

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVIII Number 11 November 2024



Editorial

Somewhat daftly, although the Parish Council have to do a regular 'Risk Assessment' of the defibrillator in the telephone box, one Risk that escaped notice

was that it was completely unusable because you couldn't get it off the wall and has been so since 2016 when the security combination lock was installed (See Letters). Fortunately, it turned out not to be needed on this occasion, and STOP PRESS, the PC now say they are researching replacing the offending lock with a bigger padlock.

However, from the December 2018 PC Minutes, a whole 6 years ago, we find:

"Sandra Gynn reported that the telephone box defibrillator had been used (nearly!) as a person who stepped of the bus had collapsed. 999 had been called and a paramedic in attendance noted that the lock was not easily visible in the dark, even though the light in the telephone box was working. Steve Kent-Phillips noted that the defibrillator had been checked recently and was OK."

Harvest Supper was absolutely brilliant this year by all accounts (see centre pages). If like us, you are kicking yourselves for not having made it, don't forget next year!

Meanwhile, the diagonal public footpath path over the fields down to the Devil's Dyke is finally to be restored (see PC Notes) — we await news of a



successful crossing! Happy One Year An

Happy One Year Anniversary to John and Lana at the Lion who celebrated their first year of on 26th October, and see you at Advent by Candlelight, don't miss this stunning do.

Caroline Matheson

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Rupert Bear is lost—can can you find him? See p. 5.

Cover Picture: Drone's Eye View of the Village by Andrew Noyes



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2024

It was a very wet day on Friday 27th September 2024 and some brave souls either managed to dodge the rain or arrived suitably attired! Thanks to you all, and those who donated before and after the event, we have raised the amazing amount of **£782!** That is **fantastic!** Enormous thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. The cake stall, ably run by Hilary Grant and her assistant Margaret Joyce, sold all the cakes; Robin was kept busy with the sale of raffle tickets and my niece Yvonne, who was our Macmillan representative, organised the game of guessing the number of coffee cups. The final number was 166 and the person nearest to that was Margaret Joyce with 165!

Thank you for all your contributions of delicious cakes and pastries, raffle prizes and your money. All the money goes to support the invaluable work of the Macmillan Cancer Support which helps anyone who is affected by cancer in any way. They are always there at the end of the phone and have specialist nurses and doctors too.

I look forward to seeing you all again next year, same place on the last Friday in September! In the meantime a huge thank you to you all.

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

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

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

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

Please apply to: Pam Waters Clerk to the Trustees 01638 741035

Pam Waters

Dear Editors,

That Defibrillator

There is a defibrillator in the phonebox beside the playground on the High Street. I don't know if so far it had ever been used, but we have now had the experience. When talking to the emergency services one evening on behalf of a neighbour, I was recommended to go and get the defib machine in case it should be needed. They gave me a three-digit code number to gain access to it but no advice how to make use of that.

The big yellow thing in the phonebox carries clear instructions – rotate it anticlockwise. Ok but it only turns a little and then stops. Checking all round it with the light on my phone revealed a small combination padlock with a locking wire right at the bottom (where the small overhead light doesn't reach). Ahah – this is where the code number comes in... but the lock is very small, the discs are difficult to rotate, and the numbers on the discs completely illegible, particularly when illuminated by my phone light held between my teeth.

I found the setting eventually by managing to recognise the digit 4 on one of the wheels, followed by a lot of trial and error, and the lock opened to release the wire which was preventing the defib unit from rotating. The whole process took nearly 15 minutes and I was relieved that the device was not actually needed in a hurry.

Returning it to its home the following morning, I showed the padlock to several people, none of whom could make out the numbers in broad daylight. The whole setup is very poorly designed and implemented, difficult if not impossible to access in the dark, and certainly not in a hurry. So should you need it, particularly at night, take a torch with someone else to hold it, and/or a strong pair of wire cutters. I have reported this to the PC and asked them to take action.

John Chalmers

Meanwhile, both of us have tried to release it, with no success AT ALL. And we were not dealing with an emergency. We hope prompt action is taken, and meanwhile you can always knock on our door (Kent House, opposite) and we will give you the code (and/or a pair of wire-cutters...). Eds

Dear Editors,

School Leaver seeking work

Alfie Matthews, 17, from Swaffham Bulbeck, is looking for casual labour in our area. Alfie is willing to work within a five mile radius of his home, walking or cycling to jobs. He is keen on Horticulture so would prefer gardening but would also like to walk dogs or house sit.

As Alfie is under 18, he should be paid a minimum of £6.40 per hour.

If you are interested, please contact him via email: alfiematthews919@gmail.com

Nick Wiseman Editor. Lode Star

Are there more young people aged 16-18, like Alfie, looking for work in our villages? Eds

Dear Editors,

VILLAGE QUIZ

Another quiz over and thank you to everyone who participated. Congratulations go to the winners, Denza and the runners up, Special Meads.

We appreciate the help from Mandy, Janet and Brenda in the kitchen and with serving the food. Thank you to Pip and Maz who helped with the raffle and everyone who contributed to the prizes. A big thank you goes to Andrew who was our quiz master, also much appreciated.

Our next quizzes for your diaries are the 5th April and 18th October 2025, hope to see you there. The money raised for St. Mary's Church was £387.

Thank you all very much.

