you all a wonderful summer!

To plan your visit or book tickets, please head to: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey.

Issy Vetoshkina



**Anglesey Abbey's
Summer of Play
in progress**

...WICKEN FEN NEWS

We've been enjoying celebrating Wicken Fen's 125th anniversary this year. New for this year, we have *summer evening opening* on Thursdays (until the end of August), with the visitor centre, gift shop and boardwalk open until 8pm. Also until the end of August, the *pizza van* is serving delicious wood fired pizzas, and cold drinks, on Thursdays (5-8pm), Fridays (5.30-8pm), Saturdays (12.30-3pm; 5.30-8pm) and Sundays (12.30-3pm).



Now it's summer and the Fen is at its best, with lots of flowers and insect life. The *Summer Nature Trail* is the longest route around the Sedge Fen. It has been given time to rest to allow the delicate peat soils to recover and is open until the end of September. It's a special part of the reserve, full of lush green foliage and fen plants and flowers. This circular route is approximately 2 ¼ miles long and is a beautiful place to look out for marsh orchids, dragonflies and butterflies.

Until the 1st of September, there is a new *Dragons & Damsels family trail* around the boardwalk, in celebration of Wicken Fen becoming a British Dragonfly Society hotspot site. The trail is filled with games, quizzes and activities to learn more about the dragonflies and damselflies found on the Fen, for the cost of £1 per trail sheet, which includes a gift to take home (usual admission to Sedge Fen applies). And in the Woodland Walks, there is a *Giant Butterflies* trail where families can look for large painted models as well as real butterflies and learn more about these fascinating winged creatures (trail sheets are also £1 with usual admission applying).

Boat trips and *cycle hire* are in full swing and are great ways to explore the reserve with friends and family. We have recently added two recumbent trikes to the fleet. If you'd like more information about what we offer, our Visitor Centre team can always help; we're available from 10am to 5pm daily on 01353 720274.

We have a variety of family-friendly events throughout August and September (all of which can be booked onto via the Wicken Fen website):

Pond Dipping, delve into the watery world to find out what is living beneath the surface: 12th and 21st August

Evening Boat Ride, trips at 16.30 and 18.00 on 15th, 22nd and 29th August

Bug Hunters, family fun for those who like to discover creepy crawlies and catch crickets: 2nd and 5th August

Butterfly Fun: Discover and Do, marvel at their beautiful bodies under the microscope plus cut, stick and stencil some amazing butterfly-themed crafts: 16th and 19th August. *Minibeast Superheroes*, sensory challenges and active play ideas, perfect for those with lots of energy, includes a make-and-take medal: 14th, 23rd and 28th August

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

Details of our events can be found on our website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on>.

Ajay Tegala

Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting

Cllr Covill chaired a meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 11th July, attended by 6 councillors and 3 members of the public.

Public participation for items on the agenda

One member of the public spoke briefly regarding the condition of public rights of way. A second member of the public noted an interest in the review of the rewilding project.

Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Cllr Greenfield noted that the twice yearly weed spray of the cemetery had been added to the Nurture Landscapes schedule and was waiting for a correction to the figures before it could be signed off.

Review of the rewilding project

This was postponed to the August meeting to allow Cllr Latchford's input.

Cllr Greenfield and Mike Barker will continue working with Nurture Landscaping Ltd to getting the cutting regime correct.

Maintenance/clearing of footpaths

Cllr Hart noted that the public right of way from Pulpit Corner to Devil's Dyke had been obscured by crops for part of its length. Cllr Lambert will complain to Cambridge County Farms regarding the obscured footpath and contact the former tenant farmer.

The footpath from the Village Hall carpark to Station Road is also overgrown at the Station Road end – the Clerk will write to the landowner requesting the vegetation is cleared.

Cllr Muscroft will contact Community Payback Team to see if they would be interested in clearing the Station Road to back of the Village Hall path, Pound to Coopers Green path and Cage Hill to the Beeches path.

Clerk's Report

a) Cemetery – roughly a third of the grave markers have been photographed and the inscriptions recorded.

b) Allotments – the huge pile of shreddings that appeared in the lay by is gradually being moved onto the allotments. The gate from the cemetery to the allotments needs adjusting again – clerk to fix.

c) Clerk to purchase a portable hard drive to back up all the PC files and to enable SKP to keep a copy of records in case of sudden incapacitation of the Clerk.

d) Playground – new seats to be fitted, bushes for the swings are on order. The too-long swing chains will be shortened at the same time.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Muscroft – The Village Hall Committee wanted clarification regarding what areas of the village hall the PC has responsibility for and what areas are the committee's responsibility. It was noted that the VHC organise window cleaning, the PC maintain the grass and trees. Cllr Muscroft also noted that the VHC have given permission for the installation of a Little Library in the area of garden behind the village noticeboard and would like the PC to undertake maintenance of a gate giving

access to it - to be decided at the August meeting.

Open Question Time

Further discussion of the maintenance of footpaths.

