



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVIII Number 6

June 2024



Editorial

Many of us were caught out by the Annual Village Assembly which happened last week (it was advertised on Facebook, but not in the Crier) and (ditching the Crier, sorry! It's now a week late...) we rushed down there with our hastily prepared report. But we were very glad we did - what a mine of information and so many people doing so many good things in this village. Read James' report on page 6, and instead of binning this edition, keep it handy for when you think you might have a bit of time to give - practically everybody needs your help! And many congratulations to Martin Mead who was presented with this year's Gay Bulleid Award - more on this next month.

The Village Feast was super, brilliantly organised (and many congratulations should go to the amazing Jenny Brand, the organiser who thinks of everything!), the weather just kept getting better, most of us sold out, there was loads to see and do and loads of people came and did! (see Letters). Many thanks to Andrew Noyes and Peter Rand for some glorious pics (see centre pages) but we missed the dancing for some reason - if anyone has anymore, please send them along for next month. One unexpected visitor was Dolly the Golden Labrador (I think you can see her Gurning) particularly unexpected by Dolly herself, who was innocently basking around outside her own home when she was off whisked to the Feast by a neighbour en route for Woodgreen Animal Shelter apparently - don't ask!

And the Buses! I personally have been dreading this new arrangement as top of the list I thought was a new streamlined system where buses whizzed down the B1102 as we puffed up Cage Hill. But they're still coming into the village, we now get a new bus that goes to Addis and Hills Road. YIPPEE!

Lastly, a prophet is never recognised in their own land, let alone one who sets about and does all the good things foreseen, just to make sure. But finally, Emma Fletcher has made it into the Crier - see page 15!

See you at Burwell Museum and Sunday Fundae!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Through the Fenland Reeds*, mixed media by **Janene Elise Pike**

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Village Feast 2024

Once again the weather was kind to us for the Feast. The event was packed with fun, interesting items and tasty food and drinks. The Feast was opened by a brilliant Maypole dance by the children of Swaffham Prior. We were treated to an insight of activities by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. In addition to the usual stalls we had a falconry static display a chance to see birds of prey up close, circus skills with young and old taking part, and classic vehicle display. The event culminated in the traditional egg throwing competition with many eager entrants culminating in a final between last years winners Chris and John Brand and the runners up Nicola and Peter North, this year Nicola and Peter got their revenge and won the event. The Village Hall Committee would like to thank everyone for coming along and supporting, and for the generous donations for stalls to raise funds for the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing everyone next year and would welcome ideas and volunteers.

From The Village Hall Committee

Big Congratulations in order! See p.17-19. Eds

Dear Editors,

FOSPS Sponsored Walk

I thought I'd give you a little update from the school. We have unfortunately had to cancel the Auction of Promises due to lack of interest. However, we are now trying to raise money through a sponsored walk! We are organising a whole school event, for the children and their families to join us for a sponsored walk on Friday 24th May. The route will be a total of 3 miles, starting from Swaffham Prior Primary School to Reach park and back again. If you would like to sponsor us then you can do so on our Go Fund Me page at <https://gofund.me/9a134cb3>.

Thanks in advance for your contribution!

FoSPS

Too late for last month's edition, but they are still accepting donations And they have so far raised a magnificent £1,441. See page 7. Eds

This Month's Cover Picture

Janene is a mixed media artist based in Cambridgeshire and is a regular exhibitor of Cambridge Open Studios and would love to welcome you in July when she will be exhibiting in the nearby village of Wicken (details will be published in your July Crier and in the widely available Cambridge Open Studios guide published this month).

In her artwork Janene's objective is to invite you, the viewer, to enter each scene, to explore for yourself and to place yourself where you wish to be. Janene uses different mediums from pastel, paint, photography and everything in-between combined together digitally to create spaces and landscapes with a dreamlike quality.

Celia Tyler

Website: <https://janene-art.weebly.com/> Contact email: janene_je@hotmail.com

Martin Mead — well-deserved winner of this year's Gay Bulleid Prize which was presented to him at this month's Annual Village Assembly (see page 6). The prize is awarded annually by general vote to a resident who is judged to have especially contributed to village life. Below, in his customary role presiding over the Village Feast egg-throwing contest (see centre pages)



From our Reporter

I think I'm beginning to lose it. There is so much advice on how to preserve the brain cells - learn a foreign language, learn a musical instrument, tackle difficult crosswords etc - all of which are too daunting. The result is there is less and less I understand. What does "decolonising history" mean? They are going to now "decolonise" Hadrian's wall. What does Michel Gove's "levelling up" really mean when he lists the development of the City of Cambridge as part of it. And what about our Cambridge transport system and its inability to cope. It appears to be an impossible task with, lets face it, the urge that we should walk or cycle. Read later for news about Cambridge cyclists.



In the recent survey of the Best and Worst Councils in England our own ECDC came second

But there are more simple questions to wonder about. Why did Rishi Sunak pledge to solve the boats problem and to hang his success as PM on it? He previously had had a couple of real rough toughies doing their best without success. It was like putting all your money on a horse with a dodgy fetlock in the Grand National. Why did not Angela Rayner just produce the legal advice she had received on her house. If it turned out to be incorrect she apologises, pays up, and end of story. Now it has added further concerns which would have been avoided. Even worse is why Keir Starmer says he does not need to see the evidence because he takes the word of those who have seen it. He is a KC for goodness sake. He knows

that this is only "hearsay", and would not be allowed in a court of law.

These are simple everyday questions. A more difficult one is where the money is to come from to replace the reduction in National Insurance. It is said that National Insurance will be abolished. Also a cut in income tax is sort of promised. Perhaps one of our village financial whizz kids could answer this. With billions being allocated, and needed, all over the place where will the money come from?

But there are many good things coming out of Cambridge University. Their report last year "showed that the University produces about £30 billion of economic impact annually, 80 per cent of which is linked to research and innovation." The University is launching "a new approach to simplify and accelerate the way that companies are commercialised from lab to market." They aim to "double our spin output creation to companies this year." Great.

The Faculty of English at the University also appears to be changing and trying to become more relevant as shown by its latest notice of Features and Publications. The first three. Beryl Pong and Amy Gaeta discuss challenges arriving from the drone use in contemporary war and military-civilian relations. Then Clair Wills explores Ireland's Mother and Baby Homes. Next Georgina Wilson and Orietta Da Rold examine Paper's Past, Present and Future.. This goes on for the first 16 pages.

Forget Byron, the Bard, Dickens. Does it matter? It is said that half the

population wouldn't care if opera vanished from the scene. To which some say that half the nation wouldn't care if all the football stadiums were shut down. Does any of this matter?

Some good news is that it seems the village is fortunate to be with ECDC. In the recent survey of the Best and Worst Councils in England our own ECDC came second. This was out over 300 hundred or so. Something to be really welcomed.

Cyclists have hit the news big. Are they arrogant and potentially dangerous criminals and killers who should have the same restrictions and legal requirements as motorists. This contentious issue bubbled up to boiling point during the second half of May. And our very own cycling poet, Andrew Grant, was in there at the very beginning. He was interviewed by Jeremy Kyle on TalkTV on 16th May. Jeremy expressed the growing public impatience with cyclists and his own intense personal dislike of them. Andrew was his usual diplomatic self, admitted that some cyclists were annoying, as were some motorists, and defended the cyclist. They parted friends, with Jeremy adding that though he still hated cyclists, he did like Andrew.

May also saw the unveiling of Jonathan Yeo's new portrait of King Charles. The artist was a controversial choice. He did not disappoint with his painting. There was some approval, some puzzlement, and some great shaking of heads in dismay and disgust. Is this the portrait which is being offered for display in schools and other public places. It is now suggested that churches would be the ideal place for it. Perhaps our PCC should consider this. The new portrait also stirred the memory about someone who once lived in the village who may have painted the very first portrait of King Charles, when he was a young boy. This is only rumour at the moment. More will be revealed when available.

Medicine has made some astonishing new breakthroughs - now, rather than in the usual next ten years. There are also a couple of major breakthroughs from a recently discovered 1654 Medical Handbook. This advises men to put chicken manure on their scalps as a cure for baldness. I am sure some of our village poultry keepers will be very happy to deliver buckets of the stuff to the hair deficient. The book also offers a remedy for infertility. "Take the wine that Nep has been sodden in, till the third part therefore be consumed, and give it to Woman to drink, fasting, for three days together, and shall soon conceive with child. Proved." The only problem is that no one knows what "Nep" is. Sorry ladies.

Lucy Frazer was 52 this month. Information for those want to wish her a happy birthday.

Alastair Everitt

Maintenance Person Required by Village Hall

We need help with the everyday maintenance to keep this valuable village asset in the best condition. If you have a few hours to spare each month and can help either on the committee or on an occasional basis, please contact me.

Philip Blackburn
07501230256

See page 34 for more details

Swaffham Prior Village Assembly 2024

29 May 2024

John Covill, as PC Chair, introduced the meeting with Jude, as Clerk, and 17 other attendees including the Crier Editors to give our own report to the meeting; and this, our informal report of the meeting. A theme of the meeting was to turn out to be the difficulty that many groups have recruiting volunteers and how these frequently turn out to be the same people helping in lots of different places. If you would be interested in helping to run a village club or society, please say either directly to them or the Crier is always happy to help put people in touch. Or, if you want to take things more slowly, come to next year's Assembly and make yourself known there.

We've listed the reports below in the order given in the agenda though because some people couldn't be there at the start, there was some slight reordering in the meeting. The Village Gardeners were listed but had no one there, whereas the Crier weren't but were and were slotted in at the end. And, as an added extra bonus, the Gay Bulleid Prize was very deservedly awarded to Michael Mead in recognition of all the building, maintenance and related work that he does for the village, not to mention running the Egg-throwing contest at the Village Feast5 (see centre spread).

Reports

a) A-B1102

Jon Cook noted that it had been a busy year for the project with their survey receiving a very large response (about 900), more villages becoming involved with Fordham on board and the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom talking, and with Charlotte Cane's help getting the Mayor, Combined Authority and the GCP interested and providing money from the mayoral precept which provides a stable revenue stream. All this will lead to better coordinated routes with interchange points in many of the villages, including one at the bottom of Cage Hill, and £1 fares for under 25s. These interchanges will need improved bus shelters with seats and displays and may extend to the provision of travel hubs, e.g. a Park and Ride in Fordham. Travel from here to the South of the City, e.g. Addenbrookes and Hills Road, should particularly benefit.

b) Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

Two of the Leaders, Steve White and Molly Richards, talked about the situation locally and nationally having first given us a choice of the 2 or 10 minute version and then, when we couldn't make up our minds, going for both and more - but there was plenty to say. The scouts nationally are having great difficulty recruiting Leaders and are thus restructuring as a charity with volunteers taking over from Leaders. This will make it easier for parents to help to run things for just as long as their children are involved. At the moment Beavers and Cubs are at capacity with 15 and more on the waiting list, Cub numbers are a little lower at 10, still seeing the effects of the Covid pandemic, but can be expected to rise as Cubs come up through the ranks. Funding is also tight and they have only been able to patch the Scout Hall to make it waterproof so far. Isleham's loss had been our gain with them donating their

Quartermaster's stores when they folded and this has helped considerably. They would like to be able to arrange a variety of activities, including sending the scouts to the international jamboree in Poland for which fundraising is being undertaken. Help, as ever, would be very welcome!

c) Proud of Prior - Litter Picking

Janet Wilmott started by saying that they are trialling moving the monthly litter pick from Saturday to Friday as this looks to be best for most volunteers. The top road is the most difficult, especially as it is too dangerous to involve the Scouts. Their impression is that pretty much all its litter is brought in by passing motorists from outside the village but this effort by Janet and her team is very worthwhile for the village in keeping things looking good, and we owe them our considerable thanks and also thanks to ECDC for picking up the sacks.

Car Share Scheme

Janet also reported on this, noting that she has only a handful of drivers and can therefore only accept bookings for medical appointments. Within these constraints, it is offering a much appreciated service. More volunteers would be very welcome and experience to date is that it doesn't affect car insurance and that all that insurers have expected is to be kept informed.

d) Swaffham Prior Primary School (read by Jude)

(It was half term week so no one had been around to come to the meeting)

Current indications are that the coming intake this autumn will be smaller than usual which will present an ongoing risk to funding. It is not just here that this is happening but country-wide. In better news, FoSPS is buoyantly active, similarly volunteering to run the pool, and a recent sponsored walk raised £1,000.

f) The WI (from Kate Muscroft and Kaye Lewinski, read by Janet Wilmott)

Meetings are jointly with Swaffham Bulbeck at 7:30 on the third Monday of the month and all finish with cake, tea and coffee. Activities are announced in their articles in the Crier and include an upcoming Garden Party.

g) East Cambs District Council

Charlotte Cane (is this the first time that a parliamentary candidate has addressed our Village Meeting?) gave a summary of some of the main themes from ECDC from the last year and those expected in the coming year. The A-B1102 had a prominent place but had largely been covered earlier, Charlotte just added that use of the mayoral precept had been controversial in some places but was very valuable in that it should continue to provide income, provided that is that it didn't fail to continue to provide good value for money. The District Housing Plan is back in order so the council has regained control over new building. There had been various complaints e.g. over bin collections and streets not getting swept, a problem that it was hoped might be improved by computerising the scheduling and improving the publicity so that people would avoid parking on the day and blocking them. It was hoped that black bins would replace black sacks after 2025. On the minus side, the Council's company providing these services wants an extra £200k to cover running costs. Dangerous and illegal parking had been highlighted in some parts of the ward though not so much in Swaffham Prior. ECDC is now one of only 3 district councils in the

country that has not taken over control of parking from the police; this has the disadvantage it does not get a high priority from them and they, unlike a council, cannot use cameras to help enforce parking. And finally, the competition for the creatures to receive protection was hedgehogs.

h) Parish Council

John Covill gave a very brief report, noting that it had been an uneventful year from a PC perspective. The most significant thing was that it was the first time in 10 years that there had been a rise in the parish precept. Work is needed on the playground equipment, some of which is not up to modern standards.

i) Parochial Church Council

John also chairs this and noted that the PCC are short of trustees at a time when there is work to be done. Two tenants of PCC land had died recently and this land now needs to be registered by the Land Registry.

j) Village Hall

Phil Blackburn introduced himself noting that he had only been in the village for 4 years and had only taken over as Chair of Village Hall Committee in December when Alan Durrant stood down. He and a number of others had joined the committee after lockdown at a time when it had been struggling for numbers and he noted with gratitude how Alan, as Chair, had held the whole thing together while they all muddled through in the early days. The Feast had been exceptionally well supported last year and there had been being an increase in the number of wedding bookings although last year a bit less so, possibly in part due to the loss of the Hall for redecoration over August. The Village Show hadn't gone as well as hoped, possibly timing, but the Village Carols had been a great success and the new booking system using Lemon Booking has been very well received. Thanks to Jenny Brand's vision, the Feast had again gone very well this year and had been much enjoyed by all those there. There are some outstanding issues with the building fabric of the Hall and volunteers to help fix it would be greatly appreciated, the blinds having just been done. Finally, he thanked the committee and noted that they are working well together – Kate Musgrove is about to join and will provide a welcome link to the PC.

k) Community Land Trust

Emma Fletcher reported that one house had been re-let over the last year (to Karen King, a former Parish Clerk) and there were 8 applications received for the bungalow. The five other current tenancies are due to come up in 2026 and will be readvertised next summer. There have been very few new tenants since CLT built the homes but there has been one swap between different sized properties as needs changed.

Village Heating

It also fell to Emma to report on the Village Heating Scheme. There is currently heat being supplied to 64 properties and there is a limit of about 80 on how many can be added, imposed by the 65kVA connection to the grid. Fortunately this will soon be lifted by the establishment of the new connection direct to the solar farm at Burwell. There are 15 private properties fully surveyed awaiting connection and 5 recent en-

PC Chair and Clerk hard at work



quiries, 50 housing association properties with external connections of which 4 are fully connected. A couple of issues are being investigated: further noise mitigation at the energy centre and a safety problem on the B1102 footway.

l) The Bell Ringers

Gareth Davies introduced himself as the new tower captain succeeding Alistair Everitt. They are short of ringers and actively looking for recruits, meanwhile filling in with help from other villages. Because of this they have had to give church services priority and, until last Sunday, had not missed a single service but they would also like to be able to ring for civic events. They would be very happy to give a tour of the tower to anyone who might be interested and will put an advert in the Crier – a two year old child who had gone round with their child-minder is apparently still talking enthusiastically about their visit. Unfortunately there is a dark cloud on the horizon: the 230 year old frame, while not dangerous, is creaking badly and the bells are becoming hard to ring. The 1991 repairs are beginning to wear out and it will need repair again before all that long and this will be expensive. Tens of £k were mentioned but no idea at all of how many tens of £k. They are talking to the CCT who own St Cyriac's and are enthusiastic about bells but do not have funds to spare. It seems inevitable that the bulk of the fund raising will fall on the village if we want to keep our bells ringing ...

m) The Swaffham Crier

The Crier has never reported to the Village Assembly before, so Caroline Matheson started with a brief history. It had been formed in 1977 and for the last 25 of these, she, with help from me, has been Editor in chief. It now has a circulation of 394, a committee of 8 (Sharyn Robinson, Clare Freeman, Alastair Everitt, Robin Scovill, Pam Waters, Celia Tyler and the two Editors), 18 distributors, and is printed by Burwell Print Centre. Sharyn (treasurer), Clare (advertising), and Celia (front cover) are relatively new and are already making an excellent job of filling the large shoes left by Pat and Peter on the finances and advertising. The Crier finances, like many others, suffered a set-back in the pandemic: they rely heavily on advertising income and suffer from inflation. As such, contributions are always welcome, help as well as finance, particularly backup editing it. Caroline finished by noting that the opinions published in the Crier are not necessarily those of the Editors – something that should perhaps be printed across every page!

AOB

A child in a wheelchair has recently moved to the village and is having problems getting around, in part because of overhanging vegetation across paths. Charlotte Cane volunteered to walk round with them and see what could be done and this offer was gratefully taken up.

And finally ...

Emma Fletcher asked for the meeting to recognise the enormous contribution that the new landlords, John and Lana, have made at the Red Lion. Her call was spontaneously taken up by many others' voices including mine, and a group of us repaired to the Red Lion to check that it was still as good – it was!

James Matheson

Improvements to our Bus Network

From Autumn 2024

The A to B1102 Group has some excellent news to share regarding improvements to the bus services along the B1102 corridor, due to commence in the Autumn of 2024. As we explain below, subject to final procurement, our area will be served by two new bus services (replacing the existing No 11 service), one running from Soham along the B1102 to Drummer Street Bus Station, Cambridge and another, from Newmarket – through Exning, Burwell, Reach, the Swaffhams, Lode, Bottisham, The Wilbrahams, Fulbourn, Addenbrookes and Hills Road.

Below we explain the background to this news, more detail on the proposed routes and next steps before these become a reality! Please note, at this time, no information is yet available as regards timetables, frequency, dates on which these services will start – that will come later in the summer.

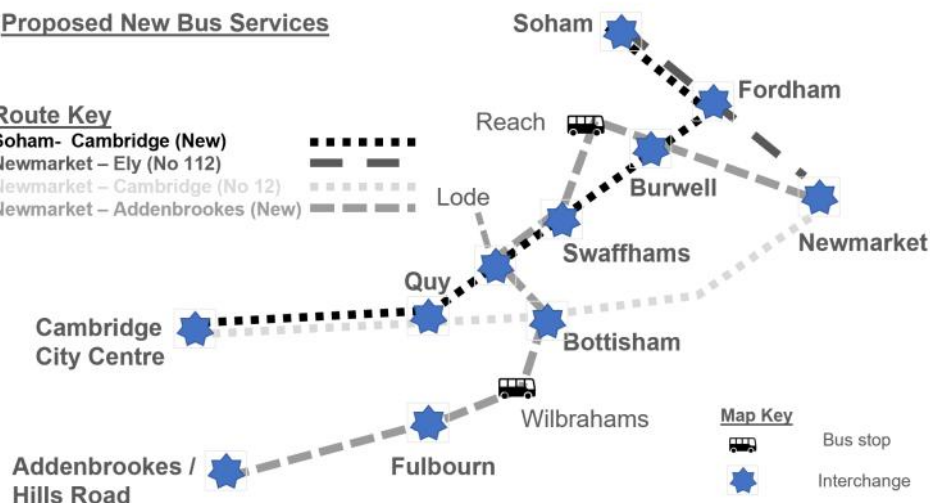
Background & Funding

Nik Johnson, current Mayor of Cambridgeshire, made a commitment to work to improve our existing bus services and add new routes to enable more people to access and use public transport. Our local politicians have also done a great deal of work to lobby for improvements to the services. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) have now delivered on that commitment after an agreement was reached to fund the improvements through the Mayoral Precept – additional payments we all pay through our Council Tax. The new funding will not only deliver improvements and enhancements to bus services, it also includes an amount dedicated to reducing the price of travel for everyone under the age of 25 – reducing bus fares to £1.00 per journey.

Proposed New Bus Services

Route Key

Soham- Cambridge (New) 
 Newmarket – Ely (No 112) 
 Newmarket – Cambridge (No 12) 
 Newmarket – Addenbrookes (New) 



The CPCA undertook a process of consultation to explore how best to deliver the improvements and as part of this, engaged with the A to B1102 Group amongst other stakeholders in our area. The work the group does bringing together all our communities (from Fordham to Quy, including Bottisham, the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom), our plans for a Fast Bus including Travel Hubs and our recent Travel Survey data were all incorporated into the CPCA's decision making. ***The CPCA have listened to your feedback!***

New Improved Bus Services

The result, subject to final procurement (see below), our area will be served by four bus services. As you will see from the below, the current No11 service route has been incorporated into the two new services which will run alongside the existing No112 and No12 services:

Cambridge Open Studios July Open Studios Swaffham Prior Art Festival



Artist Ruth Martindale at work

[Cambridge Open Studios](#), a thriving community of nearly 500 artists, is celebrating its 50th anniversary with its biggest and best ever July Open Studios Art Festival. The organisation, which is one of the oldest artist-run open studio initiatives in the country, is hosting the famous festival every weekend in July (06 – 07, [13 – 14, 20 – 21, 27 – 28 July](#) 2024).

Throughout the month, art collectors and members of the public alike, will have the opportunity to gain behind the scenes access to hundreds of working studios, browse unique artworks, witness and participate in live demonstrations, tutorials and workshops, and buy exclusive pieces of art directly from more than 350 artists across Cambridge, Ely, Saffron Walden and the surrounding villages.

The following artists will be taking part in Swaffham Prior:

- **Jane Goodall**, textile and prints at 6 Foster Lane, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0FA. Weekends 20 – 21 and 27 – 28 July.
- **Mike Barker**, painter at Pound and Keep, Cage Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0JS. Weekends 20 – 21 and 27 – 28 July.
- **Deborah Cutting**, textile artist at Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0LD. Weekends 06 – 07 and 20 – 21 July.
- **David George**, oils and watercolours at Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0LD. Weekends 06–07 and 20–21.
- **Karen Fisher**, oil painter at Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0LD. Weekends 06 – 07 and 20 – 21

For more information, visit: <https://camopenstudios.org/>

About Cambridge Open Studios

Cambridge Open Studio (COS) membership consists of over 500 amateur and professional artists and makers. They include a full spectrum of artistic practice; painting, jewellery, printmaking, ceramics/pottery, glass art, digital art, drawing and illustration, woodwork and furniture, sculpture, textiles, photography, book art, lettering/calligraphy, mixed media/collage and much more. COS promotes the making of original works of art and craft through networking, connections and friendships amongst each other.

Sundae Funday!

Sunday 23 June, 2-4pm
St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

**Make-your-own
ice cream sundae - £2.50**

Tea or coffee and cake - £3.50

All welcome

In aid of St Mary's Fabric Fund



Julie's Greek Recipes



Julie in Greece

Beef Stifado

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 450g baby onions
- 2 garlic cloves peeled and halved
- 200g stewing beef, cubed
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 2 tbsp tomato puree
- Salt and pepper
- 1 bottle of full bodied wine
- Grated rind and juice of 1 orange
- 1 bay leaf
- Chopped flat leaf parsley to garnish

1.Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole, add the whole onions and the garlic and fry for 5 minutes until softened and starting to brown. Add the beef and fry until browned on all sides.

2.Stir in all the spices, tomato puree and add wine, grated orange, the juice and the bay leaf. Season well and bring to a boil, reduce heat and cover the casserole.

3.Remove from hob and cook in preheated oven at 150c for 1 hour and 15 minutes, then remove lid and cook for a further hour or until the meat is very tender, stirring occasionally. When ready garnish with flat leaf parsley.

Serves 6

Greek butter beans (Gigantes)

- 400g tinned butter beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 garlic clove crushed
- 425ml vegetable stock
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 fresh oregano sprigs
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 red onion, chopped

1.Fry the onion and garlic in the olive oil until soft. Add the beans, tomato puree and herbs, mix well and then add the veg stock and lemon juice, Simmer for about 1 hour until the sauce has thickened. Season well and serve hot or cold.

Serves 4



June 2024

As more households prepare to transition away from oil and fossil fuels, we have some updates to share.

Ashden Awards

We are pleased to share that the Swaffham Prior Heat Network has been honoured again, this time as a finalist in the prestigious Ashden Awards, which recognize innovative and impactful sustainable energy solutions. This accolade highlights the project's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting renewable energy within the community. The Ashden Awards, known for their rigorous assessment process, celebrate initiatives that not only address climate change but also improve quality of life. Being shortlisted for this award underscores the significant potential and dedication of the Swaffham Prior Heat Network in driving forward sustainable energy practices and fostering a greener future for all. Winners will be announced on Thursday, 27th June 2024.

Installation Update

Contractors have now completed internal and external surveys for all the properties who expressed interest for the next batch of installations across the village. These detailed assessments examined the necessary factors for each home's connection to the sustainable heat network. Cambridge County Council has thoroughly reviewed these surveys and Heat Supply Agreements will shortly be sent out for review and signature. This will help to secure their place in the next tranche of connections being undertaken in the summer.

In-Home Displays

The rollout of in-home energy monitoring displays is underway for existing heat network customers. This smart technology enables you to easily track your heat consumption and costs in real-time. If you haven't received your in-home display yet, our contractors will be in touch soon to coordinate installation and setup.

Customer Testimonial

As more neighbours embrace sustainable village heating, we're receiving glowing testimonials about the benefits and positive impact on lifestyles. One High Street resident shared:

"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."

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. Below we've explained the 3 easy steps to join:

- 1) Contact us to arrange a call or visit to answer any questions you may have
- 2) We will arrange a visit from our surveyors to assess your suitability
- 3) If you're happy with this, you sign up and we book you in for the next avail-

able installation date.

Join the Sustainable Heating Revolution!

If you haven't yet connected to the Swaffham Prior Heat Network, now is the perfect time to explore this innovative and sustainable heating solution.

Simply register interest through our online form <https://forms.office.com/e/8mg3xtEpnY>

Email us at heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk,

Call us on +44 7393146945 or 0345 0455210



Siddhant Malhotra

Energy Business Development Manager



At the Palace — Swaffham Prior Resident Emma Fletcher and her husband Charlie were invited to Buckingham Palace for tea last month. As a prime mover in the Community Land Trust (the affordable housing off Rogers Road) and then the ground-breaking Village Heating Scheme, Emma has made a huge difference to this village. Hope she enjoyed the cucumber sandwiches!

POEM OF THE MONTH

Adlestrop

by Edward Thomas

Yes. I remember Adlestrop—
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.
No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop—only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

This well-loved poem, or one very similar, could have been written about many villages in England - including Swaffham Prior – at almost any time in the twentieth century up to the 1960s and Dr Beeching's devastating "rationalisation" of the rail network. Thomas was writing on the eve of the First World War and (as was John Clare before him) desperate to depict and defend a rural England that was threatened, as it turns out, in more ways than he foresaw. He had the courage of his convictions: despite being safely past the age of conscription, he enlisted in the Artists' Rifles and was killed in action at Arras soon after his arrival in France.

Ironically, the Oxford-Hereford "Cotswold" line still runs through Adlestrop, though the station closed in 1966.

Andrew Grant



**For those
who missed
it, the
Aurora on
10th May at
23:41pm
over the
water
tower—
many
thanks to
Kylie Coles
for this
picture**



**And the Village
Feast was brilliant
this year! Many
congratulations
go to compère
April Murfitt and
Organiser-in-
Chief Jenny
Brand—see over →**



Photographers:
Andrew Noyes and
Peter Rand



FEAST 2024



News from Anglesey Abbey

Anglesey Abbey is full of beautiful blooms and butterflies enjoying some of the long grasses and wildflowers after a month of No Mow May. The first few roses are beginning to flower in the Rose Garden and we're looking forward to an even more impressive display of roses this summer.

We're thrilled to be working with David Austin Roses to extend the much-loved **Rose Garden** at Anglesey Abbey by 20 beds, 19 new cultivars and some 180 roses. The team have carefully chosen the new roses for their colour, vigour, abundance of flowers and pest and disease resistance. You'll be able to see English roses such as 'Gentle Hermione', 'Elizabeth' and 'Queen of Sweden' this summer, flowering from June through to November. Many will be available to buy in the Anglesey Abbey Plant Centre too.

The **'Artists of East Anglia' Exhibition** is now open daily on the ground floor of the house, showcasing the works of Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable and Leonid Squirrel's local watercolours amongst other intriguing items associated with East Anglia. We're also looking forward to the opening of our brand-new Garden Office café this month – keep an eye on our social media channels for the grand opening!

As always, we have lots of exciting events planned in June and July for all ages. Our **Under 5's Gardening Club** is starting up from 3rd June on weekdays in the gardens and we will be celebrating Father's Day in style on 15th – 16th June – do drop by for some tasty food and family time that weekend. On 17th June, we're delighted to host **The Rose Society UK** who will be delivering a talk at 2pm and available throughout the afternoon to answer questions and share some valuable rose pruning tips with you. We will also be hosting a **'Masters of Mystery'** evening in the House in July – a series of magic shows performed by award-winning magicians. Please head to our website if you'd like to buy a ticket!



Issy Vetoshkina

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

AGM: We were pleased to see a number of patients attend this meeting to hear Dr Shackleton talk about general practice in the future. Once the minutes have been agreed at the June meeting there will be a resume of this talk on the Practice web-site.

Staffing: The Practice continues to improve and build resilience in its staffing structure so they would like you to join them in welcoming Dr Joglekar and new Receptionist Catherine who have both joined the team within the last few weeks.

Telephone System: The new system was installed in week commencing 22nd April. The new system has many new facilities, which over time will be used to measure and where possible improve service.

Dispensary: Unfortunately, the Practice still continues to experience delays from suppliers, particularly after Bank Holidays, so your patience is requested and, as always, appreciated. To clarify, when they advise that they need five working days, this is five full working days, the date of submission is not included. Please also note that the Government has increased prescription charges from £9.65 to £9.90 from the 1st May 2024.

Appointments: As previously publicised, this Practice is in the top 14 of the area with one day wait appointments and 90.7% face to face appointments. However, in April, there were 28 appointments where patients failed to attend. It is understood that there will be some circumstances beyond the patient's control, but where possible, it is requested that if you are unable to attend an appointment it is cancelled so another patient can utilise it.

Telephone System: The new system was installed in week commencing 22nd April. This system has many new facilities, which over time will be used to measure and where possible improve service.

Next Meeting: Will be at 6.30pm Thursday June 27 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meetings, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or speak to reception.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

BON MOT NUMBER 150

*"Be happy but also be comfortable
with sadness.*

Struggle is part of life."

Rio Ferdinand (1978 -)



Burwell Museum

Burwell Museum is a fantastic place. Born out of the vision and enthusiasm of a small group of people who realised just how much life had changed in their lifetime, and how much would soon be lost. So they decided to do something about it. One of their group had already got a growing collection of 'stuff' in the shed in his garden which he used to take out and talk to schools and groups, so they began to look for a better way of displaying the collection. They found a derelict barn in the Fens, gave the farmer a cheque for £100, dismantled the barn and transported it piece by piece to land that the Parish Council leased to them. They then rebuilt it (one of them was an architect so knew what they were doing). 'Friends of the Museum' raised funds to cover the costs of the rebuild and Burwell Museum was opened in 1992 (The cheque was found uncashed after the farmer's death).

Since then the Museum has grown exponentially, acquiring the 200 year old Stevens Mill and numerous other buildings (including a Tea Room) reflecting the domestic and agricultural life and work of a fen edge village. Our most recent acquisition is an observatory built by a local man in his garden and transferred to us after his death. We are hoping to get it up and running by the end of the year.

The Museum is entirely run and maintained by volunteers, maintenance teams meeting on Tuesdays throughout the year, trustees meeting monthly, and front of house volunteers when we're open to the public weekends and Bank Holidays from Easter to the end of October.

We very much need more volunteers, particularly front of house and Tea Room when we're open. It needn't be arduous: a couple of hours once a month would be great, more if you want it. If you're interested please get in touch (contact details below).

Our Special Events this Summer are:

June 16th	Pets and Vets of Burwell
July 13th	1940's 80th Anniversary of D Day - Sing Dance and Remember
Aug 25th	Classic Car Show

Do please consider joining us as a volunteer or just come and see what we've got - I'm sure you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Brenda Wilson
Chair of Trustees
01638 743937

The Reading Group Reads...

Lessons in Chemistry

By Bonnie Garmus

The bookgroup May read was *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus, interestingly her first book, as was *Still Life*, by Sarah Winman, that we read in April.



Lessons in Chemistry, aka, “Supper at Six”- cookery lessons with a distinctive chemical bent, beamed out to the at home Californian housewives, as part of an otherwise, banal afternoon TV schedule, in the 1960s.

The presenter is Elizabeth Zott, an extremely talented chemist, who ever since graduation, has been sidelined, excluded, had very important research stolen and has finally totally failed to survive academically in the appallingly misogynistic environment of the all male laboratory where she works.

There has been a very unexpected, very happy, intense relationship with Calvin Evans, a world famous chemist who works in the same lab- quite difficult to explain the extreme jealousy this provokes- and their living together and acquiring a wonderful dog called Half Past Six- the time they found him. Calvin is tragically killed in a freak accident involving the dog, but years later the dog saves Elizabeth’s after her life is threatened.

Elizabeth’s grief is terrible and to her horror she finds herself pregnant- something she’d never wanted. Early motherhood is a complete nightmare, but her screaming infant Madeleine, “Mad”, turns into a hugely intelligent, perceptive, early talking, early reading, infuriating, very lovable child, intensely close to her mother. Nursery school however is a different story- she drives her nursery teacher insane and where finally Mad learns to act dumb, to fit in.

Elizabeth’s great love continues to be chemistry- she has turned her kitchen into a laboratory, continues to help other male researchers, but fails to make any progress in her own research, again basically because she’s a woman. Finally she’s persuaded, to present *Supper at Six*, by the father of one of Mad’s class mates although the programme never turns out to be the cosy cooking lessons the TV boss had hoped for.

They are indeed *Lessons in Chemistry*, delivered by a woman in a white lab coat- not a frilly piney, the outcome of which is a delicious evening meal. The TV bosses continue to hate it, but she develops a huge fan base of women, who for the first time in their lives are being treated like sentient beings.

She can’t continue this, as she struggles but fails still to get her work into serious scientific journals. But in no small part, a family tree project, given to Mad at nursery and investigated by Mad and friends she’d met in the library- her father had been brought up in a children’s home and per se didn’t have a family, results in some amazing revelations, about her father and finally leads to Elizabeth receiving the sponsorship she has needed for years and a hugely deserved directorship of the institute, where she and Calvin had met years ago. Well worth a read.

Margaret. Joyce

Next month we are reading *The Star Giver* by Jojo Moyes.

The Swaffhams' WI

Would you believe that at our May meeting of The Swaffhams' WI we actually reconstructed Ely Cathedral in Swaffham Prior village hall? What a feat!

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome Jan Munt, former Education Officer for Ely cathedral, to talk to us about her work with children and how she inspired the visiting children to see the magnificence of the cathedral, whether dressed up as monks in the Lady Chapel, lying on the floor of the cathedral gazing up at the Octagon Tower or sitting in the original 800-year-old choir stalls literally feeling the heartbeat of the cathedral running through their veins.



Amongst our children today there are many children of different faiths or no faith at all who might not always get the opportunity to enter the cathedral and Jan also soon realised that many schools could not afford to take the children on visits to the cathedral, so as well as bringing many children to the cathedral, Jan decided to take the cathedral out to the children.

Jan arranged for a modal of the cathedral to be made which works a bit like a jigsaw. Each piece of the modal links to the next piece and, as the cathedral is put together by her audience starting with the first building in 1081, Jan regales her listeners with

anecdotes as to how the cathedral comes to be in the current form it is in today. Her stories are funny, sad, shocking and surprising and totally mesmerising.

Jan has since retired from the role of Education Officer at Ely cathedral but she still takes her modal cathedral to a wide range of groups and if you ever get the chance to hear her speak, don't miss it! Jan will bring the beating heart of the magnificent Ely cathedral right to your front door.

Our next meeting will be our annual garden party on Monday 17th June 2024. Look out for the photos in next month's Crier!

Kate Muscroft





VILLAGE GARDENERS

We hope you are all making the most of your late spring gardens. Unfortunately, we had to cancel May's Village Gardener's talk, 'When Birds Sing' by Saffron Summerfield, due to the speaker being ill. We wish her well and hope to reschedule her talk or organise another for later in the year.

In the meantime, we look forward to our next events:

Following our talk in January by Barry Gayton – A Year of Colour in the Garden, Barry Gayton has invited us to his private garden – Desert World Gardens on the evening of Tuesday 18th June 2024 for 7.30pm. *Please bring a donation of £4 for this visit (Guests and Members)*

Also, the deadline for signing up to our summer Coach Trip to Wrest Park on the 6th July, is fast approaching. If you want to come along deposits of £15 are needed asap and final payments must be made by the 18th June - total cost £35 or £21 for English Heritage members.

If you would like more details on either trip, please call Nicola on 01638 742184
Happy weeding!

Kylie Coles



Mothers' Union

We welcomed Angie Stewart, CEO, Cambridge Women's Aid (CWA) as our guest speaker. Angie has worked for 30 years in charity organisations, twenty-two of these at CWA. Angie began by thanking the Group for organising the collection of very generous Christmas gift received each year from our local community.

CWA was established in 1977, resulting from the Women's Liberation Conference in 1970, and was set up by Cambridge Women's Liberation Network. Providing a safe place for women and children affected by domestic abuse. Angie shared with us some very interesting photographs taken at the first refuge on the corner of John Street. In 1990 the refuge was moved to Adam & Eve Street. A new purpose-built refuge was opened in 2005 and today provides support, advice and when necessary safe and very comfortable accommodation for up to 11 families. The families do not come from the Cambridge area. Local clients are guided to a refuge in another area ensuring their place of safety away from abuse they are suffering.

CWA is a small registered charity, which is service user led. Today it has 12 employed members of staff, and employs some women who have experienced domestic abuse themselves.

Angie briefly recapped on the many forms of domestic abuse: coercive control, psychological/emotion, digital on-line, stalking, physical sexual abuse, harassment. Over the 47 years of CWA things have change and there is now the 'Domestic Abuse Act' which became law in 2021. In current times CWA services include: outreach service where women can come of advice; direct support via live chat; 24

hour on call; Ask me community education programme; peer support and mental health group; partnership working with other charitable organisations.

CWA, as with all charities, suffered post Covid issues with the need for space and serious reduction in funding. Looking forward the organisation would ideally like to provide a refuge for local women, and collaborate closely with partner organisations to share resources and come together and provide combined services. If you would like to learn more about the invaluable services CWA provide visit <https://cambridgewa.org.uk/>

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month at 2.30pm in Passage Hall, Lode. Our guest speaker on 20th June is Rev. Paula Spalding, MU Diocesan Chaplain. You are most welcome to join us.

Ann Langran

 <p>East Cambridgeshire District Council www.eastcambs.gov.uk</p>	<p>From our District Councillors Charlotte Cane & John Trapp</p>
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May is always a quiet month for Council meetings, because of elections. Locally, we had the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Elections and a District Council by-election in Ely, as well as two Ely City Council by-elections. Congratulations to Darryl Preston (Conservative) for his re-election as our PCC and to Ross Trent (Liberal Democrat) for his election as a District Councillor for Ely West. The turnout for the PCC elections here in East Cambridgeshire was only 21%, in contrast to a 33% turnout for the Ely West by-election.



During the past municipal year, the waste collections have largely happened on schedule, but street cleansing is still not meeting targets and the service has over-spent again by up to £200,000. Costs have now risen from £3m in 2022/23 to £4.6m in 2024/25. Over the new year we will press for further improvements to the service and better financial controls. There will also be major changes agreed to the services. Residents will finally get black bins instead of black sacks and a food waste caddy which will be collected every week – hopefully putting an end to the horrible sticky mush at the bottom of green bins and the fly problems in the summer. There are lots of details to be decided and these are currently being considered by a

working group before the recommendations come to committee, with a timetable for implementation.

Work has finally started on a new Local Plan, but no sooner had this begun than Government threw a spanner in the works. Members had asked the officer to draft a chapter which included higher environmental standards than the minimum set out in national planning policy. East Cambs has extra challenges, such as water shortages during hot dry spells and waterlogging and flooding during wet spells – like this winter. So, climate change with increased severe weather and rising sea levels is a major risk to people locally. Members wanted to ensure that new buildings did not add to climate change pressures and would withstand the effects of predicted climate change. But in December the Government revised planning policy to prevent local Councils from enforcing higher standards than are set down in national policy. This is being contested through the Courts, as it contradicts the policy set out in an Act of Parliament, so it may be overturned allowing Councils once again to set higher standards. Members have therefore asked Officers to put this piece of work on hold and concentrate on other aspects of the Local Plan.

Although many people complain to us and other Councillors about unsafe and illegal parking, the administration have still refused to take on responsibility for parking enforcement. This leaves the responsibility with the Police, who do not have the resources to routinely enforce parking regulations. East Cambs will shortly be one of just three local authorities who refuse to accept responsibility for parking. We do raise specific concerns with the Police, who do try to fit a visit to problem areas into their schedule, but they cannot have the same affect as wardens who can enforce the regulations regularly.

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Our next Councillors' Surgery will be on Thursday 20 June at 6.30pm in Reach Village Hall.



**Charlotte Cane at
the Annual
Village Assembly**

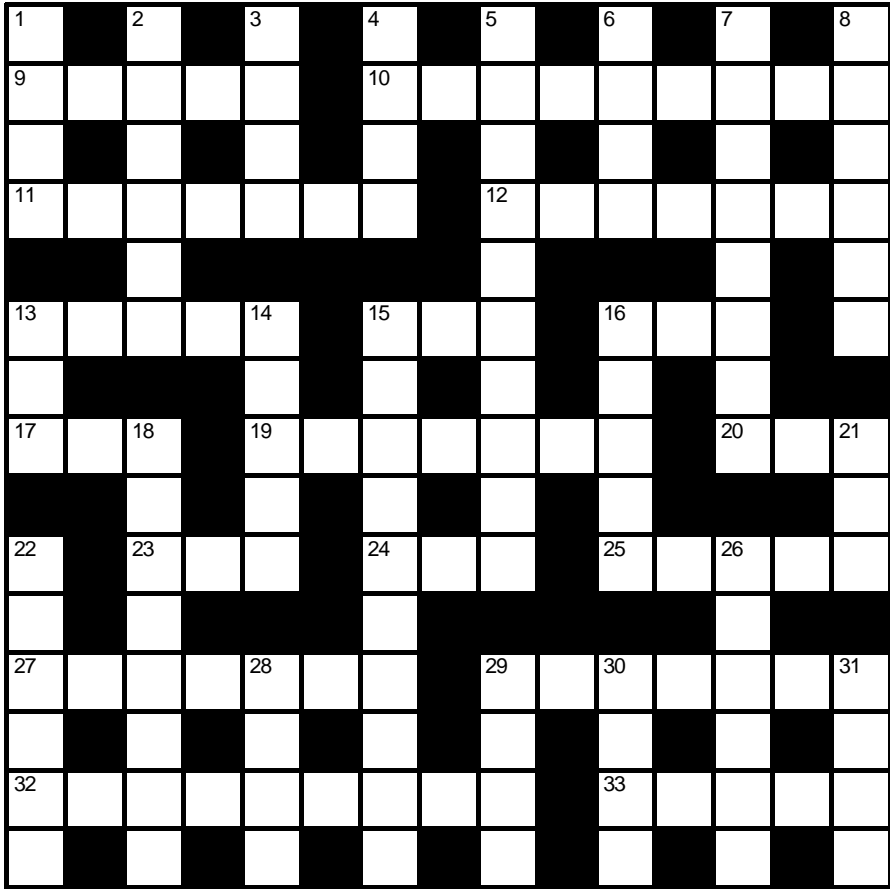
Crossword Number 217

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

BYWELL

* Clues are of a kind, and they contain no definition. Send your answers to the editors by 18th June 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

- 9 * Appearing in terribly theatrical script (5)
 10 Not so fortunate after UK in cruel mix-up (9)
 11 That is following Gilbert, Walter or Ronnie Barker (7)
 12 Compound fracture of the first tin ear (7)
 13 Allowed in a real egalitarian environment (5)
 15 * Goes round and round, and up and down (3)
 16 How Leicester starts a flower arrangement (3)
 17 * A collection of books (3)
 19 Complaint from the heart of Aristotle and one of his letters to students (7)
 20 Reproductive body, for example, pigtail (3)
 23 How Napoleon begins to sleep a little (3)
 24 * Helping to make Factor Eight (3)
 25 Weighty display in wardrobes exhibition (5)
 27 Candidate born after reversing on motorway (7)
 29 * Seven ways to be reorganised after soldiers leave (7)
 32 Unsnarled world leaders, Chinese leaders, and what they did (9)
 33 Priest reforming archive after he leaves (5)

Down

- 1 The second of five black lives gets the bird (4)
 2 Part-human, mostly icy, tennis player (6)
 3 * Revolutionary theory originally (4)
 4 * One in every three, in the Beaufort Sea (4)
 5 Begin oddly with can and meal pudding (10)
 6 Small bed? One found over the border (4)
 7 Amazingly it's alive! No need to do this (8)
 8 * Combined sources of the Orinoco and the Welland (6)

- 13 * Central ingredients of clear and pale ale (3)
 14 Ease off playing lute and piano (3,2)
 15 Coral inlet in grassy ruins (10)
 16 Throw rope round ship held by people of the Mekong (5)
 18 Metal-basher needed here - vacillating Tory leader isn't him (8)
 21 Forceful letter makes a horse go faster (3)
 22 * Hesitation following news broadcast (6)
 26 Europeans letter from Greece to the church is not for reproduction (6)
 28 * Directions are repeated (4)
 29 General George or Virginia (4)
 30 Examination at the end of a backward city (4)
 31 * Upstream in the River Ayr (4)

Solution to crossword no. 216

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

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

Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting

Cllr Covill chaired 2 meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 9th May, attended by 8 parish councillors and 2 members of the public.

Cllr John Covill was elected as Chair of the Parish Council

Cllr David Greenfield was elected as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council.

Parish Council Representatives and/or wardens for

Village Hall Management Committee

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

Swaffham Prior Sports & Recreation Committee

Social Media

Community Land Trust

Local Plan

Village Verges

Churches

School Liaison

Cemetery

Footpaths

Lamp posts

Allotments

Cllr Muscroft

Cllr Kent-Phillips

Cllr Kent-Phillips

Cllr Kent-Phillips

Cllr Greenfield

Cllr Greenfield

Cllr Greenfield

Cllr Durrant

Cllr Gynn

Cllr Durrant

Cllr Lambert

Cllr Latchford

Cllr Latchford

Jude Griffiths (Clerk) was confirmed as Responsible Finance Officer.

Cllr Kent-Phillips was confirmed as Treasurer.

All documents, policies, regulations etc were reviewed and agreed. Changes were made to the Cemetery regulations, Memorial Safety Policy and Standing Orders.

Membership of the following were agreed:

- Society of Local Council Clerks
- Cambridge and Peterborough Association of Local Councils
- Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

The dates and times of the PC meetings were set at the second Thursday of each month, starting at 7.30pm

The date and time of the Annual Parish Council Meeting was set as the second Thursday of May 2025, starting at 7pm.

All meetings will take place in the meeting room of the Village Hall.

Reports

- Cambridge County Council. Report circulated by email. Cllr Charlotte Cane (ECDC) noted the Greener Together meeting taking place on Wednesday 15th May at the Gardiner Hall, Burwell. Cllr Cane also noted extra funds have been supplied to pay for repairs to soil affected roads, which should pay for some running repairs and had already funded repairs to Little Fen Drove.
- East Cambs District Council – Cllr Cane attended as representative. Cllr Cane noted no meetings had taken place and the launch of the consultation on the Hedgehog Protection Policy.

Correspondence.

Email about putting up a Little Library in the village. A majority of the PC agreed that the PC would not object to a Little Library being put in the grounds of the Village Hall, behind the noticeboard, if the Village Hall committee agreed.

Proposal from CCC to install electric charging points in the village

After discussion, it was concluded that charging points in the village hall car park would lead to unacceptable use of car parking spaces for several hours at a time while cars recharged, preventing users of the hall from parking. On-street charging points (e.g. from lampposts) would be unsuitable due to the village layout.

RoSPA report for the playground

The Clerk is to look into replacing the missing bushes and removing the excess chain on the toddler swings and to send the certificate for the new equipment to RoSPA to show it was signed off as up to current standards by the manufacturer and installer.

Buying a Bleed kit for the Parish

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the contents of a bleed kit were covered by the first aid kit already in the defibrillator.

Heating Scheme.

Cllr Greenfield reported:

- The noise issues are ongoing – Cllr Greenfield is chasing up.
- Livestock are now present in the grounds.
- The cable from the solar farm is being installed.
- The second round of connections will begin in the summer.
- An issue with connecting a house in the Beeches has been resolved.
- In-house display units are being rolled out so that customers can see how much heat they are drawing.
- The Village Hall will hopefully be connected as suggested last month – with the option for the school to join at a later date.
- The Scheme is generally working well and most people are happy with it.

Clerk's Report

The category 2 gravestone checks were carried out on 29th April 2024. 8 gravestones were found to be still category 2 and in need of checking again in 12 months' time. None of the 8 had up-to-date contacts.

- The cemetery gate and main allotment gates have been fixed so both now open easily.
- All the cemetery allotments, and 7 Lower Allotments plots have been rented for the year. There are 2 half plots still available on the Lower Allotments site - the Clerk will look into getting ground cover to cover these.
- Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Village Assembly. The date and time was set as Wednesday 29th May, 7.30pm.

Parish Councillors' Reports

- Cllr Greenfield had attended a meeting of the A-B1102 group. Parts of the A-B1102 proposals for bus routes (the fast and slow routes through the villages) are to be adopted. The PC needs to consider the consequences of this as Swaffham Prior is on both routes and therefore could become a hub where people change from one service to the other. This may require upgrading of the bus stops and potentially the building of more and/or better shelters e.g.

installation of electronic updatable signs etc.

- Draft Hedgehog Recovery policy – Cllr Greenfield noted that comments had been asked for and suggested that the PC did not as there was nothing to be added. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that he had forwarded the draft policy to the Hedgehog lady.
- Grass-cutting. Cllr Greenfield and the PC had received a number of complaints about the cutting of the verges. Cllr Greenfield noted that a hard cut back at the beginning of the season had been requested by the rewilding scheme. Cllr Greenfield also noted that a thorn bush had been removed from the Cage Hill bank to prevent it becoming overgrown.
- It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the rewilding group to write to the Crier with an explanation of what happens to the rewilding areas, when and why.
- Cllrs Greenfield and Durrant were to meet with grass-cutting supervisor on Wednesday to discuss issues and grass-cutting schedule.
- Grass-cutting. Cllr Greenfield noted that complaints had been received when the contractors would not cut verges with cars parked next to them. Cllr Greenfield explained that this is company policy to prevent accidental damage caused by e.g. small stones thrown by the strimmers.
- It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Crier explaining that verges will only be strimmed if there are no cars parked beside them to prevent accidental damage.
- Footpaths. Cllr Hart noted that the path from Cage Hill to Cooper's Green is now very overgrown in places. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Crier requesting that parishioners cut back vegetation on paths bordering their properties.

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, 13th June 2024

Broadband coming to Swaffham Prior Fast but Slowly?

The news this month is relatively short but at least it is clear. GigaClear have been having problems with the contractors doing the civil engineering work not working to their expected quality and safety standards so they will have to rearrange the contract. The work is still planned to happen but they cannot yet give a firm commitment on a date. As they very reasonably say “Sadly it is one of those unfortunate things but we would rather work well and be delayed than upset a whole community and leave the place in a bad way”.

There also appears to be a good chance that this will provide an opportunity to get the High Street fully included in the plans. *James Matheson*

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.

Hi Theresa, Thank you for these. They will go in the next issues of the village magazines.

Best wishes, Jun

Offers

From Theresa on 01223 813222:

Coat hangers - new boxed 25 ordinary shoulder ones

New bar and shoulder for slacks and skirts/trousers

New Clip ends for skirts and trousers

Headsets unused. Ideal for meetings, telephone calls with lift up microphone/mouthpiece.

2 sets of audio dictation headsets.

Singer Confidence sewing machine. Numerous embroidery stitches, computerised, accessories, foot pedal and spare feet. Carry cover.

Ladders - 2 tier. Strong aluminium.

2 Green runner mats 2'x 5' vgc

Glass Various sizes Some from glass coffee tables and shelving, some opaque.

TV stand black glass.

IKEA Lack coffee table 90 Lx 55 Wx40 H cms. Long

IKEA Lack coffee table 55 x 55 x 40 cms. Square

Local Artist - Purple Cosmos on Black. Canvas /Acrylic 20" L x 8" W

2 Meerkats- brand new, boxed. Sergei and Mia

Framed picture of Loch Lomond

Tall Vase Weighty German made. Not Troika but of similar style. Dark brown and Mustard colours

Ceramic garden pots - Good selection

Guttering downpipe pieces - ideal for allotment or patching pipe work/irrigation

Edging iron

Wants

Glass fish tank 10litres or more; dog life jacket/buoyancy aid. Robin 01223 811632

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

June 2024

Are you able to help with the village Hall?

We need help with the everyday maintenance to keep this valuable village asset in the best condition.

For the most part it means coordinating external services, but some hands-on help is also required from time to time.

If you have a few hours to spare each month and can help either on the committee or on an occasional basis, please contact Philip Blackburn on 07501230256

Thankyou

WI Meeting	3rd Monday of each month 19:30 – 21:30	Contact Margaret on 01683 744390
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

As

we move towards the summer months some events may change so, please speak directly to the event organiser but these are just some of the regular activities happening throughout the month.

A full list can be seen on www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk

If you're looking to hire the village hall, go to our website www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk for availability, bookings & prices.

For anything else contact Philip Blackburn on 07501230256



Services in June 2024

Sunday 2 June – First Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

4pm Village Worship, Quy Village Hall

Wednesday 5 June

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 9 June – Second Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom

Holy Communion, Quy

10.30am Family Worship and Baptism, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 16 June – Third Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom

Morning Prayer, Quy

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 23 June – Fourth Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 30 June – Fifth Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Ordination of Rhona McEune, Ely Cathedral

6pm Evensong, Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

While the Benefice is in vacancy, 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; churchwards@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches;

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

Dates for Your Diary June 2024

Wed	5	Bookclub, 6pm, 5 Lower End [23]
Thu	13	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH [32]
Sat	15	Anglesey Abbey, Fathers' Day (and 16th) [20]
Sun	16	Pets & Vets of Burwell, Burwell Museum [22]
Mon	17	Rose Society UK, Anglesey Abbey [20] WI Garden Party [24]
Tue	18	Village Gardeners, Visit to Barry Grayton's Garden, 7.30pm [21]
Thu	20	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Fassage Hall, Lode [25] Clls Surgery, 6.30pm, Reach Village Hall [27]
Sat	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Sun	23	Sundae Funday, 2-4pm, St Mary's [12]
Thu	27	Bottisham Patients Group, Bottisham Surgery, 6:30 [21]

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	01223 861083	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