Lynne and Jenny

This Month's Cover Picture

This month's cover picture is from Crier Photographer Andrew Noyes. It was taken during the summer with his drone over the top of Mill Hill and Cage Hill using the 360 mode hence there is a complete full circle. So you need to get your eye in! *Having spotted the Water Tower, we have been trying, but still confused! Eds*





MISSING BEAR! Here is Rupert Bear who used to get taken home by many village children and helped Viv Elston while he did his decorating. But he has been missing now for quite some years — did he perhaps get locked in somewhere?



Where's that Bear? (from July 2018 Crier)

Well, here he is sunbathing on the windscreen of Viv Elston's van. But some children have spotted him in all sorts of unlikely places and one even took him home, found him some pyjamas and tucked him up in bed.

Can you find Rupert Bear? He gets everywhere, you never know.... Do write and tell us if you spot him!



Last of the summer - taken from the scaffolding by painter and decorator Andy Pumfrey on this year's last outdoor paint job Our Reporter is currently laid up (although not low) in Addenbrookes, having taken a tumble. We do hope he gets better soon and meanwhile, here is one of his reports from yesteryear. When coffee and biscuits were served at the PC meeting, but wine would have been better....

From our Reporter's Archives November 2000

There was a full moon and a full house at the Parish Council meeting after Mr John Covill agreed to fill the vacancy. What a difference the current PC is from that

when I first came to the village. Then it was dominated by a High Street mafia with a few coming from Tothill. Those in Lower End were often angry, accusing the High Street members of acting as if they were "something" and Lower End residents were "nothing". Perhaps they were right. Now it is all changed with a balanced set of representatives from everywhere - except Tothill. Does Tothill have an identity crisis? A Tothill resident recently told me that they find it confusing to have a constant change of name and that she herself was finding it difficult to cope with "Upper Village".



"Once", she went on, "we were known as Brookside, and there was nothing wrong with that."

"Minor Improvement Schemes" is an innocuous heading but it is this which may help the traffic situation at Mill Hill. It is an ECDC scheme whereby ECDC will give some funding providing the PC contributes a certain sum per elector. Over the last few years the PC has built up several reserve funds. From the 'Traffic Calming Fund' it is proposed to apply for rumble strips at both ends of Mill Hill and also at

Elaine had asked for half-way coffee without success. This time she took matters in hand and produced coffee and biscuits for all... the Reach end of Lower End, with repeat speed signs where appropriate. The Chapel end of the High Street is not being rumbled because parked cars already act as a traffic calmer. "What about Rogers Road?" demanded Andrew Camps, and that was added to the list. We now have to wait to see if the application is successful. This particular scheme has nothing to do with reducing speed limits and at times the chairman had to work hard to keep the discussion focussed. And whatever is achieved will barely keep pace with the problem of increased traffic, which will only get worse as we defend our right to drive wherever and whenever we like.

The Playground has always been a bit of a problem, but over the last few years the PC has shown it increasing enthusiasm and support. But that enthusiasm can wane a little when there is regular wanton vandalism of the swings. Eric Day has valiantly kept them repaired over the years but even his patience is being stretched. That however seems to be a minor irritation compared to the news made available at a recent Parish Quorum. The bureaucrats have been at work and are advocating codes of practice involving weekly safety checks, risk factor reports etc. It raised a number of questions:- with people being encouraged to sue after every accident is a small village able to run play areas; will voluntary repairs be acceptable; should the age of users be reduced to 12; should a play area user group share the maintenance problem; who is going to tell older teenagers to get off the swings; should the PC add any more equipment. Meantime the news is that Reach with its superb play area is running into trouble. Some of the bark needs renewing at a cost of £1200. In due course more bark will have to be renewed and there will be other maintenance costs. Our PC has the same problem. After settling a recent repair bill it seems the cracking surface area under the swings may be caused by a poor base laid some years ago. If so this will be a very expensive repair. All members were given a copy of the bureaucratic recommendations, to read, to digest, and to discuss next month. Some hard decisions may have to be made. Those who have an interest in the facility should attend. They might even get a free cup of coffee.

You can always tell an experienced politician. James Fitch ran through his report and mentioned that traffic lights are to be installed to solve the accident problem at the A1303/B1102 junction at Quy. At once from around the table came "Don't do it", "Aargh", "Disaster", etc. James just ploughed on, ignoring all the moans and groans, until the opposition became exhausted and flopped about like seals stranded on a beach. Obviously everyone except James had experienced lights which had been injudiciously introduced. On the other hand James took a lot of flack about the Park-and-Ride scheme and turned out to be right on that.

Oliver Haworth has replied to the PC's letter of July about the skateboard ramp in which a number of questions had been asked. Oliver said he thought he had already answered all the queries and repeated his request for PC support. The PC did not think the questions had been answered but in the meantime had carried out its own research. Experienced people in Cambridge thought it was a "non-starter" for a small village and Charlotte and James supported this. But the PC was reluctant to "discourage such enthusiasm" and Sandra Wilson will talk to the "young gentleman concerned" and report back to the PC. The good news is that there is going to be a skateboard ramp at Burwell.

At many previous meetings Elaine had asked for half-way coffee without success. This time she took matters in hand and produced coffee and biscuits for all, including the 4 in the public gallery. We will have to wait and see whether this is to be a regular event or just to celebrate the return of Andrew Badcock. James Willmott (also in the public gallery) muttered to me that "Wine is better" and that, at the instigation of Caroline Matheson, he always used to offer wine when chairman of the PTA. That's a challenge for Elaine!!