Produced from unapproved minutes and may contain errors; approved minutes can be found at <http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/minutes.html> 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, 8th August 2024 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES: August Crier, 1999

The Sinking of the Pirate Ship

One of the most poignant moments of the end-of-year assembly held on the last day of Swaffham Prior School's summer term occurred in the moving poetry and song composed and performed by the 21 leaving children as a farewell tribute to the school. The children listed the things they had loved most about the school, and of course, this included 'Mrs Davies' Pirate Ship', a ship constructed by the infants as the central theme of their study of maps and co-ordinate systems, progressing to a delightful dénouement in which the children dress up as pirates and use maps to search for treasure round the village.

Who sank it? Why, the OFSTED inspectors, of course. Not 'in keeping with the school's display guidance'. And the Captain went down with the ship. Well, if that's the way they want it, up with the *Jolly Roger*, I say...

Editorial

And from Charlotte Cane...

We have taken the first steps towards opening up the council. All panel and working party meetings are now open to the public in addition to the full council and committee meetings, which already were open to the public. Sometimes we discuss items that the law says are confidential and, where this is the case, we keep these items to the end of the meeting.

People can now also present petitions to the council and the petitioner can speak for up to 3 minutes to explain their concerns. This will allow you to raise issues of major local concern with all the Councillors. For example, under these new arrangements Swaffham Prior's petition against housing on the 'Dencora' field could have been presented to full Council and a speech made in support of it.

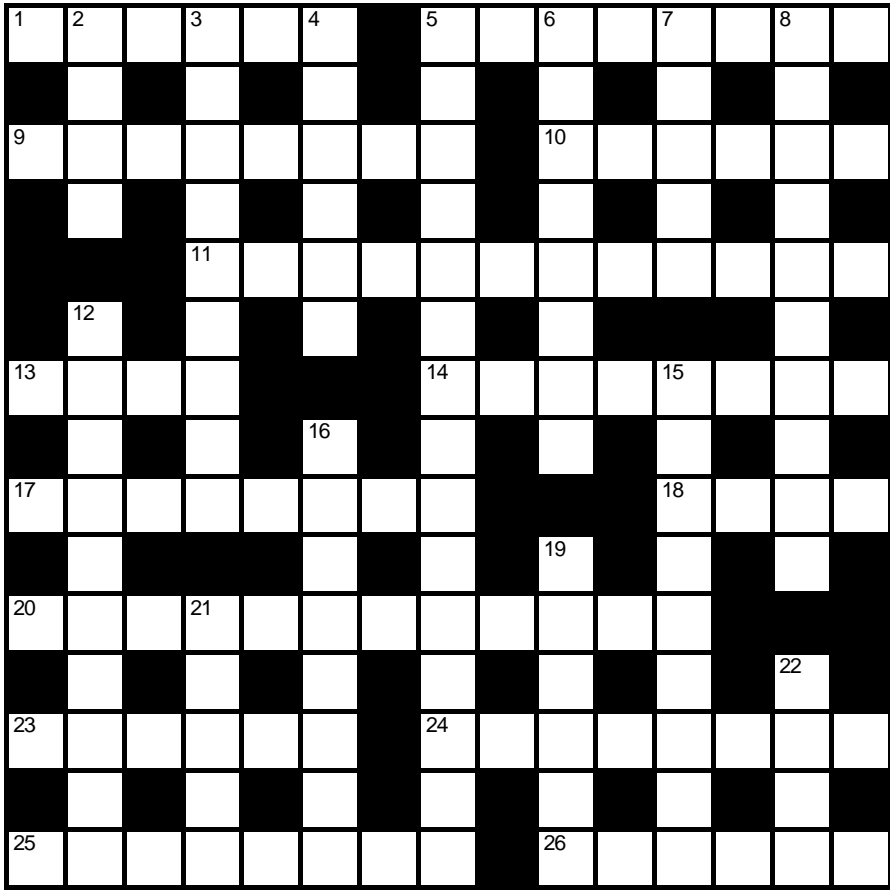
The Council is progressing well with plans to ensure that we will be prepared against the so-called 'Millennium Bug'. Although we have resolved many of the issues, we still have work to do. The Public Auditors have confirmed that our progress to date and our plans for the rest of the year should ensure that we are ready for the year 2000.

My next surgery will be at Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hall on Tuesday August 10th from 7.30-9.00. Please come if you wish to discuss any matters with me. Or, if you prefer you can contact me at home.

Crossword Number 219

Compiled by **CALVIN**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th September 2024. The sender of the first correct solution out of the hat will win a free Sunday Lunch at *The Red Lion*—See the pub manager for full details. Emailed solutions are acceptable but please include “CROSSWORD” and the crossword number in the header.



Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Across

- 1 Mash and sift endlessly to create central part of French range (6)
- 5 Rearranged black ape so it fits in a suitcase (8)
- 9 Boil croc, chopped and served with green vegetable (8)
- 10 Suggest everything is pornographic, we heard (6)
- 11 Crazy, Hitler cut our flowers, perhaps? (12)
- 13 Swerve, avoiding pair initially, but finishing with crumpled remains (4)
- 14 Thanks to God for bent boot nail! (8)
- 17 Old currency I, er, revealed as element (8)
- 18 Lying in, and where one does it (4)
- 20 Confused boos precede the French, with science one's missing making one out-of-date (12)
- 23 Maid OK to shuffle around Japanese emperor (6)
- 24 Swapping one for a mandible, can become cursed (8)
- 25 Bridge play with players gathered around - with one missing, having been incapacitated? (8)
- 26 Space for the method of horror actor? (6)

Down

- 2 Golden god, with a halo (4)
- 3 Scan chair in confusion, which makes things sweeter (9)
- 4 Stuns with audible mistakes (6)
- 5 Great father, his letter is followed by rudeness and moon-faced weirdo (6,2,7)

- 6 Priestly garment causes Charles, briefly to turn blue (8)
- 7 Reversed into llama, hidden by a portion (5)
- 8 Holder seen with Madness, in leather trousers (10)
- 12 Perhaps Seinfeld came to a crescendo, but a shoddily constructed one (5-5)
- 15 Swap title for Nurofen, for example (5,4)
- 16 Fidelity, in short, when followed by a reimagining, can result in a colourful explosion (8)
- 19 Beastly muppet drummer takes a scale and reverses it (6)
- 21 Reflexively, took a piece of African mammal (5)
- 22 Request to jump, with foot above head (4)

Solution to crossword no. 218

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

We congratulate Sue Jackson, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive a prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Mike & Chris Carrington, Colin Dailly, Robert Nunn, Dainin O'Dowd and Richard Wilkins.

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

September 2024

If you would like to join in or perhaps start something new head to our website at www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk for a full list.

Don't forget to check with your event organiser for timings during the summer period.

WI Meeting	3rd Monday of each month 19:30 – 21:30	Contact Kate at kate-muscroft@gmail.com
SF-Fit Pilates	Each Tuesday 17:00 – 20:00	Contact Sarah on 075999072008
SF-Fit Pilates	Each Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30	Contact Sarah on 075999072008
PhysiOptima Pilates	Each Wednesday 09:00 – 09:50	Contact Kristin on 07799323867
Slimming World	Each Thursday 17:30 – 19:00 & 19:00 – 20:00	Contact Sharon on 077601925638
Tai Chi Life Academy	Each Friday 10:00 – 12:00	Contact Sharyn on 0774017917
Lok Hup	Each Friday 12:00-13:00	Contact Sharyn on 0774017917
SF-Fit Yoga	Each Friday 17:00 – 18:00	Contact Sarah on 075999072008

If you're looking to hire the village hall, for a wedding, party or other family gathering go to its website for availability, bookings & prices at www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk

For anything else contact Philip Blackburn on 07501230256

Services in September 2024

Sunday 1 September – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Wednesday 4 September

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 8 September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom
Holy Communion, Quy
10.30am Family Worship, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 15 September – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck
Harvest Festival, Bottisham
3pm Harvest Festival, Quy

Sunday 22 September – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 29 September – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Revd Max Osborne will move into the new vicarage in Bottisham at the end of July; contact details to follow.

In the meantime please contact your churchwarden as follows:

Bottisham: bottisham@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 604019

Lode: lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 811222

Quy: quy@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 812652

Swaffham Bulbeck: bulbeck@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 812525; 01223 811501

Swaffham Prior: prior@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01638 743937

For general enquiries: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; churchwardens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches;

A Church Near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7380/benefice>

Dates for Your Diary August/September 2024

Thu	8	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm [27]
Wed	14	Meet the Heating Team, VH, 10am—5pm [12]
Sat	17	Hamlet, Anglesey Abbey
Mon	19	Yesterday, Newmarket Cinema 6.30 for 7.30 [1] WI, VH, 7.30pm
Wed	21	Meet the Heating Team, VH, 10am—5pm [12]
Thu	29	Meet the Heating Team, VH, 10am—5pm [12]
September		
Wed	4	Bookclub, 5, Lower End, 6pm
Sat	7	Harvest Show and Dog Show, VH, 1.45 [7 and insert]
Mon	16	The Miracle Club, Newmarket Cinema WI, VH. 7.30
Thu	19	Mothers' Union, Fassage Hall, Lode, 2.30pm
Sun	22	Crier Copy date
Fri	27	Macmillan Coffee Morning, The Oaks, 10.30am-12 noon [3]
October		
Sun	6	Harvest Festival Service, Prior Fen Chapel [3pm [17]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Becky Wilkes	07827 318351	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	gsl@1st Swaffhamprior scouts.org.uk	Wed (Term) Mon (Term) Wed	5:15-6:30pm 6:30-8.00pm 7.00-8.30pm	Scout Hut
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	6:00pm	Variable
Village Gardeners	Fiona Geraghty	741712	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Kate Muscroft Kaye Lewsinski	07752011308 Kayejanelew@ gmail.com	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall