



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVIII Number 5

May 2024



## Editorial

Did anyone wonder why the bells were ringing and the flag was flying on top of St Cyriac's on the last Friday in April? Wonder no more, but see page 7, and many congratulations to Betty Prime, who became 100 years old on that day! Betty and her husband Ron contributed a great deal to this village in their younger days (they were editors of this magazine in the 1980s) and her family arranged a brilliant birthday surprise.

It's Reach Fair next Monday, and the Mayor and Corporation are wishing to re-institute the tradition of penny-throwing on their way to the fair. Unfortunately, they've forgotten what to do, and despite being reminded, they still don't seem to have got the hang of it! Which is to drive slowly along the High St while throwing pennies to anyone they see standing by. But what they may do is stop outside the Village Hall OR at the corner of Rogers Road, so don't forget to be waiting for them from about 11 am. Although just where is another thing....

Anyone who has had extreme trouble getting to the Surgery in Burwell (you have to go the *right* way round and wait for someone to come and remove the cones) may be perplexed to find that this is because they are installing GAS to the new housing estate. No heating scheme for them then and the roads to be redug in a few short years! This whole huge estate is a bit worrying — if anyone knows what arrangements have been made for schooling or for the Surgery, please write and tell us.

Many thanks to Anon for the very generous donation to the Crier this month, and if, for example, your organisation submits a report regularly to the Crier, do please consider dropping us a donation to help with our printing costs. Read all about 'progress' (or lack of it!) in our latest Fast Broadband article, and don't miss the Village Feast (p. 4 & 12) - we'll be on the bar again.

**Caroline Matheson**

**Cover Picture:** *Haven*, hand embroidery onto needle-felted background by **Lindy Jane Rainbow**

### Regulars

Letters	2
This Month's Cover	3
Our Reporter	4
Donations	6
Julie's Recipes	8
Poem of the Month	10
Fast Broadband Slowly	11
Heating Scheme	16
News from Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen	18
Bookclub	21
Mothers' Union	21
WI	22
Village Gardeners	23
Bon Mot	23
Cllrs Cane and Trapp	24
Bottisham Patients	25
CROSSWORD	26
PC Notes	28
VH News	30
Church Services	31
Diary & Clubs	32

### News, Views & Reviews

Betty Prime 100 <sup>th</sup>	7
Welcome to our new Vicar	9
Remembrance Mary Hart	13

### What's On

Village Feast	4,12
Reach Fair	15
Iolanthe	20
Newmarket Cinema	29

### Wanted

FreeCycle	17
Bric-a-brac	20



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### QUIZ NIGHT

Jenny and I would like to thank everyone who came to the village quiz on the 13<sup>th</sup> April and made it another successful night.

We hope you all enjoyed it so you will come to our next one which is on the 19<sup>th</sup> October. Congratulations to Denza, who were the winners and to the runners up, Lucky Harry.

Thank you once again to Andrew who was our quiz master and to April who organised the raffle which raised the most money so far. She must have twisted a lot of arms.

As always, a big thank you to the people who donated the lovely prizes. The ladies in the kitchen did another brilliant job at making and serving the food so thank you to Mandy, Kate and Janet.

The money in total you helped raise for St. Mary's Church was £450, thank you. Hope to see you all at our next quiz.

Lynne and Jenny

---

Dear Editors

### Heating Scheme Update

I should provide an update on my letter written mid-February that went out in the March Crier. That edition landed on my doormat as the plumbers had the floors up here to locate the erroneous plumbing connections which date from when the house was built, it seems, ie not caused by the heating scheme. But this only became apparent when we were connected to the heating scheme. Those issues are/were probably unique to this property and not likely to be experienced by anyone else. As far as I know.

Also as far as I know, those problems, which meant we were consuming excessive heat units by some kind of accidental crossover between heating and water circuits, have been fixed. I say as far as I know, because as warmer weather is upon us, I can't readily compare heat usage now with January to March consumption.

The heating scheme folk did say they would monitor our usage after the first time they took the floor up (there has been a more recent floor-up occasion to fix what didn't get found the first time, for reasons not really their fault) but that monitoring didn't seem to happen. There are a couple more things that we have been asking for and we have been told will happen but which haven't yet come to pass.

If there were a user group in the village I would go into the details there and compare notes with the experiences of others, but there doesn't seem to be one. I have heard things get said in the pub and also that there are certain individuals who have special monitoring equipment of their own devising who talk to one another. Possibly they talk to people who don't have such equipment as well, but that's as far as I know. One of those people has said things to me about their monitoring when

met walking their dog. In the absence of a user group for the heating scheme it seems there's just people who talk to other people they have contact with. One such told me only data would matter. I said I had full data. I haven't heard anything since.

Perhaps there's some heating scheme freemasonry you have to be invited to join? With a rolled up trouser leg and a set of heating cabinet keys?

Or perhaps I should go out more to encounter such people walking their dogs.

What I do want to say, is that the people from Huttie, Equans and the Council with whom I have had dialogue, are as polite and personable and as willing to be helpful as anyone could ask. Extremely nice people to deal with. But they cannot talk to us about anyone else's situation, only ours, they acknowledge. And some of the things they are very willing to try to do for us don't quite seem to happen as asked.

So I guess things will continue as is, ie the people connected to the heating scheme who talk to each other will continue to talk to one another. Or not, as they choose. As far as I know.

*Mark Lewinski*

As one of those who chatted to Mark on a dog walk and then didn't get back to him – apologies. I promise that there's no shadowy group meeting in secret, just four of us who have met a couple of times in one another's houses to exchange notes on technical issues mainly to do with getting accurate independent measurements of the supply temperature. At the moment we don't have a portable version of our measuring equipment that we could take round to someone else's house and we're not confident that the accuracy is such that it would prove much even if we could. What I think we could say is that nothing so far makes us regret having joined the Heating Scheme and that in my case this involves keeping an old house warm over the winter without having needed to change any of the radiators. Of course to some extent this makes the question of exact supply temperature less important. But if and when we have enough accurate information to say anything useful, e.g. on relative costs, we'll share it with the village. And if anyone wants to share any thoughts with the Crier, either for publication or not, we'd be very interested to hear from them.

*James Matheson*

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

Lindy is a textile artist who lives locally in Wicken. Lindy creates art inspired by nature, using hand and freehand-machine embroidery, alongside textile techniques including needle felting.

She would love to welcome you to her home where she will be exhibiting with Cambridge Open Studios during July 2024. Look out for information later this year about this annual Art event which takes place all across Cambridgeshire, including Swaffham Crier. Details will be published in your Crier magazine and on the Open Studios website: [www.camopenstudios.org](http://www.camopenstudios.org)

*Celia Tyler*

# **Swaffham Prior Village Feast**

## **Saturday 18th May 12.30pm to 4.00pm**



This year's Feast will be full of fun and games for all the family.

Someone will be calling in the next few days and we would be grateful for donations for the bottle stall or draw prizes.

If you have any items for the following stalls you would like to be collected please call Jenny Brand on **01638 742161** to arrange collection.

**STALLS - Plants, Cakes, Books, Puzzles & Toys**

Thank you for your support and looking forward to seeing you on 18th May.

See also p12

## **From our Reporter**

What a very dull April 1st we had. Not a joke anywhere. Newspapers, the media etc absolutely stum. The news has certainly not been good internationally, and nationally it is increasingly getting into more of a muddle. Words like "scum" and "vulgarian" were being bandied around. So what was there to cheer about in April?



Let's look at March. The PC has two more allotments available. Excellent. Also the PC has been offered the chance to apply for a large portrait of King Charles III. They are waiting to hear whether the Village Hall are willing to house it. Let's hope the decision is positive. Then we could all join together to toast His Majesty.

In April our new Vicar, the Rev Max Osborne, was inducted in Holy Trinity Church in Bottisham. With the pub having successfully reopened, the School doing very well, the Scouts in good health, all our clubs and societies thriving, we only now need a new Chair of the Village Hall Committee. Alan Durrant has decided to resign after many years holding the helm, seeing through the Hall's further improvements, and most importantly often having to fight hard for the necessary funding from the PC. The retrospective planning application for the Smock Tower Mill has now been approved. Soon we will be seeing the two windmills working together. This may make the village unique. We may also be unique for something else in a few years time. At the April PC meeting Gerald Hurrell made a presentation about affordable housing. At the time of writing I don't know anything about his proposal. Those interested should read the PC Draft Minutes at the end of this Crier. There is certainly the possibility at some point that housing, and even maybe a Neighbourhood Plan, may appear on the PC Agenda.

On 21st April, a Cambridgeshire lady is running in the London Marathon carrying a refrigerator on her back. It seems that if she can complete the run in under six hours she will break the Guinness Book of Records for the Marathon run while carrying a household alliance. An example some of our local marathon runners may wish to follow.

We all know the Mark Twain saying "There are lies, damned lies, and statistics." Staff of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have voted to strike after being told they must go into the office at least two days a week. Only half of the workers voted and three quarters of these voted to strike. Sounds like a minority to me. But the ONS is important. It tells us that suicide rates are going up and other such cheering news. Meanwhile research studies throughout the world also provide facts and statistics. One showed that lonely women tend to eat more sweet and sugary food. Something we used to call "comfort eating". There are many similar interesting predictions made from statistics. In 2017 the UN Population Projector thought the world population will peak by 2100 at about 11 billion. Then if the current trends continue they will start to decline, and they suggest there are likely to be no people left by 3000.

Locally we can also put together some interesting facts and statistics concerned with the Heating Scheme. If you read the Times you are more likely to have an absolutely disastrous underground oil leak. If you read the Guardian you are more likely to have teething problems with the Heating Scheme. If you are a Telegraph reader nothing is likely to happen. Incidentally before the Heating Scheme was introduced we never had any underground oil leaks in the village. What would ONS make of that statistic?

*Alastair Everitt*

---

## Lucy Frazer at the Village Hall

At 3.30 on Friday the 22nd of March Lucy Frazer came to the Village Hall to answer questions from residents of both Prior and Bulbeck. No doubt other candidates will be coming soon. What fun it would be to have a Raving Loony Party candidate in the area. We possible have one or two who may fit the bill but they are being too modest..

The *Crier* was unable to send a reporter even though some would have liked to have done. A need to be in Brussels, to see a London publisher, work commitments etc prevented some. It seemed a pity in Election Year that so important a meeting should not be recorded. So I sniffed around and discovered some information which may perhaps be one sided. About 35 attended - so, 18 from each village. Not a sell out then.

**In spite of multiple suggestions that he should stop talking one person appeared to think the meeting was solely about his business concerns..**

Many of the questions were concerned with local issues which some thought were too insular to be interest or relevant. Perhaps someone next month would like to contest this and produce examples of the local questions.

A number of questions were from people who had always voted Tory and were so dismayed by the Tory record over the last decade. These are the ones who echoed Lord Hailsham, who

during the Profumo Affair in 1963, said "You know how the Conservative Party relies so much on character and integrity." I gather Lucy listed the usual problems caused by Covid, the war in Ukraine etc - all of which are true. But she failed to mention the disastrous leaders such as May, Johnson, and Truss or perhaps Cameron. And also the now apparent unfortunate effects of some of Osborne's austerity cuts which removed so many of the safeguards for the vulnerable in society. Have I missed anyone?

There was a question about the Palestine/Israel dispute but I think it unfair to ask this question of anyone on a public platform. It is a very complex issue and there is such a risk of being labelled either Antisemitic or Islamophobic though with luck you should avoid being labelled Racist or Sexist on this occasion.

A distraction at one point was a person who appeared to think the meeting was solely about his future/past/present business concerns. In spite of multiple suggestions that he should stop talking he found this very difficult to do.

The above is all hearsay. Maybe there are other views about the meeting.

If, if only, the meeting had been held late April one could have asked Lucy why she supported the U-turn which now allow Russian/Belarusian funded athletes to compete in the Olympics. Outrageous so many of us have said; duplicitous government yet again. But maybe someone had thought ahead around a couple of corners. Our fight is not with the Russian people. Why should Putin be offered the opportunity to show to his people yet another example of the West's hostility to the Russian people? So, on reflection, it is probably a very sensible rethink.

*Alastair Everitt*

## **Donations!**

Many thanks to Anon for their very generous donation to the *Crier* this month. Every penny of this goes to printing and production costs of the Crier

## **Have you signed up to the Star Shine Walk?**

Star Shine Night Walk is a 5 or 10 mile walk around the streets of Cambridge at night and returns on Saturday 22 June 2024, bringing together hundreds of people from the local community. You can walk in memory of a loved one, or enjoy a fun challenging walk whilst raising funds for people supported by Arthur Rank Hospice Charity. As the sun sets over Cambridge on one of the longest days, you will set off, from 7pm, from Shelford Rugby Club. Support people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition by signing up at [www.arhc.org.uk/ssnw](http://www.arhc.org.uk/ssnw) now. Please share with your family and friends.

*Virginia Goode*

**The bells of St Cyriac's rang out, the flag flew and Betty opened her greetings card from the King and Queen. Congratulations on your 100th birthday!**



**Betty Prime celebrating her special day with friends and family on Friday 26 April.**

### Seasonal Asparagus recipes for May

#### Asparagus and hot-smoked salmon risotto



1 onion  
Olive oil  
800ml chicken or veg stock  
350g Arborio rice  
200ml dry white wine  
12 asparagus spears  
200g hot-smoked salmon  
Lemon juice  
25g parmesan

Small handful of chopped fresh tarragon leaves

1. Finely chop the onion and gently fry in a little olive oil until soft. Meanwhile heat the stock on a low heat,

2. Add the rice to the onion and cook for 2 minutes, stirring. Add the wine and stock gradually until it is all absorbed and cook slowly until the rice is soft.

3. Bring a saucepan of water to a boil, Trim the asparagus and blanch in the water for 2 minutes, then drain and refresh under cold water. Slice the asparagus into 3cm lengths, keeping the tips whole. Flake the salmon and set aside.

4. Once the rice is cooked, stir in the asparagus, the salmon and a good squeeze of lemon juice. Grate the parmesan and add a small handful of tarragon leaves, season well and serve.

Serves 4

#### Asparagus soup

2 tbsp olive oil  
1 onion, finely chopped  
400g asparagus, finely chopped  
500ml of hot chicken or vegetable stock  
4 tbsp double cream  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Heat the olive oil and fry the onion for 4 minutes until softened, add the asparagus and cook for another 2 minutes.

2. Add the stock and bring to the boil, season well and reduce the heat to simmer for 5-7 minutes, until the asparagus is cooked through.

3. Add the cream and blend with a hand blender until smooth.

Serve into bowls and enjoy with crusty bread

Serves 4



## Welcome to our New Vicar

On the evening of Friday 19 April, in Holy Trinity church in Bottisham, people from the five villages of the Anglesey Group welcomed our new vicar, Rev'd Canon Malcolm Eric (Max) Osborne. Max was officially installed and inducted by Bishop Dagmar, Bishop of Huntingdon and acting Bishop of Ely, in a service that included age-old symbolism – receiving the church key, ringing a bell in the belfry – and informal greetings from people representing organisations throughout our parishes. The church was full, the choir sang joyfully, and over 100 people made their way after the service to the Sports and Social Club for refreshments and to make use of the bar. Max's friends and family had travelled from previous parishes and elsewhere to support him. It was a very convivial event which gives us much to look forward to when Max and family are able to take up residence in the new vicarage in Bottisham in July and properly join us in the benefice.

Thanks are due to everyone involved in planning and arranging the service and reception – a huge team effort, made easier as we have got used to working together during the vacancy.

Our church services in the five churches are listed elsewhere in the magazine and go ahead thanks to the support of retired clergy and lay ministers. You are welcome to attend services in any church.

*Dee Noyes*



**Rev'd Max, here pictured after the ceremony, with (among others) Tim Doe, Amanda Parton, Annette Goodfellow (with Charlotte and Richard), Charlotte Cane and me.**



# POEM OF THE MONTH

## The opening lines to “May” from The Shepherd’s Calendar by John Clare

Come queen of months in company  
Wi all thy merry minstrelsy  
The restless cuckoo absent long  
And twittering swallows chimney song  
And hedge row cricket's notes that run  
From every bank that fronts the sun  
And swathy bees about the grass  
That stops wi every bloom they pass  
And every minute every hour  
Keep teasing weeds that wear a flower  
And toil and childhood's humming joys  
For there is music in the noise  
The village children mad for sport  
In school times' leisure ever short  
That crick and catch the bouncing ball  
And run along the church yard wall  
Capt wi rude figured slabs whose claims  
In time's bad memory hath no names.

*John Clare was born in 1793 into rural poverty near Peterborough, in what was then Northamptonshire but is now Cambridgeshire, so we can embrace him as one of our own. Literate, thanks to the local church school which he attended to the age of 12 in the hours when he was not working in the fields, he emerged as an elegist for a way of life he saw as threatened by the industrial revolution, enclosures and other social and economic forces. This, the tension between his literary aspirations and his humble roots and the difficulty of earning enough to support himself and his family contributed to depression and physical and mental illness and he ended his days in an asylum.*



**Andrew Grant**

# Broadband coming to Swaffham Prior

## Fast but Slowly?

I'd hoped that the slowly bit might no longer be applicable but for some of us it may even be overly optimistic. At the time of writing last month's article we'd just had GigaClear's "online community drop-in" session and, in a stop-press about that, we noted that "It looks like GigaClear's installation schedule for us will be very similar to that for Swaffham Bulbeck, i.e. 80% complete by the end of the summer". I'd had considerable difficulty signing up for this session as I had previously trying to register an interest in their service, indeed I'm still not sure if I've managed to do the latter.

The reason for all this eventually became apparent in an email discussion with Roisin McGettigan after the meeting: it's "as [they] are not building most of the High Street". Some friends in Lower End have had a very similar experience of trying to sign up about a year ago and never getting a response so it's not clear whether it's just parts of the High Street which are excluded or other areas as well. Whilst the map for Swaffham Bulbeck was shown briefly at the on-line meeting, nothing was for Swaffham Prior so it's also not clear how advanced the planning is for us though a May start date had been mentioned in the meeting. On pressing for a bit more information, I was told "Unfortunately as I am not a designer or main decision maker I am not able to add or remove properties from build however I have sent across the High Street and houses we are missing to see if we can get you added in. Although we will be going past, unfortunately we will not be adding you in as of yet."

Since then, the discovery that parts of the High Street are not included in the build area was discussed at the April Parish Council meeting where David Greenfield reported that he had had spoken to the Community Engagement officer, who had advised that a letter from the PC asking Gigaclear to cover the High Street would be helpful. David is therefore going to write on behalf of the PC and fingers crossed this may have an effect.

But if you live on the High Street or Lower End and want ultra-fast broadband, *it would be well worth contacting them directly* and making sure that you get an acknowledgement that they are aware of your interest; despite our endeavours they clearly didn't know about ours and it is likely to be the level of interest that sways their decision. For those of us in areas not included, partial coverage like this is the worst outcome because these are unlikely to have enough customers to be of interest to another supplier.

A few other snippets from the on-line meeting:

- Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham are all part of "the Bottisham build" all the fibres to houses will originate from cabinets in Bottisham.
- Bottisham itself is now almost complete, Bulbeck and Prior should be 80% complete by the end of the summer. This should have been June for Bulbeck but their work has been delayed by emergency works by Anglian Water.
- The fibres are routed via a mixture of existing ductwork, some new ductwork and overhead via poles. Customers' own on-premise ducts can also be used.

Their infrastructure survey in Swaffham Prior will be based on information from BT OpenReach's portal of existing ductwork and starts with the Delivery Lead walking the route checking for space in chambers and that ducts are in good repair.

And finally, as was the case last month, we've still had no response to our emails to County Broadband who at one stage had also been showing an interest in supplying ultra-fast broadband to the village. We'll only report on them again if we do hear from them!

*James Matheson*

# ANNUAL VILLAGE FEAST

## \* SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL

### SATURDAY 18TH MAY 12.30PM - 4.00PM



## EVENTS - STALLS - BAR & REFRESHMENTS

PUNCH & JUDY— CIRCUS SKILLS — FALCONRY DISPLAY

MAYPOLE — CAR & MOTORCYCLE EXHIBITION

## BARBEQUE - RAFFLE - MUSIC

BRIC-A-BRAC - PLANTS - ICE CREAMS - GURNING - LUCKY DIP

BOWLING - WI STALL - TOMBOLA - FOOTBALL - CAKES - BOOKS

JIGSAWS & TOYS, CAN SHY, CREAM TEAS - FACE PAINTING

## ANNUAL EGG-THROWING CONTEST AT 4.00PM



COME AND RELAX IN THE PUB GARDEN AND ENJOY  
A HOG ROAST FROM 5PM AND LIVE DUO  
FROM 5.30PM TO 8.00PM

## In Remembrance of Mary Hart

[The following is based on extracts from Peter Hart's lovely and very moving address at Mary's funeral on 2 April at Cam Valley Crematorium.]

What an amazing, wonderful and special person Mary was. I'm so grateful that all those 57 years ago on our special engagement hill in Scotland, she said yes to me and I have been able to share her life.

She was a devoted mother, to Richard and Anna, a devoted granny to Harry and Poppy and a devoted wife. A hugely reliable organiser, and this was apparent from the moment we got engaged, and I quickly learnt that slacking was not allowed.

As so many of your messages and cards recall she showed outstanding kindness, generosity, humour, empathy, selflessness and bravery in the face of adversity and all with a smile.



... So back to Mary's brief notes and these are her written words, mostly in note form: "She had a few different names at stages in her life most of which are not easily understood. As a child she was known as Snooks. At boarding school she became Bubbles – perhaps because of her laughter (my words) - in a flat in Cambridge she mysteriously became Fairy, and last of all in NHS settings she was known by her original first name of Iris which she came to like having hated it for fifty years!

Born on a Lincolnshire farm with three much older brothers she had a very happy childhood with dogs and pony. Went to boarding school at nine and surprisingly pretty happy there. After A levels to Addenbrookes to train as a radiographer for two years and then a year as staff. Three years living in a flat in Cambridge with other girls with lots of fun – definitely her words!

Met Peter during this time – he was busy rushing around in his MGB, so decided to go to USA with a friend to work for a year in 1965. Bit of a trouble learning the language! Decided to return home as would never become an American. And hardly a postcard from Peter during the year! Before coming home went on a journey of a lifetime in our huge old ford car, round much of USA and down to Mexico city. 12000 miles in six week and several breakdowns. Mostly camping in tents listening to bears at rubbish bins, then home on liner France.

Somehow Peter almost immediately appeared on the scene! Got a job at St Stevens hospital in Chelsea and again shared a flat with different friends. Peter often found there. Engaged August 1967, married May 1968. Over fifty wonderful years.

Then back working at Addenbrookes old site and Mill road maternity hospital until Richard and Anna were born. Then worked part time at the Evelyn Private hospital for the next 25 years, (which I know she enjoyed.) Richard then caught flu aged 17 in 1987 and was never well again." And this is now my words and not Mary's.

She became his full time carer for the next 16 years while clinging on to her part time job where I know, and am grateful for, the great support she had from friends and colleagues working there. The greatest grief was Richard's death in 2003 soon after we moved to Swaffham Prior.

That huge sadness is still with us today and particularly on every January 16, which some dear friends still help us to get through.

But, in the words of the lyrics in Mary's chosen opening music "everyone is facing changes and still the world goes on the same" and this was Mary's character and her phrase "onwards and upwards" or "keep on carrying on" is how she kept going. She was able to spend more time with our young grandchildren and help Anna and have lots of fun and happiness with them.

She turned her hand to all sorts of other things then as well. She returned to doing some voluntary work starting with a course on helping the blind and visually impaired people with Camsight and became involved with two lovely ladies she would read to and befriend. She also became secretary to our local Village Gardeners Group, which was helpful as I was Treasurer and Chairman of it at the time.

Not satisfied with all that, I remember how she took up water colour painting, pottery, keep fit, handbell ringing, book reading group, and for twenty years she kept records of garden birds for the BTO. And of course staying in touch with her so many friends and continuing to help Anna and enjoy the grandchildren growing up. Somehow, she also had time for our many lovely long overseas holidays to Canada, Chile, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Russia, all of which she organised in her amazing way and which gave us great memories of happy times.

And then eight years ago another bombshell hit her. This is how she described it in her notes: "Every thing changed in 2016 when I had fall into ditch and fractured right arm and right ankle badly. Various illnesses then took over from breast cancer to heart failure. 15 diagnoses by August 2019! Hoping to be entered into the Guinness Book of Records!"

... All during this time the wretched scleroderma she had was extending its devastating effects on her – it can affect all parts of the body apart from the brain and so it did to her. She hated having to give up doing things for herself and get me to do them, but her constant generous appreciation of my necessary help was so typical of her and allowed us to laugh in the face of it. She continued to be wonderful to be with and never a moan, just acceptance of how it was.

... She had nearly all her life kept a diary, and she would read some each day at coffee time and we would enjoy the memories they brought.

Oh so many wonderful memories of her, not least her amazing courage at always carrying on in the face of adversity. Her generosity, her kindness of always thinking of others, her lovely tinkling laughter, her beaming smile, her gentle admonishments to me, just occasionally, and when dressing her she would say "oh Peter we don't put it on that way, do we?"

Oh how I do miss you, but you have shown us the way forward.





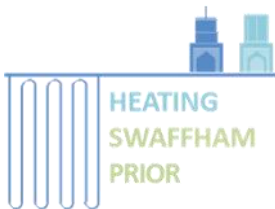
**Monday 6 May 2024**

**12 noon to 5pm**

**Fairground, Village Fair, Maypole Dancing,  
Morris Men, Craft Stalls, Live Entertainment and more**

**Entrance Free. Parking £10 per vehicle;  
£5 Blue Badge Holders and motorbikes.**

**[www.reachfair.org.uk](http://www.reachfair.org.uk)  
Fair Green, Reach CB25 0JD**



## Swaffham Prior Heat Network

### Customer Referral Program - Your Gateway to Savings and a Greener Future

Limited Time Offer! We're excited to announce a new customer referral program for our existing heat network customers. When you refer someone who successfully

connects their property, you'll both receive a one time off up to £100 on your next heating bill. This is a fantastic opportunity to share the benefits of sustainable heating while enjoying great incentives. You will soon receive an email to participate with the details and terms and conditions of the offer.

#### What Our Existing Customers Say?

We've received positive feedback from many of our heat customers but are keen to hear from more of you. Please submit a brief testimonial about your experience through the testimonial form that you have received earlier through email or request another using our contact details below. Here are some of the comments from customers so far:

"We're very pleased with our heating and delighted to not have to worry about oil deliveries or the exhaust fumes from the boiler."

"The heat network is providing warmth and hot water comparable to our old oil boiler, but without the noise, smells and constant monitoring of levels. "

"It's a great system. Very happy to not be using heating oil anymore."

#### Managing your heat use

In our efforts to make managing your home energy use easier, we are offering customers an 'In Home Display'. This electronic device (similar to a smart meter) will allow you to monitor your energy consumption in kWh and track the associated costs. Subject to availability, In-home display will be installed and commissioned at your property by our contractors. Once we begin this work, our team will send you an email to schedule the installation and commissioning of this device.