Alastair Everitt



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

AT

THE TWO CHURCHES

OF SWAFFHAM PRIOR

4.00pm Admission ± 10 (children free) Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.



In aid of Emmaus and The Churches Conservation Trust

LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS: RENEWAL AND REDEMPTION

A CANDLELIT CELEBRATION OF ADVENT IN MUSIC AND VERSE



Ian de Massini and Cambridge Voices with music by: Bach, Britten, Brumel, Byrd, Gibbons, Gjeilo, Holst, Sweelinck, Walton, Wilberg and De Massini

And poetry by: Amichai, Auden, Larkin, Donne, Eliot, Frost, Shakespeare, Wilson and our very own Edwin Muir



WITNESS APPEAL FOR FATAL ACCIDENTS

Police are appealing for witnesses following a fatal crash on the A14.

Emergency services were called at about 5.15pm yesterday (13 October) with reports a silver Skoda Fabia had crashed into a Volvo HGV articulated lorry parked in a lay-by near Swaffham Bulbeck, between junctions 37 and 36.

The driver of the Skoda, a man in his 60s, from Cambridge, died at the scene. The HGV driver suffered minor injuries.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the collision or anyone who saw the vehicles in the moments leading up to the incident.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage <u>should report it through the force</u> <u>website</u> using the reference Op Carter or call 101.

Additionally, police are appealing for witnesses following a fatal collision near Ely. A black Vauxhall Corsa left the road and crashed into a ditch in Putney Hill Road, near Prickwillow, between 1.30pm and 2pm on Saturday (12 October).

The driver, a woman in her 20s from Isleham, died at the scene.

Police are appealing for witnesses or anyone who saw the vehicle travelling between Isleham and Prickwillow in the moments leading up to the crash.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage <u>should report it through the force</u> <u>website</u> using the reference Op Pryor or call 101.

& All Faiths or non Come and Chat Whilst colouring-in / Frawing / painting or sit in a quieter area to work or just drop - in 10:3**0** for a bit Skill Levels Welcome art materials supplied Come with your own ideas OF use resources provided

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcomes you to Stay and Play Pre-school (Age 3+) & Reception children

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 1.30-2.30PM TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 1.30 - 2.30PM THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 1.30 - 2.30PM

R.S.V.P. to: 01638 741529

Merguez sausage with Halloumi and flame-roasted peppers

8 Merguez or spicy sausages, 340g in total

1 x 250g block halloumi cheese

1 x jar flame-roasted pepper

1 x 15ml tablespoon garlic oil

1. Preheat the oven to 220C, put the sausages into a low sided roasting tin.

2. Cut the halloumi into 5mm slices and lay them on around the sausages.

3. Take the peppers out of the jar and strew them around the sausages and cheese, then drizzle the oil over.

4. Cook for 20 minutes until the sausages are browned and the cheese has coloured in places.

Delicious served with crusty bread. Serves 4

Sausages with Sauerkraut

1 x 936g jar sauerkraut, rinsed and drained

2 teaspoons juniper berries

3 dried bay leaves

8 smoked sausages, cut into smaller lengths if wished

1 x 75cl bottle of Riesling wine

1 teaspoon white peppercorns

1. Preheat the oven to 200C, cover the bottom of a small to medium roasting tin with the drained sauerkraut.

2. Add the Juniper berries, bay leaves and sausages.

3. Pour in the wine and sprinkle the peppercorns over.

4. Bring the tin to a boil on top of the hob, then cover with foil and put in the oven to cook for 30 minutes.

Serve with Jacket potatoes or crusty bread. Serves 6

Sweet and sticky cocktail sausages

1 kg cocktail sausages 2 x 15ml tablespoons sesame oil 125ml honey 2 x 15ml tablespoons of soy sauce

1. Preheat the oven to 220C.

2. Separate the sausages and arrange them in a large roasting tin.

3. Whisk together the oil, honey and soy sauce and pour over the sausages, toss them around well so that the sausages are well coated.

4.Roast for 25-30 minutes, giving them a shuffle halfway through and cook until they are golden and glossy.

Ideal served in a buffet. Makes about 75

Crossword Number 221

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th November 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.

	1		2		3		4		
5				6		7			
								8	
9							10		
11					12	13			
		14	15						
	16							17	
18					19		20		
21				22	23				
		24							

Name:	
Address:	
	.Tel:

Across

- 5 Top organisation where you might see Mum and Dad (6,7)
- 9 Inca food I cooked with an expert (10)
- 10 In the long run, turkey is a small animal (4)
- 11 Confused unimportant man missing from computer output (8)
- 13 Good age for a cardinal who ate tea we hear (6)
- 14 Grumpy Pluto groaned about Labour leader (11)
- 18 Tough grandmothers are confused but not harmed (6)
- 19 Hung around job centre and cleaned the carpet (8)
- 21 Second best ever tasty avocado starters (4)
- 22 I follow it in one country for admittance (10)
- 24 Frightening downpour reported during the French Revolution (5,2,6)

Down

- 1 Cool down the food with a flourish (7)
- 2 Modern traditionalist moving on once (6)
- 3 Stupor in sitcom a good idea (4)
- 4 Scheme for true gin I mixed (8)
- 6 Right on Hugo, go around and complete (13)
- 7 Defender of home industries will shield charged particle first (13)

- 8 Starting up north, I think everyone will join together (5)
- 12 Tory leader meets Boaz's wife and that's a fact (5)
- 15 I act after seeing effigy admirer (8)
- 16 Different article in alternative setting (5)
- 17 spray can or a sole dispersal (7)
- 20 Restaurant in which you might eat eryngo (6)
- 23 Figure I swindle (4)



We congratulate Martyn Clark, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive a prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Colin Dailly, Sue Jackson, Steve Kent-Phillips, Robert Nunn and Dainin O'Dowd.

Solution to crossword no. 220

Saturday 7th December 10am - 12 noon

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck, CB25 OLX

Come and visit Father Christmas! Glitter Tattoos & Children's Crafts!





Gifts, StocKing Fillers, Cards & Art, Jewellery, Plants, Homemade Christmas CaKes & Pastries, Books & Jigsaws, Tombola

Mega Christmas Hamper to be won on the Raffle

Admission for Adults £1.00

All proceeds split between St. Mary's Church and Mara, Tanzania

POEM OF THE MONTH

Sonnet

My father fought their war four years or so, And did not hate or love his enemies, Already he was forming me, I know, Daily, out of his tranquilities;

Tranquilities, so few, which he had gleaned Between the bombs and smoke, for his son's sake, And put into his ragged knapsack with The leftovers of my mother's hardening cake.

He gathered with his eyes the nameless dead, The many dead for my sake unforsaken, So that I should not die like them in dread, But love them, seeing them as once he saw. He filled his eyes with them; he was mistaken. Like them, I must go out to meet my war.

Yehuda Amichai

Born in Germany in 1924, Amichai and his family fled the country during Hitler's rise to power when he was 12. Although his native language was German, he read Hebrew fluently by the time he emigrated to Palestine, now Israel, where the family settled.

In this poem, he records the irony whereby his father fought for Germany in the First World War "their war" so that his son's generation would never have to fight another war, only for Amichai and his generation to have to take up arms against their former homeland in which Amichai fought in the British Army.

The rigours and horrors of his service in World War II and then, successively, in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, the Sinai war of 1956 and the Yom Kippur war of 1973, where he fought with the IDF, inform his poetry.

"Sonnet" was written in 1958, but if you didn't know that, it could have been written now - or at any time since 1939 and by any of the succeeding generations.

This translation from the Hebrew is by Assia Wevill (née Gutman), then partner of Ted Hughes, who edited his Selected Poems. Amichai died in 2000.

Andrew Grant

HARVEST SUPPER 2024

Harvest Supper is a joyful village event, enjoyed this year by people of all ages, from babes in arms to octogenarians. Sixty-five meals were served, including takeaways, and people came from Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck and further afield to share the occasion. Sumptuous puddings were savoured. Quizzes and poetry challenges kept tables chatting. Fair Trade hampers were won in the raffle. Visitors Ruth and Ann entertained us with seasonal folk songs, and around £1000 will be shared between St Mary's church and projects in our link diocese in Mara, Tanzania.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in anyway – especially the St Mary's Social Working Group including Mandy, Fleur, Jenny, Kate, Annette, together with Anne, Rod, Andrew, Chris and families. An amazing team – it all ran like clockwork on the night, so I know that means a huge amount of work went on behind the scenes. It was wonderful that so many people stayed behind to help pack away at the end of the evening.

Thank you everyone!

Dee Noyes



Photos by Andrew Noyes



Mothers' Union



We met for our Autumn Social and Bring and Buy sale on a sunny afternoon. After our usual short service, we had great fun playing Bingo with kit-kats for prizes and enjoyed choosing bargains from our sale table. £41.50 was raised towards our branch funds which enables us to pay for the hire of the Fassage Hall each month for

our meetings. The afternoon finished with refreshments and lots of chatter!

Our meeting on Thursday 12th December will have a festive theme and we will be making table flower decorations – bring a small container and join us, holly, flowers and candles provided.

We will again be supporting the Christmas Appeal for Women's Aid- donations can be made online at <u>www.womensaid.org.uk</u> or supermarket vouchers can be donated at the December meeting. Women's Aid supports survivors of domestic abuse, and those seeking refuge accommodation and support.

We hope to see some of you on 12th December.

Alison Martin



Lovely St Cyriac's in the sunshine. Do remember to take and buy the books from there — this is a valuable source of income for them.

Picture by Andy Pumfrey, taken from nearby scaffolding

BOTTISHAM & BURWELL PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

We commenced our meetings after the summer recess on 10 September 2024. This was a Welcome Evening, a social celebration of last season when Cups & Trophies were presented to the award winners of our annual Print & PDI competitions.



Our programme continues during the Autumn, and some of the highlights are listed below:

October 29 'From Concrete to the Abstract' by Ann Miles FRPS, Cambridge.

November 5 Taken on the Club Outing – The Metcalfe Trophy. Digital images taken on the day in Norwich on 9 June 2024.

November 12 Print League Competition No. 1

November 10 'Scotland Behind the Lens' by Stephen Ball of Stephen Ball Photography.

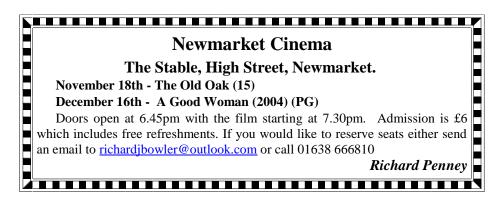
December 3 'Living & Working in the Antarctic' by Professor Lloyd Peck, Science Leader of the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge.

Meetings are held Tuesday evening from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LA (except the third Tuesday in the month an online Zoom meeting) and new members are always welcome.

Visitors can attend a lecture for a small entrance fee of $\pounds 4.00$, which includes refreshments. Our annual subscriptions are $\pounds 55.00$ for Adults, $\pounds 30.00$ for Students, plus a weekly attendance fee of $\pounds 1$, which includes refreshments.

If you would like to join us we would love to see you. A copy of our programme for 2024/2025 can be obtained from our Secretary, Debra Bennett, at <u>secre-</u> tary.bandbpc@gmail.com.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB Chairman



INSPIRING WOMEN

The Swaffhams' WI September visit to Newnham Farmhouse

The weather forecast on Sunday 22nd

September was atrocious, the rain poured down for most of the morning, but by early afternoon the clouds cleared and the sun attempted to emerge.

So our WI visit to Mr and Mrs Quentin Cooke's Newnham Farmhouse garden in Burwell was a delightful way to spend an early autumn afternoon. They had kindly opened their garden just for us that afternoon and we were not disappointed. A mostly clunch-walled third of an acre



surrounds a 16th century Grade 2 listed thatched cottage, hidden away in Low Road.



The borders at the front of the house were packed with still-flowering salvias and Japanese anemones, and we could glimpse Koi carp and goldfish in the pond through the ornamental grasses.

Mr Cooke kindly met us and willingly answered questions and let us explore. There are over sixty acers throughout the garden, and some magnificent trees, including a huge spreading walnut on the back lawn. Again, in this back part of the garden, the salvias were still in full

bloom and we enjoyed the small flock of exotic chickens – some with remarkable hairstyles – who range freely through the flower beds.

We finished our visit with delicious homemade tea and cake and hoped to return at a different time of year to see even more in bloom when Mr and Mrs Cooke open Newnham Farmhouse in aid of the National Garden Scheme.

November's meeting is on November 18th in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 7.30. We are a very friendly group and would be delighted to see you.

Hilary Grant



20



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At our October meeting of the Village Gardeners, Tony Winchester stepped in at short notice to deliver an interesting talk

about the 'Grazing and Flowers of Wicken Fen'. Tony is a

volunteer ranger who has worked at the National Trust Wicken Fen nature reserve for 12 years. Although not а horticulturalist, to suit the audience he started by telling us about Fen plants and their medical uses. For example, medicinal preparations from marsh orchids can be used to treat stomach ulcers and dysentery, and the flag, or marsh, iris is the king of medicines with uses ranging from treating cramp or toothache, to acting as a poison antidote.



But Tony soon turned to talking about his real passion; the Konik ponies and Highland cattle. Tony takes care of 76 horses and 6 cows at Wicken Fen which have to be counted and monitored every 365 days of the year. Although a Polish breed, the Konik ponies were brought over to Wicken from Holland in 1999. They are a placid, stocky and hardy breed, good for grazing rough ground down to a level appropriate for other breeding wildlife, such as the Crane chick that fledged at Wicken Fen in September. The horses live wild off the land, with no supplementary feed and no veterinary intervention unless illness is so severe that an animal cannot keep up with their herd. The breeding herds are based at Wicken Fen, while nonbreeding herds are on the land closer to us at Burwell Fen bringing the total number to 128 horses. They range in age from newborn (19 foals were born in 2024) to greater than 30 years old. Their breeding has really been too successful, and further expansion of the herds must now be managed due to a lack of space. Wicken Fen was a mere 2 acres when it was purchased and established as the first National Trust nature reserve in 1899. 125 years later it covers more than 2000 acres. But less than 1% of the original East Anglian Fenland basin still exists, and in 1999 the NT established the Wicken Fen Vision which is a 100 year plan that aims to continue to expand the fenland for the benefit of its wildlife and people, and to protect the carbon stored in the peat soils. Of course expansion may come at a cost and understandably have conflict with other land uses.

The next meeting of the Village Gardeners will be held on Tuesday 19th November at 8pm (doors 7.45pm) in Swaffham Prior Village Hall, when Chris Field, the managing director of Field Compost at Weston Colville, will be giving a talk on 'Why Peat Free'. Attendance is free for members or £4 for visitors. The talk will be followed by a short AGM, then we'll enjoy some early festive treats. Everyone is welcome. **Fiona Geraghty**



First-of-its-kind piano donation scheme aims to repair inequality and sustainability in music

This International Repair Day, renowned music retailer Millers Music, based in Cambridge, has announced the launch of its game-changing piano donation initiative, <u>Piano</u> Equals.

The new programme aims to tackle unequal access to music education and sustainability in the music industry by assessing, repairing and reusing the thousands of older, quality pianos that sit idle in homes across the UK before matching them with a local school or community organisation that can truly benefit from them.

At the heart of the initiative is a desire to support the growth of a more equitable and sustainable music industry by addressing the challenge of instrument waste: the incremental carbon cost of using an existing instrument saves an estimated 97% of the carbon footprint of shipping a new one from the other side of the world.* To showcase how we can give new life to our own instruments, Millers Music will be hosting an all-day instrument repair workshop on Wednesday 30 October at the Grand Arcade in Cambridge for its annual sustainability event, Let's Go Circular. Individuals can register their interest at: <u>https://www.grandarcade.co.uk/events/music-instruments-repairs-piano-equals/</u>

Simon Pollard, Managing Director at Millers Music, said: "We believe every child deserves access to high quality musical instruments, but inequality in music education is widening. Studies have shown that music has the power to transform people's lives, and at Millers Music we believe that increasing access to high quality instruments is fundamental to this vision. Not only can a piano donation inspire and unleash musical creativity but also makes quality instruments more accessible and sustainable for all. Piano Equals aims to facilitate this by sharing our expertise and resources to reuse thousands of unused pianos and give the gift of music."

Thanks to the new initiative, a number of local schools and organisations have already benefited from the Cambridgeshire pilot. Cambridge Acorn Project, a therapeutic service provider for children and families in Cambridge, has been one of the first. Deputy CEO, Hannah Chapman, said: "Access to enrichment such as playing a musical instrument is really important for children's positive outcomes as they grow up, and for those living in financial hardship it is often more difficult to access these enrichment activities. Thanks to Piano Equals we are able to remove these barriers to music, which can lead to positive outcomes in children including increased self-confidence, improved mastery and good mental health."

Organisations across the UK – including schools, charities, churches and community groups – are welcome to apply for a piano donation by submitting an enquiry to Piano Equals. Millers Music will assess the needs of each application before matching organisations with a restored instrument and overseeing the delivery. If you are interested in donating an instrument, or in applying for a donation through Piano Equals, please visit: <u>millersmusic.co.uk/</u> <u>pianoequals</u>



From our District Councillors Charlotte Cane & John Trapp

Operational Services Committee agreed that the Council implements the Waste Collection and Street Cleansing proposals, to wit:

- collect food waste in a separate container, on a weekly basis by 31 March 2026,
- the collection of residual waste in a 180lt wheeled bin fortnightly,
- a free fortnightly garden waste collection service and the possibility of a second garden waste bin for free,



• fortnightly collection of recycling as at present,

The aim is to increase the re-cycling by residents; we pay for waste taken to the waste depot, but receive a rebate for that which is re-cycled. Exceptions will be made for larger households and those houses that have no storage facilities which will be given coloured bags as for now. Provision has been built into the budget to pay for the extra bins. Comprehensive information will be disseminated to all residents well in advance to help with a smooth transition.

It was also agreed to retain the current street cleansing service specification, and review it in one year's time, and to proceed with using East Cambs Street Scene Ltd (ECSS) even though it was still not performing to target.

Finance & Assets Committee

The following decisions were made at the meeting on Thursday 26 September: introduction of a £70 fine for misdeclaration of Council Tax discounts; Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme was approved; £150,000 to be allocated to villages for improving community premises; applications for up to £30,000 to be sent in by the end of the year,

Council Officers now predict an 'overall increase in costs' for the planned crematorium at Mepal, and an attempt by Liberal Democrats on the committee to refer the cost rises to a Full Council meeting next month was rejected by a block vote of Conservative Councillors; the details of the increased costs were in a confidential report, but the published papers state that the rise is 'largely made up of a gap in the projects contingency budget and an increase in build costs'; the escalating costs for the crematorium, already predicted to cost over £9 million, have substantial implications for the project, and further work is being undertaken and further costs are being incurred without this coming back to the Full Council for consideration of the new information; Charlotte pointed out that the tight timescale and restricted times of year for working on a biodiverse site would also lead to cost increases; John said that changing the scheme to keep it within the budget would not deliver the graceful project the Council had approved.

At the forthcoming Council meeting the creation of the new Local Plan (the document that defines where new housing, industrial and recreational buildings can be built within the District) is proposed. Our current Local Plan is almost ten years old, and it must be replaced by an up-to-date version within two years.

The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund will be open to applications between the 28 October to 9 December 2024. The aim of this small community grants scheme is to support local community groups to provide new or develop existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents living in East Cambridgeshire. For further information, on the link below.

East Cambridgeshire Community Fund | East Cambridgeshire District Council (eastcambs.gov.uk)

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Were you a DNA: Did Not Attend your appointment? In August and September, 83 patients did not attend their appointment which is 21 HOURS of clinicians time. Numerous appointments were not attended from patients who had only booked it that day! Please call to cancel your appointment so it can be offered to others. In dispensary 214 prescription items were not collected. Although you only pay £9:90 (or nothing if you are exempt) some items cost the Practice hundreds of pounds.

Flu vaccinations: are now in progress, please book yours at the surgery if you have not had this done.

Covid vaccinations will be provided via the NHS vaccination hubs and not at the surgery this autumn.

Sight and Hearing Community Research National Study: This is being conducted by Professor Rupert Bourne. Patients will be picked at random from Bottisham and Lode and offered the chance to have their sight and hearing checked.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 23^{rd} 2025 at 6.30pm in the waiting room. All patients of the practice are welcome to attend.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group.

Want your Christmas Tree collected in January?

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme is back and bigger than ever with new postcodes added for 2025!

In partnership with Just Helping, their teams of volunteers will be collecting used Christmas trees from CB1-CB5, CB21-CB24,



CB25, SG8 and SG19 from 9-11 January 2025. To register your tree (and avoid needles in your car) visit **arhc.org.uk/tree-recycling** Registrations will open in mid-November and will close 5 January 2025.

Are you able to support the scheme this year?

If you have a van or are willing to hire a van and you can spare a few hours to drive and collect trees, the Charity would love to hear from you! Please email **christmastrees@arhc.org.uk** or call **01223 675888**.



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).

REUSE FREECYCLE

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

Offers

From Jacqui 01223 811190 Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (2 volumes) vgc World Atlas Hardback Atlas of World Wildlife (Hardback) Photographic Atlas of England (air photos) Hardback. Bag of kapok Bag of chopped foam Both suitable for stuffing cushions (or draught excluders!). Pack of 50 slimline CD cases, new.

News from Anglesey Abbey and...

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Join us for an adventure this Christmas at Anglesey Abbey with Wild in Art's Bear Hunt trail from 19 November 2024 to 5 January 2025. Wrap up warm and enjoy splish-sploshing and tiptoeing through the woods, gardens and (maybe even) snow in search of the ten life-sized bear sculptures.

The trail, with grrr-eat games and challenges, is inspired by Michael Rosen's beloved children's story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, illustrated by



Helen Oxenbury and published by Walker Books. Each massive bear has been painted creatively by ten national and international artists. The trail is free; normal admission to Anglesey Abbey applies.

A Christmas to treasure

Step inside the house at Anglesey Abbey to discover a treasure-trove of history and admire the themed Christmas decorations in each room. From 1 November until 22 November, the house will be open for tours only at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm while preparations are underway.

The house will be fully decorated for Christmas and open for visitors to explore from Saturday 23 November, any time between 11am and 3pm, with last entry at 2.30pm. Save the dates! It wouldn't be Christmas at Anglesey Abbey without some live music and festive tunes, so we'll be joined by Cambridge Harmony Chorus on Sunday 1 December and City of Cambridge Brass Band on Sundays 8, 15 and 22 December.

Father Christmas is making his way to Anglesey Abbey for the first time this winter! There are still some spaces left on Fridays for anyone wishing to visit with preschoolers. Children will enjoy making a wish to hang on the tree as well as having a story time with Father Christmas and will receive a present.



Santa's reindeer will also be stopping by at Anglesey Abbey from 21 to 23 December. Come and say hello to the reindeer and learn some fascinating facts about them. Meeting the reindeer in the gardens is free; normal admission applies. Head to the Anglesey Abbey website to find out more and to book your Father Christmas tickets.

Issy Vetoshkina

Wicken Fen

We're will into autumn now as the colourful leaves and berries on Wicken Fen indicate, along with the calls of ducks, geese and wild swans that carry on the breeze. It's a perfect time of year to wrap up warm and head out for a wild walk along one of the many trails across the wider nature reserve.

Our £2 million Peatland Restoration Project is now well underway, with works taking place on Burwell Fen, Verrall's Fen and Tubney Fen. Contractors have been constructing a clay bank around an area of deep peat on Burwell Fen to wet it up. This locks in carbon, therefore helping mitigate climate change, and creates important habitat for both wintering and breeding birds. The footpath through the middle of Burwell Fen will be closed until March 2025, but there is access via the National Cycleway Route 11 and along the Burwell and Reach Lode-banks. The project is predominately funded through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 'Nature for Climate' Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS) managed by Fens East Peatland Partnership (FEPP), with funding from corporate partners including Starling Bank and Anglian Water.

The Docky Hut Café will soon be launching a winter menu, sure to include warming comfort food, festive hot drinks and tasty treats. In the visitor centre, dogs receive a warm welcome and a stamp in their National Trust Pooch Passport. While you can browse our selection of festive goodies in the gift shop, perfect for a bit of yuletide shopping. And don't miss the secondhand book stall, which also stocks a collection of jigsaw puzzles. Both the café and visitor centre/ gift shop are open 10am - 4.30pm daily (except Christmas Day).

Our Father Christmas at the Fen events have almost sold out, with availability on 23^{rd} and 24^{th} November only – hurry now to avoid disappointment. A new winter trail, around the boardwalk, will also launch on 23^{rd} November, where families can help lost Highland calf Parsnip find her way back to the herd, meeting resident and visiting animals along the way.

Details of our events can be found on our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/



whats-on

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

wicken-fen-nature-reserve/

Follow the progress of our Peatland Restoration Project on our website

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/ cambridgeshire/wicken-fennational-nature-reserve/ peatland-restoration.

Tegala Ajay

Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Cllr Covill chaired a meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 8th August, attended by 9 councillors and 3 members of the public.

Report from East Cambridgeshire District Council – Cllr Charlotte Cane attended.

Cllr Cane noted that she will remain as an East Cambs councillor as well as MP for the area.

Cllr Cane also noted that a consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework was underway and that the proposals include significant changes that will affect East Cambs, so it is important that local voices including Parish Councils, are heard.

Cllr Latchford noted that the quality of the builds was key. Cllr Cane said that changes in legislation could make it possible for Local Authorities to demand higher standards than government standards.

Cllrs Covill and Hart commented on the need for infrastructure before houses are sold.

Cllr Greenfield asked about restricting building works when infrastructure was not present. Cllr Cane commented on the need for enforcement of current constraints and the need for a balance between profit and sustainability.

Cllr Latchford commented that the absorption of resources by some projects could slow the progress of other projects.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

157/22-23 Greenways. An email had been received with a change in design so that the greenway stopped at the far end of the slip road into the village, as suggested by the PC. To be acknowledged by the Clerk, sending thanks for meeting the needs of Swaffham Prior.

224/22-23 A letter had been received by all councillors regarding the proposed housing site on the horse field, containing claims that the PC dispute. To be discussed at the September meeting when a response can be agreed.

64/23-24 Footpaths. Cllr Muscroft had passed on contact details for the Community Payback scheme.

Gate in the Village Hall fence providing access to the Little Library

Cllr Muscroft provided details of the proposed gate. Cllr Durrant noted that under the terms of the lease, maintenance of the gate would fall to the Village Hall committee. It was agreed that Cllr Muscroft would report this back to the Village Hall Committee and remind them to check if planning permission is needed due to the conservation area.

The rewilding project.

Cllr Greenfield noted that the rewilding group had asked if further areas could be included in the village. Cllr Latchford noted the need for evidence of increases in biodiversity, which could take years to show and the perception by some of the churchyard appearing scruffy. After discussion, it was decided that the rewilding scheme be kept to its current areas for this year, and that the scheme be reviewed again before the Spring.

Quarterly playground report.

The quarterly inspection for the playground had been circulated by email, with a quote for replacement parts required, which was agreed.

Policies:

Adoption of a Retention and Disposal policy.

Heating Scheme

Cllr Greenfield reported. The second tranche of connections are due to start on Monday 12th August and be completed in December 2024. This involves 15 properties, and a further 6 which belong to Sanctuary Housing.

Cllr Latchford noted that the double yellow lines near the church had not been replaced after the road was dug up; Cllr Greenfield will request trough the Heating Scheme that Highways repaint them.

Clerk's Report

One lower allotment had been given up, but had been re-let to a new tenant this afternoon.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Lambert – Footpaths. The path behind the school has been cleared by the tenant. The path between Pulpit Corner and Devil's Dyke is due to be cleared, reinstated and maintained by the tenant once the crop has been harvested. The Community Payback Scheme have been contacted but at the moment are not returning calls. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted the Highways Act (1980) and Right of Way amendmen(1990) covered the legislation regarding maintenance of footpaths.

Cllr Greenfield – Grass-cutting. Cllr Greenfield explained that the grass in front of the Scout Hut had never been included in the contract for grass-cutting, but after discussion, the Parochial Church Charities had requested that the area be added. To be agreed at the September meeting,

Produced from unapproved minutes and may contain errors; approved minutes can be found at http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/minutes.htmlIf 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, 7th November 2024 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

BON MOT NUMBER 154

"If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to." Dorothy Parker (1904-1990)

Swaffham Prior Village Hall November 2024



Village Gardeners	3 rd Tuesday of each month 19:45 – 21:30	Contact Fiona on 01638741712
SF-Fit Pilates	Each Tuesday 17:30 – 19:00	Contact Sarah on 075999072008
Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club	Each Tuesday 1930 — 21.30 save the third of the month	See page 19
SF-Fit Pilates	Each Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 & 19:00 – 20:00	Contact Sarah on 075999072008
PhysiOptima Pilates	Each Wednesday 09:00 – 09:50	Contact Kristin on 07799323867
Quilters sewing group	Each Thursday 10:00 – 12:30	Contact Ruth on 01638743720
Slimming World	Each Thursday 17:30 – 19:00 & 19:00 – 20:00	Contact Sharon on 077601925638
Tai Chi Life Academy	Each Friday 10:00 – 12:00	Contact Sharyn on 0774017917
Lok Hup	Each Friday 12:00- 13:00	Contact Sharyn on 0774017917
SF-Fit Yoga	Each Friday 17:00 – 18:00	Contact Sarah on 075999072008

If you're looking to hire the village hall, for a wedding, party or other family gathering go to our website for availability, bookings & prices at;-

www.swaffhampriorvillagehall .co.uk

For anything else contact Philip Blackburn on 07501230256

Services in November 2024

Sunday 3 November – Fourth Sunday before Advent

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

Wednesday 6 November

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 10 November – Remembrance Sunday

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

Sunday 17 November – Second Sunday before Advent

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

Sunday 24 November – Christ the King

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

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Revd Max Osborne <u>max9@btinternet.com</u>; 01223 481187 (Rest day: Tuesday) Churchwardens: Bottisham: <u>bottisham@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u>; 01223 604019 Lode: <u>lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u>; 01223 811222 Quy: <u>quy@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u>; 01223 812652 Swaffham Bulbeck: <u>bulbeck@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u>; 01223 812525; 01223 811501 Swaffham Prior: <u>prior@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u>; 01638 743937 For general enquiries: <u>admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u>; 01638 743937 For general enquiries: <u>admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u>; Churchwar-<u>dens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u> Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/angleseychurches;</u> A Church Near You: <u>https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7380/benefice</u>

Dates for Your Diary November 2024

Tue	5	Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club, 7.30-9.30pm, VH [19] (and every Tuesday save the third of the month)
Thu	7	PC Meeting, 7.30pm. VH [29]
Tue	12	Stay and Play, Village School, 1:30-2:30pm [10]
Mon	18	The Old Oak, Newmarket Cinema, 6.45 for 7pm [19] WI, 7.30pm, VH [21]
Tue	19	Stay and Play, Village School, 1:30-2:30pm [10] Village Gardeners, 7.45pm. VH [21] Wild in Art's Bear Hunt Trail, Anglesey Abbey until 5 Jan [26]
Fri	22	<i>Crier</i> Copy Deadline Church Bric-a-brac stall, Village Hall [4]
Thu	28	Stay and Play, Village School, 1:30-2:30pm [10]
Dece	mber	
Sun	1	Advent by Candlelight, 4pm, St Mary's and St Cyriac's [8]
Sat	7	Bulbeck Christmas Fair, 10am-12 noon, Bulbeck St Mary's [14]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Becky Wilkes	07827	2 nd Mon of	8pm	Village
		318351	Term		School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	gsl@1st Swaffhamprior scouts.org.uk	Wed (Term) Mon	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