#### Planning the next connections

Before we can connect your home to the network, we undertake a survey to establish where the heat network will be installed, both inside and outside your home.

We plan to connect the next round of homes over the summer and will be back in touch with those who have had a survey undertaken, shortly. There are 21 survey results expected shortly for this phase. As part of the sign-up process, we then share a more accurate installation window with the homeowners, ahead of agreeing an exact date with each of you nearer the time. This is always agreed with each homeowner, to fit with their availability. Most connections take 3-4 days to complete for the internal works and up to 5 days for the external works, depending on the length of the pipe run.

**We have 9 spaces left for the summer installation phase**, so do contact us now if you are interested in finding out more about connecting to the heat network **Installation schedule**

We are aiming to connect 25-30 properties in each phase of connections. This strategic approach will ensure an efficient and streamlined installation process across the village. We know that for those properties currently heating with oil, timing



your oil supply and deliveries is key. We will keep in regular touch with those who have signed up to the scheme and awaiting connection to let you know how things are progressing, to help you manage this effectively and minimise the uncertainty.

### **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 available 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/8mg3xtEpnv>

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

Call our customer service line at 0345 0455210

*Siddhant Malhotra*

Energy Business Development Manager

---

## **FREecycle**

Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

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

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

**Offers:** Bathroom sink and pedestal, white ceramic Victorian style, unused. Bathroom sink mixer tap, modern, unused. Needs plumbing fittings. Steve 07917 697259



## News from Anglesey Abbey....

We've enjoyed welcoming young visitors to Anglesey Abbey over the school holidays for the Easter Adventures trail, bubble shows and facepainting. We'd like to say **a huge thank you** to our volunteers\* who helped put a smile on faces over the Easter holidays and to our student volunteers from the Green Team at Cambridge Regional College who helped create the giant bird boxes on the trail.

The gardens are bursting with spring colour at the moment as the 'Little beauty' tulips appear under the silver birches and the Formal Garden boasts rows of hyacinths soon to be replaced with African marigolds. We are delighted to announce that we are extending our **Rose Garden** at Anglesey Abbey by 20 new rose beds on the south side of the garden to create an even more impressive display in the summer. David Austin Roses have generously donated 180 roses including 'Emily Bronte', 'Bring Me Sunshine' and 'Queen of Sweeden' – come back and see all 60 rose cultivars looking blooming lovely in the summer!

We are about to launch a **new exhibition** on the ground floor of the house and in the gardens called '**Artists of East Anglia**'. From 1 May until the end of 2024, come and see some of the many English landscape paintings that Lord Fairhaven commissioned by Thomas Gainsborough and John Constable, to contemporary depictions of



the estate by Leonard Squirrell and Edward Seago. There will also be opportunities over the summer for visitors to engage creatively with the exhibition through watercolours and photography.

**In May half-term**, there will be lots of fun for families as **ZooLab** are bringing their ethical animal encounter shows to

Anglesey Abbey. Come along to meet the likes of snakes, snails and spiders and enjoy a weird woodland trail around the gardens. Please head to our website to book tickets and find out more. We are also looking forward to starting up our **Under 5's Gardening Club** on weekdays from 3 June to 12 July. More details to follow next time! And don't forget, The Lord Chamberlain's Men are coming to Anglesey Abbey on 17 August to perform HAMLET outdoors. Tickets are on sale on our website now.

*If you're interested in volunteering at Anglesey Abbey and being part of a lively and friendly community, please get in touch. We're currently on the lookout for a helping hand in welcoming visitors in the car park over May half-term.*

## ... And Wicken Fen

We are looking forward to our big anniversary celebrations this May as we celebrate 125 years since the National Trust first acquired two acres of land at Wicken Fen in 1899 as well as 25 years of the Wicken Fen Vision Project. Since 1899 the nature reserve has expanded to over 2,000 hectares and is now home to more than 9,000 species. We've already had our first sightings of swallows in April.

You are warmly invited to a day of celebrations and activities on **Saturday 4 May** at Wicken Fen from 9:30am – 8pm. There will be dragonfly, birdsong and deep listening walks, pond-dipping, pizza in the evening and the opportunity to meet some bird ringers. The visitor centre and nature reserve will be open from 9.30am - 8pm. Drop by at any time for a walk, chat and some refreshments. Please head to our website for more event details and to book your place. We will also be launching some projects at the start of May including a creative project that will enable visitors to experience the sounds of Wicken Fen in new and exciting ways – more details to follow!

Our celebrations extend beyond the 4 May with a **dusk chorus walk on 16 May**, crafts in the visitor centre, evening talks and more! Every Thursday from May to August, we will be keeping the visitor centre and boardwalk open until 8pm so that you can enjoy Wicken Fen in the evening too. Every Thursday to Saturday, refreshments will be available on site until 8pm and throughout the summer we will be running some evening boat trips on the Mayfly. Do head to our website for more details and come and enjoy some warm summer evenings at the Fen.

In **May half-term** we're looking forward to some *pond dipping* on 27 May as well as a *cuckoo clock workshop* on 28 May and a brand-new *building bricks wetland workshop* using everyone's favourite building bricks on 30 May and 1 June. What might you find at Wicken Fen in another 125 years' time? Come and have fun building future windpumps, wildlife and wetland artefacts – let your imagination run wild... Please book on our website.

*Ajaya Tagala*



## Bric-a-brac donations wanted! Calling all Springcleaners!

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior, is running a bric-a-brac stall at the Swaffham Prior Village Feast on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

We are currently collecting donations for the stall – small, clean, preloved items in good condition.

If you have any items to donate, please get in touch with Kate Muscroft (07752011308/[katemuscroft@gmail.com](mailto:katemuscroft@gmail.com)) and she will happily collect your items within the Swaffham Prior area.





Presents  
Gilbert & Sullivan's

# Iolanthe



Cambridge Light Opera

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> - Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2024 7.30pm and 2.30pm Sat  
Gardiner Memorial Hall, High St, Surwell, Cambridge CB25 0TH

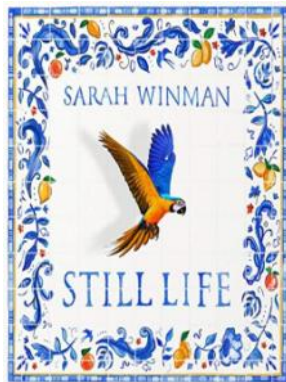
Tickets : £12 Wed, £15 Thu- Sat eve; and £12 Sat matinee  
From <https://cambridgelightoperagroup.org.uk/>,  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/oloe> (booking opening from 1st April),  
or Telephone : 07705 577570

Parking, disabled access and licensed bar

## The Reading Group Reads...

### *Still Life*

by Sarah Winman



I enjoyed this book so much that I am already reading it again. When we discussed the book at our April Book Club meeting I remembered that it was so full of fascinating characters, locations and events that I wanted to experience it once more. I realised that I had already forgotten a good deal and it is a book that benefits from slower reading. Starting around 1945 and covering approximately the next 25 years, the story revolves around a British soldier in Florence at the end of World War II who is introduced to the artistic treasures of the region by two people he meets. He returns to East London at the end of the war, back to his old life, friends and neighbours. Due to an extraordinary turn of events he returns to Florence to live in Piazza Santo Spirito, together with two of his London pals. The online reviews of the book are plentiful and enthusiastic. Waterman's sums it up: 'Moving from the Tuscan Hills and piazzas of Florence, to the smog of London's East End, *Still Life* is a sweeping, joyful novel about beauty, love, family and fate.' I am enjoying the second reading even more than the first!

April's book is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, and we will meet at 6pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at Margaret Joyce's, Cage Hill.

*Ann*



## Mothers' Union

Members had an afternoon of enjoyment at our Spring Social in March, making flowers with air-drying clay. Member, Marion Jackaman demonstrated how to make some lovely blooms, which we all tried to copy. There were some very artistic results as you can see in the photograph. Focusing on our floral creations filled us with the joys of Springtime. The Bring & Buy stall raised £45.



Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month at 2.30pm in Passage Hall, Lode. Wendy Lovell, will be guest speaker at our next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May. She will be talking to us about 'Preparing for Annual Church Flower Festival'. You are most welcome to join us.

*Ann Langran*



## The Swaffhams' WI

Memories can be wonderful things and reminiscing about our childhood experiences often evokes so many emotions. How many of us remember

Izal medicated toilet tissue, bicycle clips and three-wheeler cars? In this increasingly single-use disposable world, it was with great enthusiasm that we welcomed Kevin Boardman to talk to us about growing up in rural Norfolk in the 50s and 60s. Kevin, who is a former teacher, held us in the palm of his hand as he brought his childhood memories to life.

One of the many vivid pictures painted by Kevin described heating up the bath water in the copper ready to be brought in to the tin tub which was then used by the whole family starting with Kevin's mum of course and ending with a somewhat tepid and murky bath for the youngest sibling. His first childhood toilet memory was when the toilet was set up at the bottom of the garden and before going in to do your 'business', it was advisable to open the door and wait for the rats to leave! There were memories of boiling up the copper for washing day and then carefully squeezing the wet washing through the mangle to help speed up the drying and pressing process. How many of us remember Kaolin Poulitice, Blue Nun wine and condensation on the inside of the windows turning to ice in the winter?

Kevin described beautifully how the delivery vans would bring the meat, bread and fish out to the village but his particular favourite was the Corona 'pop' delivery van. Not only were the bottles of pop a great treat to be carefully savoured, but once the bottles were cleaned, they could be returned and the small deposit would be

handed back. Imagine! Recycling at its best! Whatever happened to those days? A huge thanks must go to Kevin for a lively, fun and very nostalgic talk.

Our next meeting is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7:30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Our May talk will be given by Jan Hunt from Ely Cathedral and as always there will be refreshments including delicious cakes! We would love to welcome new members and visitors, so do please come along to our meeting in May.

***Kate Muscroft***





## VILLAGE GARDENERS

Our April meeting was a fascinating talk by Dr Gwenda Kyd on 'Incredible Edible (and drinkable) Plants'. We were treated to both the salacious and the scientific.

The humble carrot: the health benefits of vitamin A and their amazing free radicals; how they can change the colour of your skin if you eat too many; and the debunked myth as to why the orange ones became the most popular; and did you know you can eat the tops too?

The more exotic Artichoke: and how its folklore reputation as an aphrodisiac made it a favourite with Catherine de Medici, Queen of France, making it popular in the French court; how it aids digestion; and how this popular imported vegetable bankrolled an arm of the New York Mafia in the early 1900s.

Then there was the walnut, from furniture to food, as a base for the paint pigment of artists like Leonardo Da Vinci, hair dye, and packed with antioxidants. Then how cholesterol lowering apples, are the source of a drug being researched to combat diabetes, and how fruit intolerance and allergies are more common in people who are allergic to the pollen of plants from that genus, for instance, apple trees are related to birch and maple, so if you are not keen on apples and wondered why.... and much more.

The next meeting of the Village Gardeners will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 8pm in the Swaffham Prior Village Hall when we hope to be delighted and informed by Saffron Summerfield when she presents 'When Birds Sing'. Featuring some of the birds you may recognise from your gardens.

As always, all are welcome, non-members can come along for £4 per event, with tea and homemade cake for sale.

Our summer Coach Trip to Wrest Park, Bedfordshire, is on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, if you want to come along deposits of £15 are needed a.s.a.p. (Nicola 01638 742184) total cost £35 or £21 for English Heritage members.



*Mafia Boss Ciro Terranova,  
aka "the Artichoke King".  
He bought up the lot and sold  
them at 3 times the price.*

*Kylie Coles*

### **BON MOT NUMBER 149**

***"The people I meet in the water industry  
wouldn't make it to lunchtime  
in the music business.***

***Nobody would tolerate their incompetence."***  
*Feargal Sharkey (1958 - )*

The Council is advertising for an independent person to serve on its Audit Committee. The independent person will work alongside the elected councillors on the Committee. Appointing a robust independent person to the Audit Committee is the first step to creating an Audit Committee which can ensure strong governance and risk management. If you are interested in the role, more detail can be found at - <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/job-vacancies/independent-person>



Charlotte, John and colleagues asked some robust questions about increased agency costs, unrealistic fuel costs, and other elements of the ECSS budget. In 2023/23 East Cambs District Council paid East Cambs Street Scene an annual fee of £3 million to collect waste and recycling, and clean the streets. Two years later the council administration has just signed off a £4.6 million payment to deliver exactly the same service—an increase of fifty-three per cent. Mark and colleagues voted against the business plan.

The Operational Services Committee agreed the Council's Vulnerable community strategy. Charlotte asked why no formal assessment had been carried out of disabled parking spaces across the district, why restrictions on disabled spaces ceased in the evenings, and how disabled parking spaces were enforced—answers were unavailable at the meeting. After the meeting the Council simply confirmed that it had not carried out a survey and that it accepted no responsibility for on-street parking.

The budget for the Health & Wellbeing strategy was confirmed to be just £5,000, and questions were asked whether this was sufficient for the actions in the strategy, and what the service could do with more money.

The ECTC business plan for 2024/5 was approved by a majority. Charlotte, John and colleagues voted against the plan but were defeated. The company is not delivering more than thirty per cent affordable housing, which is what is required of any commercial developer, and it is not delivering a surplus for the council.

The Climate change and nature restoration chapter is the first step in the replacement of the council's increasingly out of date local plan. This piece of work is somewhat hampered by the Government's announcement that council local plans will not be allowed to be more ambitious for carbon reduction than current building standards.

Charlotte proposed that the council should ask officers to update us regularly on



how far other councils are able to move the dial on this, and that we should ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister pointing out the short-sightedness of his announcement, but we were defeated.

Consultation on the new chapter will take place in due course.

Hedgehogs were chosen by public vote to have their own Supplementary Planning Document. This proposed policy contains a number of measures such as creating 'hedgehog highways' via gardens through simple measures such as small holes created at the bottom of fences. For larger developments, the policy seeks wider habitat creation suitable for hedgehogs.

Consultation on the new policy will take place for a minimum of four weeks after the Police & Crime Commissioner elections in early May.

Our next Councillors' Surgery is Tuesday 14 May 6.30-7.30 at The Passage Hall, Lode.

---

## News from Bottisham Patients' Participation Group

**Appointments:** This Practice is in the top 14 of the area with one day wait appointments and 90.7% face to face appointments. Unfortunately, from the 1<sup>st</sup> March to the 8<sup>th</sup> April there were 61 appointments where patients failed to attend. We appreciate that there will be some circumstances beyond our patients control, but where possible, can we request that if you are unable to attend an appointment it is cancelled so another patient can utilise it.

**Dispensary:** The new Dispensary Manager Sara Harnwell is now in post. Unfortunately the Practice continues to experience delays from suppliers, particularly after Bank Holidays, so your patience is requested and as always, appreciated. We have two upcoming Bank Holidays in May, for any repeat prescriptions, please ensure prescriptions are given to the Dispensary team by the 26<sup>th</sup> April and 17<sup>th</sup> May, to ensure availability by Fridays 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May, respectively. To clarify, when we advise we need five working days, this is five full working days, the date of submission is not included. Please also note that the Government are increasing prescription charges from £9.65 to £9.90 from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

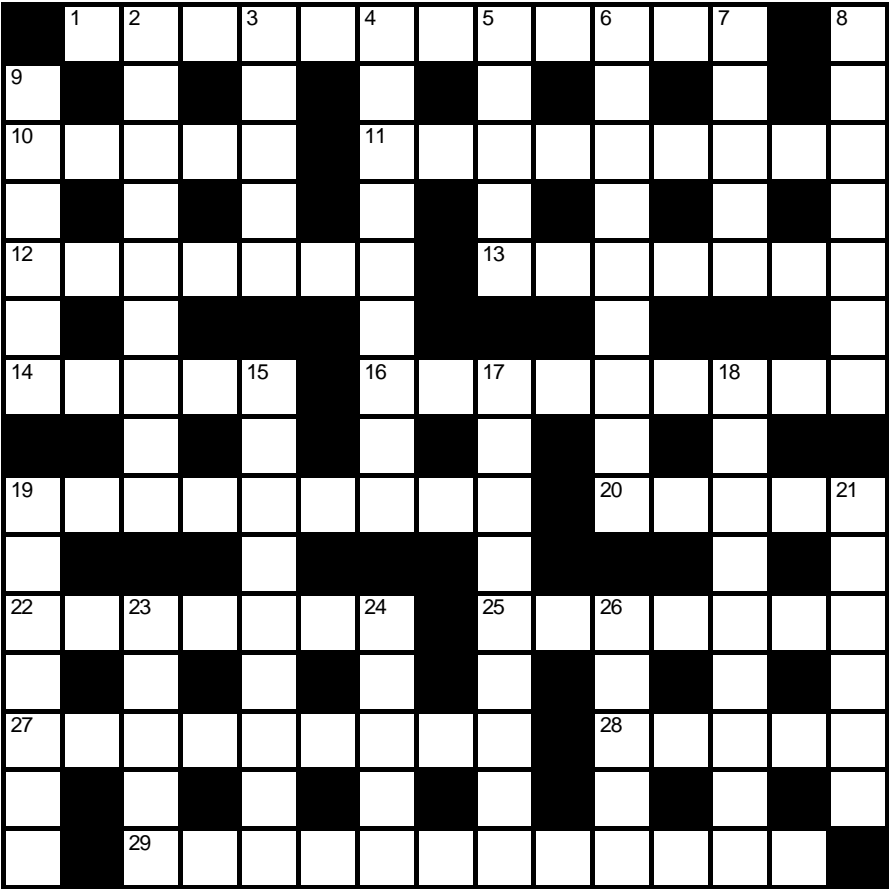
**Telephone System:** Our new system is due to be installed in week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Whilst full training is included in the package, your patience is requested as our teams will be learning whilst on the job. The new system has many new facilities, which over time we will use to measure and where possible improve our service but one element you will notice straight away is the automatic call back facility.

**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](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com). Or speak to reception.

Crossword Number 216

Compiled by OUNCE

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th May 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:.....

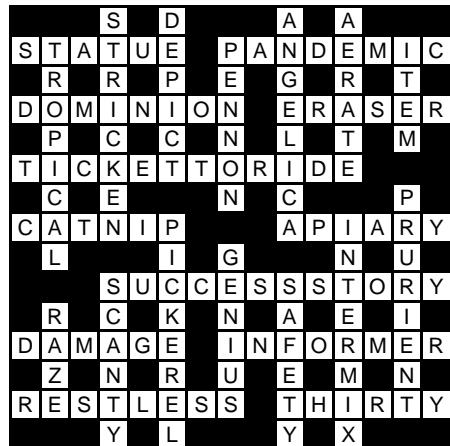
## Across

- 1 One disorganised cat isn't barer disorganised (12)
- 10 Tool discovered; perhaps a rasp? A deal bigger than that (5)
- 11 Narrow Tories hoaxed it's said (9)
- 12 Tool devastates the Spanish capital (7)
- 13 Genuine Sierra in church enclosing Queen (7)
- 14 Pitchers' partners hesitate before first of September (5)
- 16 Garrulous, funny looking valet hid a kit badly (9)
- 19 Soldiers stammer an alternative (3-2-4)
- 20 Fish bone, uncooked, left (5)
- 22 Dishevelled bodyguards rub out high Summer (3,4)
- 25 Marines crush cadaver (7)
- 27 Incline font, organise felicitations after font removed (9)
- 28 Portion of stock initially sold, however, asset reacquired easily (5)
- 29 Determined to lend me digs in ruin (6-6)
- 7 Green water recycled (5)
- 8 Former partner married in woody plant - far out! (7)
- 9 Guarantee donkey touches river (6)
- 15 Comedy, for example, another way to Tunisia (9)
- 17 Shaft of light alarms bee dreadfully (5,4)
- 18 Appears dead and inane; swallowed a rug? (9)
- 19 Island wine cake (7)
- 21 Tilted historical building perhaps (6)
- 23 For instance, tumbler? Good girl! (5)
- 24 Talent in risk, ill-managed (5)
- 26 Craftsman; not his father, his offspring (5)

## Down

- 2 Lizard removes nut from pureed luncheon meat (9)
- 3 Rows? It will end in crying, we hear (5)
- 4 Tale Oscar concocts about way to rise? (9)
- 5 Additional starting benefits of negotiated union salary (5)
- 6 Member of retinue, a non-drinker, last worker (9)

## Solution to crossword no. 215



We congratulate Pippa Houghton, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive a prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Mary Joyner and Richard Wilkins.

# **Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council**

## **April meeting**

Cllr Covill chaired a meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 11th April, attended by 8 parish councillors and 6 members of the public.

### **Letter of support for the proposed new bus routes.**

Following a presentation by Jon Cook, Chair of the A-B1102 Group on the proposed new bus routes, the PC agreed to write to Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authorities in support of the proposals.

Details of the proposals can be found at <https://atob1102.org/submission-to-cpca-bus-routes/>

### **Presentation from Mr George Hurrell regarding affordable housing proposals for the parish**

Mr George Hurrell and two associates discussed potential proposals for the building of affordable housing on 3.9 acres behind 69 High Street, Swaffham Prior and whether the PC would support a survey of housing needs.

Cllr Greenfield summarised the PC's position:

- The PC agrees the need for affordable and social housing.
- The PC does not support the use of this specific site for building due to issues of suitability for further housing and the historic setting of the two churches.

The PC declined to support the survey as it felt that once a housing need had been established, it would prove extremely difficult for the PC to object to this specific site. The PC thanked the three for the presentation.

### **County and District Council reports**

- Cambridgeshire County Council. A report was circulated by email. Cllr Charlotte Cane noted that a decision on Sunnika had been put back from April to June.
- East Cambridgeshire District Council. A report was circulated by email. Cllr Cane attended. Cllr Cane noted that a meeting had been arranged between herself, Cllr John Trapp and a new, senior member of staff for Sanctuary Housing, who seemed keen to be actively involved with them.

### **Broadband for Swaffham Prior**

Cllr Greenfield explained that Gigaclear were presently intending to supply Fibre to all the village except the High Street. Cllr Greenfield had spoken to the Community Engagement officer, who believed that a letter from the PC asking Gigaclear to cover the High Street would be helpful. The PC agreed that Cllr Greenfield will draft the letter and forward it to the Clerk for sending next week.

### **Heating Scheme - Cllr Greenfield reported.**

- Noise issues. Present actions appear to be working but the issue continues to

be monitored.

- There have been some problems with installation to a property, but these where due to a contractor, not the Heat Scheme.
- Installation to the Village Hall. This is waiting for confirmation of interest from the school as the feed to the Village Hall comes from the school. The option of getting the pipework to the Village Hall with an option for the school to join later from it is being explored.
- People are expressing frustration at waiting for connections. A number of connections are needed for a contract offered to be economically viable. A new member of staff was responding to enquiries.

### **Clerk's Report**

- Allotments. A renter of a Lower allotment requested that the PC look into maintenance of the edges to the field, entranceway and paths around the unrented plots.
- The Clerk suggested that the PC look into the possibility of supplying Bleed Kits for community use. Cllr Kent-Phillips will look into the cost.

### **Parish Councillors' Reports**

- Cllr Latchford noted that when wind danger to a lamppost was reported, it was repaired 20 minutes later – for information.
- Cllr Covill noted that the condition of Heath Road is increasingly poor.

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, 9th May 2024 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

## **Newmarket Cinema**

Please find below details of our film shows at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket. NB. we are still only having a showing on Monday.

May 20th - Easy Virtue (2008) (PG)

June 17th - The Great Escaper (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 ring 07756 853714.

***Richard Penney***

# Swaffham Prior Village Hall

## May 2024

This month sees the return of the popular village hall “Feast” with many exciting events, stalls and displays including ;–

Falconry display – Circus skills – Punch & Judy – Vintage Car & Motorcycles – Face Painting – Bric-a-brac – Plants, together with a Barbeque – Ice Creams – Cream Teas.

The fun starts on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May between 12:30 – 4:00pm.

These are just some of the regular activities happening throughout the month.

A full list can be seen on [www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk)

<b>WI Meeting</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month 19:30 – 21:30</b>	<b>Contact Margaret on 01683 744390</b>
<b>SF-Fit Pilates</b>	<b>Each Tuesday 17:00 – 20:00</b>	<b>Contact Sarah on 075999072008</b>
<b>SF-Fit Pilates</b>	<b>Each Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30</b>	<b>Contact Sarah on 075999072008</b>
<b>PhysiOptima Pilates</b>	<b>Each Wednesday 09:00 – 09:50</b>	<b>Contact Kristin on 07799323867</b>
<b>Walking in your shoes – Dementia Care</b>	<b>Each Thursday 10:00 – 16:00</b>	<b>Contact Mike on 07884042590</b>
<b>Slimming World</b>	<b>Each Thursday 17:30 – 19:00 &amp; 19:00 – 20:00</b>	<b>Contact Sharon on 077601925638</b>
<b>Tai Chi Life Academy</b>	<b>Each Friday 10:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>Contact Sharyn on 0774017917</b>
<b>Lok Hup</b>	<b>Each Friday 12:00- 13:00</b>	<b>Contact Sharyn on 0774017917</b>
<b>SF-Fit Yoga</b>	<b>Each Friday 17:00 – 18:00</b>	<b>Contact Sarah on 075999072008</b>
<b>SPVH – Annual Feast</b>	<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 12:30 – 16:00</b>	

If you're looking to hire the village hall, go to our website [www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk) for availability, bookings & prices.

For anything else contact Philip Blackburn on 07501230256.

*Philip Blackburn*

# Services in May 2024

## Wednesday 1 May

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

## Sunday 5 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

## Thursday 9 May – Ascension Day

7pm Ascension Day Service with Cambridge Voices, St Cyriac's Swaffham Prior

## Sunday 12 May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

## Sunday 19 May – Pentecost

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

## Sunday 26 May – Trinity Sunday

9am Online service on Zoom  
10.30am Holy Communion, 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](mailto:bottisham@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk); 01223 604019

Lode: [lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk); 01223 811222

Quy: [quy@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:quy@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk); 01223 812652

Swaffham Bulbeck: [bulbeck@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:bulbeck@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk); 01223 812525; 01223 811501

Swaffham Prior: [prior@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:prior@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk); 01638 743937

For general enquiries: [admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk); [churchwardens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:churchwardens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/angleseychurches](https://www.facebook.com/angleseychurches);

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

## Dates for Your Diary May 2024

Wed	1	Bookclub, Margaret Joyce's, Cage Hill, 6pm [21]
Sat	4	Wicken Fen—Day of celebrations, 9.30am—8pm [10]
Mon	6	Reach Fair, 12 noon—5pm, Reach Village Green [15]
Thu	9	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm [29]
Sun	12	Rogation Service, Scout Hut, Town Close, 10.30am [31]
Tue	14	Councillors' Surgery, Fassage Hall, Lode, 6.30-7.30pm [25]
Thu	16	Mothers' Union, Fassage Hall, Lode, 2.30pm [21]
Sat	18	VILLAGE FEAST, VH & School playground, 12.30—4pm [4, 12]
Mon	20	WI, VH, 7.30pm [22]
Tue	21	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm [23]
Wed	22	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>

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

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Becky Wilkes	07827 318351	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Variable		
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	Kent House
Village Gardeners	Fiona Geraghty	741712	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall