

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLVIII Number 10 October 2024



Editorial

Oh woe is us! We missed the combined Harvest and Dog Show, and it was really really good by all accounts. See our centre pages — what gorgeous exhibits and many thanks to Andrew Noyes for his great photos. But we note from Mandy Kingsmill's excellent account that all the canine competitors were

very social and *well-behaved* — would this have happened if we had taken our dog along? Hmmm... A great many congratulations to all those involved, organisers and competitors alike.

After many years attempting to actually *like* beer, I finally gave up and threw in the bar towel. But our pub is now in the 2025 Good Beer Guide and in the news again with more accolades (see over). Even ignoring the beer (which I do but James doesn't!) it has been so nice to be able to wander down the pub this summer and pick up a bar-snack with a glass of white — John and Lana, take a bow!

Our Reporter is in great form this month, despite being threatened with all the perils of Purgatory for having the temerity to grow old. And we were delighted to learn that our carefully executed strategy to keep cockchafers away from our lawn (it should be scrubby and unkempt) now has official sanction....

Don't miss the St Cyriac's Owl Event this month on the 26th, and do remember to drop in a book now



and again while you choose another one to take home.

Meanwhile there is a Mystery Picture to decipher if you can (see page 20) — best answer wins a prize! See you Quizzing, Owling!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: Autumn At Anglesey, pen and acrylic ink by Gill Rushworth



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors.

Does anyone still have wireless broadband in the village?

For many years we've had the village wireless broadband service, first of all from the volunteer-run RaSP, then taken over by Air Broadband and then latterly taken over by Voneus who're still running it. During the summer, the bandwidth on our connection has dropped so low that it's no longer usable and I'm not having much success getting help from Voneus.

Does anyone else still have a working connection from them and, if so, do you know where the mast that you connect to is? It would also be of interest to know of any recently abandoned non-working ones. I'm trying to work out whether it's worth persevering with them.

Please reply to me personally, either by email or phone as below.

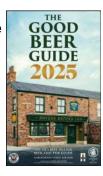
With thanks,

James Matheson james@swaffham-prior.org.uk 01638 744008



Red Lion publicans John and Lana are in the news

again —
here they are
on the cover
of local
CAMRA
magazine
ALE and
they are also
included in
their 2025



Good Beer Guide—see page 11 for what *ALE* said, and also their advert on the inside back cover for details of their Winter opening hours



St Cyriac's is so beautiful but it needs out support. See page 10 for details of the magical Owl Event they are holding there on Saturday afternoon, 26th Oct.

Meanwhile you can just visit and buy the books on sale, or donate some yourself—ring Sharyn on 07740 171917 if you would like help with this and she will collect them



This Month's Cover Picture

Gill's pen & ink drawing was inspired by the sight of a magnificent oak tree on an Autumn visit to Anglesey Abbey. It recaptures the changing colours of the season and the shapes of the tree revealed as its leaves begin to fall.

Gill lives in Commercial End and exhibits her paintings locally, including with Prior Arts Group.

From our Reporter CHANCE

We are so dependent on Chance. It can turn out to be good luck, a disaster, a lost or a wonderful opportunity. And the last depends entirely on the individual. Nobody else.

Chance came my way when *The Times* in August gave generous space to a very dissatisfied Waitrose shopper. The store had had the temerity to totally change its Ultra Soft Bathroom Toilet Tissue. Mr David Winskill went bananas. He did a brilliant demolition job on the change, concluding that "A touch of honesty and humility would be appreciated" from the store. How often could this be aimed at politicians, government organisations, civil service, private companie



politicians, government organisations, civil service, private companies etc etc. Why just pick on Waitrose. How Mr Winskill enjoyed himself.

I tried out the new toilet paper and agreed it was a total change. So I explored other toilet rolls, though not the big brand which has puppy dog Labradors playing among them and which I believe is the dog lovers favourite. I tried a new brand with an attractive price offer. And this is where Chance became Very Good Luck. The paper was made from sustainable bamboo.

On the packaging it was revealed that Bamboo grows 30x faster than trees; absorbs 35% more carbon than trees; and produces 30% more oxygen than trees. Further information said that the average person uses 127 rolls of toilet paper per year. This means that the UK gets through 8,572,500,000 rolls per year. If everyone made the switch from a virgin tree pulp based toilet roll to a bamboo based toilet roll, we could save 5,700,000 trees per year which is enough to cover 4,660 football pitches. Furthermore we would save 1,183,005 tonnes of C02 (or Co2 equivalent) each year.

This is such a wonderful opportunity for everyone in the UK. Each day everyone can now "do their bit" to save the world. They will benefit both morally and physically, and daily give a thought about the good they are doing. The toilet roll in question is The Cheeky Panda Silk Soft Bamboo Toilet Tissue. Try it. You will feel better.

Less good news is the rapidly increasing number of food allergies in the UK. The allergy list is extremely long and a large number of us probably suffer from some of the minor ones. But no-one quite knows the reason for the increase in food allergies which often have fatal results. In the UK an estimated 8% of children and 2% of adults currently have a form of food allergy, and the number is increasing. Also increasing are the number of TV advertisements advising you to wash, wipe down, spray, get rid of all those nasty germs. Also get rid of body smells, especially it seems the armpits. Replace every human niff with the smell of lilies, roses, hyacinths, whatever you fancy.

Have we become too clean, too hygienic? A child often drops a half eaten bun on the floor and attempts to pick it up. The reaction of grandmothers/mothers generally splits into two. One half says "Put that down, Its DIRTY". The other half

says that rather older phrase" You need to eat a peck of dirt before you die".

This reminded me of a recommendation once made to me by that much loved Revd. Sue Giles. She told me I must read Allama Collen's 10% Human.

One extra joy is that Meghan must be furious...

How Your Body's Microbes Hold the Key to Health and Happiness (2015). She said it is "a must read". And Sue, a biologist, is absolutely right. It is a "Must Read". You will never see your body the same afterwards.

However there is very good news for the ladies. By eating 30 plants a week they can reduce menopause symptoms by one third. But, having read the instructions how this is done I wonder whether the symptoms may be replaced with something worse. The demanding amount of concentration, planning, discipline, application, memory and consistency is daunting and formidable. It is quite a challenge. But we are told it will be worth it.

Further good news is that Kate is better and celebrating by a warm and cheering three minute family video. One extra joy is that Meghan must be furious to see something so much better than she has ever produced, or can ever produce. That is a real challenge for Meghan. A video of her trying to cook is not the answer. But Harry will keep the Sussex flag flying. On his 40th birthday he announced that "Whatever my age, my mission is to continue showing up and doing good in the world."

More good news was the Harris/Trump debate when Kamala appeared to come out so well. Whether this will change people's entrenched viewpoint is another matter. It is almost like expecting a fan of Corbyn to become a follower of Rees-Mogg, or vice versa. Though it is a little worrying that the present favourite candidate for the Tory leadership, Robert Jenrick, is such a keen supporter of Trump. He says that "The Conservative Party's sister party in the United States is the Republican Party. So it's natural we should lean in that direction." And Trump continues to have Boris Johnson's support who maintains that Trump's "indomitable spirit" is "exactly what the world needs right now."

The day before the US debate we had had the Labour Party in the Commons defending its decision to restrict the £300 fuel payment to only the very needy. It was so welcoming to see the Tory Party so very concerned with the poor in the cold. Quite heart wrenching at times.

I found it particularly distressing when Dr Caroline Johnson, Tory MP for Sleaford, explained what the aged, especially with COPD, were likely to suffer in the cold. I had no idea such dreadful things were in store for us. Nor that there was so much pain, so much illness, so many parts of the body that will collapse, so many organs failing, the agony of it all. Those large colourful Pictures of Purgatory were no comparison despite their horrible illustrations of eternal torment. Dr Jackson just went on and on and on - and on. I thought "I must jack it all in now. Just send out the funeral notices." Thankfully she stopped at last. But she, and other Tory speakers, had convinced me that there was only one sensible and decent decision to be made. Give the £300 to the over 80s with COPD. This is so obvious. I then went out for a much needed brandy and thought about my Brighton doctor. He was so much more

cheerful in telling that "It is all downhill after fifty!"

The Tothill Road area may be in the news next year. In June Cockchafers/May Bugs were in abundance in that area of the village. They can be annoying, although it is always good to have God's creatures back. But the affect can be worse. They have large fat white fearsome larvae which can spend three or four years munching at the roots of grass, slowly destroying it. And crows and jackdaws complete the job once they discover them. But Cockchafers are choosy. They don't like neglected scrubby pieces of grass. Their preference is for the healthy well tended lawn. I had them once and it took two years before they went. If you ever happen to see one of those large fat white grubs, with its jeering leering evil face, just longing to spit at you, you will never forget it. Show it to your friends.

Alastair Everitt

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 19 Oct

Tickets £7 each. To book a table, contact



Jenny Brand (01638) 742161

or Lynne Rand (01638) 741960



Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses!!

Proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

OUR LINK WITH MARA, TANZANIA Visit of Bishop George Okoth Monday 23rd September 2024



I am pleased to announce that we shall be visited by the Bishop of Mara and his wife on 23rd September. He would like to meet his many friends in our parishes to tell us more about the Diocese of Mara, which acts as a welfare state supporting many aspects of human need. Among these are the projects we have been supporting in recent years.

These include the Safe House which enables girls to escape Female Genital Mutilation, and the Bunda Girls' Secondary School, providing young women with secondary education., eventually leading to university entrance. Our donors supplied the equipment needed for the School science lab, and we support Angel, one of their needy students..

The Revd Canon Max Osborne

The Crier missed this because we have no September edition. It sounds really interesting and we hope everything went well. Eds

Bric-a- brac donations wanted!

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior, is running a bric-a-brac stall at the Church Christmas Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on Friday 22nd November 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) and she will happily collect your items within the Swaffham Prior area.



POEM OF THE MONTH

October Dawn By Ted Hughes

October is marigold, and yet A glass half full of wine left out

To the dark heaven all night, by dawn Has dreamed a premonition

Of ice across its eye as if The ice-age had begun its heave.

The lawn overtrodden and strewn From the night before, and the whistling green

Shrubbery are doomed. Ice Has got its spearhead into place.

First a skin, delicately here Restraining a ripple from the air;

Soon plate and river on pond and brook; Then tons of chain and massive lock

To hold rivers. Then, sound by sight Will Mammoth and Sabre-tooth celebrate

Reunion while a fist of cold Squeezes the fire at the core of the world,

Squeezes the fire at the core of the heart, And now it is about to start.

There isn't a Bard of Westeros in *Game of Thrones*, but it could have been a role made for Ted Hughes. Ted warned us winter was coming (and the Ice Wall stretched between Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge) long before George R. R. Martin dreamed up *A Song of Ice and Fire*.

Hughes is fascinated by the tension between our superficially civilised lives and the primitive violence of a Nature of which we are nevertheless part – a point winter is just about to make every bit as eloquently as his celebrated hawks, thrushes, wolves, pike and jaguars.

Andrew Grant



Look Hoos Coming to St Cyriac's on Saturday 26th October Come and join us, it will be a hoot

A unique opportunity to learn about owls, their habitats and conservation
Watch them fly freely inside the church of St
Cyriac & St Julitta, High Street, Swaffham Prior and get to meet them close up

There are two showings of approximately one hour each for this ticketed event – the first starts at 2.30pm, the second starts at 3.45pm

Tickets: £10 adults, £5 accompanied children
To book your tickets, please email, text or call
Sharyn on 07740171917
sharyn.robinson@btinternet.com



Red Lion Swaffham Prior

What a difference a good licensee team makes

Up until recently the Red Lion at Swaffham Prior was very much an underperforming pub. Looking back, there were times when I couldn't understand why that was.

The beer has always been good. It is the only Bateman's Brewery owned pub in the CAMRA Cambridge and District branch area. In my opinion their beers, especially the XXXB bitter and the Dark Mild, are go to beers should I be lucky enough to find one as a guest beer in one of our local free houses. As the only pub in the village, selling an excellent brew, the pub should have been a roaring success. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. The coming and going of successive landlords, erratic opening hours, and a general air of confusion, meant that the pub became neglected, both by local customers and this CAMRA branch.

This changed in October 2023 when soft spoken landlord John O'Grady and his partner Lana took over the pub. John will tell you that Lincolnshire based Batemans is not a demanding brewery. He is full of praise for the support they have received. But the brewery does have standards in service and in products which it expects tenants and managers to maintain.

Like many breweries and pubcos, Batemans uses a secret shopper system to monitor how their pubs are run. This is a four-page document which asks the secret shopper to judge the quality of every aspect of the pub. From cleanliness to service, beer quality and food. A warm welcome attracts a good score. Attention to detail an even better score. When I visited in August the couple were excited to show me that in their most recent inspection result, they had scored 100% in every category.

To me this wasn't a surprise. Having already gathered a great deal of information for this article I was aware that between them the couple have over 35 years of experience in the hospitality industry. John is the archetypal landlord. A friend behind the bar,

he loves to chatter - that is when he isn't in the kitchen producing some unusual dishes - goat curry on my visit - but also offering traditional fayre. He began his pub career in 2001 when he became the licensee of the Duke of York in Northampton. Not sure if it was Enterprise or Admiral Taverns owned, John says that he turned around what was a failing pub but received little thanks for his work

After a short stint owning a Café in Northampton, he took on the Red Lion, Stevington. Another success with little recognition from the Pubco owners, he moved to Greene Kings, 3 Cranes in Turvey, a village just north of Northampton. Greene King turned out to be less supportive than hoped and he moved to a three-and-a-half-year stay managing The Cock in Pavenham. This pub was threatened with closure (though it never actually closed) and he felt he had had enough of the pub trade and walked away

He then met Lana. Originally from Ukraine, she had been working in hotels and restaurants for over 15 years. They looked at the Red Lion and fell in love with the pub. Lana is primarily front of house in the pub. It is she that gives every customer a warm landlady's welcome and undoubtedly, she who won them their 100% for service score.

When asked she didn't have to think about her reply, "I love this pub, and I love this village" she beams. That love shines through in every welcome given to every customer that enters the pub.

I realised as I sat at the bar, sipping my pint of Batemans dark mild, watching Lana work her natural hospitality magic and listening to John as he shared one of a soft spoken witty jokes that I now knew the answer to question of why until recently the Red Lion hadn't been doing so well – it was waiting for a couple like John and Lana to look after it.

The Red Lion, Swaffham Prior is the CAMRA Cambridge and District most Improved Rural Pub 2024.

Will Smith

From CAMRA's local ALE magazine

Julies Seasonal Fruit Recipes

Apple and blackberry crumble flapjack

For the crumble

21g butter 10g caster sugar 45g plain flour

For the flapjack 56g butter

150g golden syrup 180g whole rolled oats 45g caster sugar

Blackberry and apple compote

450g stewed apples 200g blackberries

- 1. Preheat oven to 180c and line the baking tray with greaseproof paper.
- 2.Mix the crumble ingredients together and rub mix together to form a fine bread-crumb texture. Reserve until later
- 3.For the flapjack, melt the butter and golden syrup together and when slightly cooled mix in the oats and sugar until well combined. Place the mixture onto the lined baking tray and spread evenly. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes.
- 3. For the blackberry and apple compote, Stew the apples and add the blackberries on a low heat and until the blackberries start to break down, remove from heat and allow to cool.
- 4.To assemble the flapjack, take the part baked flapjack and spread the apple and blackberry compote over the top, drain any excess juice from the mix if a bit runny. Sprinkle over the crumble mix and then bake in the oven for 12 minutes or until the crumble top is golden brown.

Plum upside-down cake

125g unsalted butter, plus a little extra

to grease 250g caster sugar 50g runny honey

6 thyme sprigs

1 tsp salt 8 plums, halved and pitted 2 medium free- range eggs
100g plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
75g toasted hazelnuts, whizzed up
finely
Creme fraiche to serve.

- 1.Heat the oven to 180c, Grease a 23cm cake tin and line the base and sides with baking powder. Put the 150g of sugar in a pan over a medium heat to melt, swirling the pan instead of stirring. Once the sugar starts to turn golden brown, add the honey, 3 of the thyme sprigs and the salt. Remove from the heat, allow to cool slightly, then pour into the prepared cake tin. Move the thyme sprigs to the centre of the tin and arrange the halved plums, cut side down in a single layer, cut one or two if need be to fill in the gaps.
- 2.Beat the 125g butter with the remaining sugar, then add the eggs one at a time,

beating between each, mix in sifted flour and baking powder, folding together gently, then fold in the hazelnuts and remaining thyme leaves which have been stripped from their sprigs.

3. Pour the mix over the plums, smooth on top and bake in the oven for 45-50 minutes until a skewer pushed in the middle comes out clean.

Delicious served warm with creme fraiche.

Serves 8

Heating Scheme Progress Update



We are pleased to announce the successful completion of the planned external connections at Lower End and we are now progressing with further external works on High Street. In parallel, internal connections have begun at properties on Lower End, with High Street installations to follow. For residents still awaiting their installation,



please note that we will provide 10 working days' notice prior to the commencement of work at your property.

Additionally, we have already started planning & installing for the next batch of surveys and connections respectively. To date, 64 properties have been successfully connected to the Swaffham Prior Heat Network (SPHN), with close to 30 more currently in the process of being installed. The network has the capacity to deliver heat to over 300 properties, supplying temperatures between 64 and 72 degrees Celsius for hot water and heating. Internal connections typically take 4 to 7 days, while external works may take usually 4 to 10 days, depending on the complexity of the property site.

We encourage all residents to explore this innovative initiative and consider joining the network, helping to make Swaffham Prior a model village for rural sustainability. We would like to extend our thanks to all residents for their patience and cooperation as we work towards the overall goal of connecting the majority of the village to the heat network.

| PTO |





What charges do customers pay?



To showcase the typical costs our existing customers are currently paying and to provide a clear overview, we are showing variable and standing charges separately: variable charges and standing charges.

The table below outlines the average variable charges paid by our current customers over the past year (July 2023 - June 2024). These charges are grouped according to the size of their properties.

Months	Band 1 – 50-99 sq. m	Band 2 – 100-149 sq. m	Band 3 — 150-199 sq. m	Band 4 – 199+ sq. m
Jul-23	£12.14	£20.30	£29.74	£29.51
Aug-23	£13.52	£19.48	£32.04	£29.41
Sep-23	£16.90	£21.28	£32.94	£25.58
Oct-23	£52.70	£68.46	£69.03	£96.32
Nov-23	£103.85	£150.37	£170.18	£220.22
Dec-23	£110.68	£177.53	£199.26	£256.01
Jan-24	£143.96	£212.74	£255.85	£350.03
Feb-24	£100.37	£144.54	£168.67	£219.82
Mar-24	£90.59	£129.38	£161.84	£196.18
Apr-24	£67.92	£93.74	£111.06	£156.90
May-24	£22.88	£34.16	£42.58	£67.72
Jun-24	£19.77	£27.85	£39.80	£51.86
Monthly Average	£62.94	£91.65	£109.42	£141.63

Note: 5% VAT Additional

In addition, a **standing charge** is applied to all customers which are currently charged quarterly.

Standing Charges 2024:

Band Property Size (Sq. m)		Price per day	Per Year
1	50-99	£0.81	£311 (296+5%VAT)
2	100-149	£1.01	£387 (369 + 5% VAT)
3	150-199	£1.22	£467 (445 + 5% VAT)
4	199 +	£1.44	£552 (526 + 5% VAT)

For the more details about the tariffs, please visit our website on https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/swaffhampriorheatnetwork

Siddhant Malhotra

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Message from the GPs.

2024 Vaccination Programme:

From September 75-79 year olds are being offered a one off RSV vaccination (new this year) to prevent this infection which can cause pneumonia in adults and bronchiolitis in babies.

From October the annual influenza vaccination will be available here. The NHS do not permit GP surgeries to administer this before 1st October. There are weekend, evening and daytime appointments for flu jabs.

Please look out for invitations you may receive via text messages and book in via the link provided or call for an appointment. There are many clinics scheduled for each type of vaccination. It is safe and recommended to have both vaccinations if you are in the at-risk group.

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

Physiotherapists: There are two Practice physios, Becky and Dominic, who are both skilled at assessing you for all kinds of musculoskeletal injury and symptoms. You can book to see them directly through the reception often with a wait of only a few days. They can refer to hospitals and book investigations as required.

Paramedic: The Practice paramedic, Ellie, has completed her prescribing qualification. She is highly trained and can fully assess acute symptoms. She has access to GPs every day should a second opinion be required, and also can request all the investigations and referrals that a GP has access to.

Please use any of the team members when advised by reception to free up the GPs to see complex cases.

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

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group.

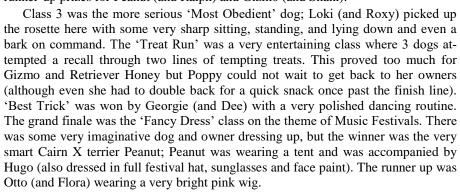
Newmarket Cinema October - December 2024 The Stable, High Street, Newmarket. October 21st - Tristram Shandy, A Cock and Bull Story (2005) (15) November 18th - The Old Oak (15) December 16th - A Good Woman (2004) (PG) Doors open at 6.45pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £6 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats either send an email to richardjbowler@outlook.com or call 01638 666810 Richard Penney

Swaffham Prior Dog Show 2024

Finally, after a 2 year wait due to national events and heat waves, we were delighted to be able to hold the Dog Show before the Harvest Show on Saturday 7th September. Swaffham Prior's dogs were invited to enter any or all of the classes, expertly judged by Anne Clayton and Annette Goodfellow.

Dogs of all shapes and sizes made their way to the arena, all very social and well-behaved. First up was the challenging 'Agility Course' involving jumps, bending poles and a tunnel. Honey the Golden Retriever made short work of this, expertly

handled by Jamie. Perhaps the most difficult class to judge was the 'Waggiest Tail' as all the dogs seemed to be enjoying themselves and couldn't stop the wagging; eventually the judges awarded the rosette to Peg (with owner Lynn) but with two runner-up prizes for Peanut (and Ralph) and Gizmo (and Shani).



We are grateful to Scampers Pet Store in Soham who donated the winners' prizes. Thanks are also due to: April Cook for compering to keep the event running smoothly; Anne and Annette who had the extremely difficult job of judging the classes; Mead Construction for loaning the fencing; and finally Justeen Lankfer for the loan of the agility equipment. Congratulations to all the dogs and owners, it was a lovely enjoyable event and attracted an enthusiastic crowd.

We hope to see you again next year!

Mandy Kingsmill and Janet Willmott













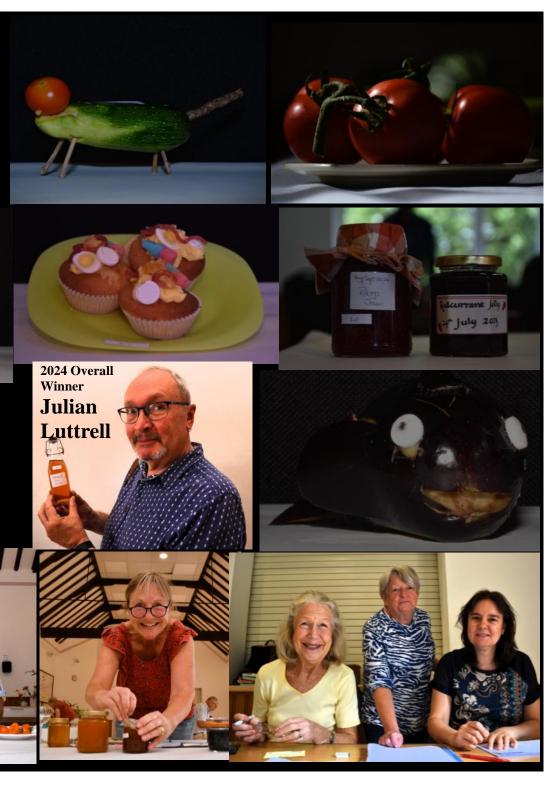




HARVEST SHOW 2024









Meanwhile, to round things off, here is a completely different photo also taken by our photographer Andrew Noyes, and in the village this summer. But what, where, how? Best answer to the Editors for next month wins a Star Prize!

Peanut and Hugo, winners of the Fancy Dress at the Dog Show. Peanut is the one in the tent and Hugo the one sporting the sunglasses. In the background, runners-up Otto (in the fetching pink wig) with Flora. The theme was Musical Festivals.



AUTUMN SHOW WINNERS

Class	1st.	2nd.	3rd
Beans.	Julian Luttrell		
Beetroot.	Andrew Noyes		
Onions.	Sarah Cooper		
Carrots.	Jamie Warner		
Potatoes.	Julian Luttrell		
Cherry tomatoe	es. Robin Scovil.	Uschi Carter.	Julian Luttrell
Tomatoes.	Linda Kirby.	Sarah Cooper.	Julian Luttrell
Courgettes.	Hugo Cooper.	Judy Thompson	
Marrow.	Colin Thompson.	Sarah Cooper.	Kate Muscroft
Cucumber.	Judy Thompson.	Sarah Cooper.	Colin Thompson

Other vegetable. Julian Luttrell. Peter Hart Sarah Cooper Odd vegetable. Julian Luttrell. Jamie Warner

Trug. Kate Muscroft

Desert Apples. Anne Clayton. Ruth Scovil. Mike Barker

Cooking Apples. Ruth Scovil. Emily Thomas

Pears. Julian Luttrell
Soft fruit. Julian Luttrell

Other fruit. Sarah Cooper. Jamie Warner. Mike Barker

Jam. Judy Thompson. Ruth Scovil. Brenda Doe

Pickle. Linda Kirby. Julian Luttrell

Honey. Colin Thompson

Marmalade. Kate Muscroft. Ruth Scovil

Wine. Julian Luttrell Eggs. Sarah Cooper

Victoria Sponge.Ruth Scovil.Brenda Doe.Dan SpencerOther cake.Ruth Scovil.Margaret Joyce.Uschi CarterBread.Dan Spencer.Uschi Carter.Julian Luttrell

Cup cakes. Jamie Warner. Oliver Warner

Photography. Hugo Cooper. Jamie Warner. Oliver

16+ Photography. Peter Rand. Lynne Rand. Julian Luttrell

Roses. Margaret Joyce. Lynne Rand. Ruth Scovil
Other flowers. Kate Muscroft. Andrew Noyes. Mike Barker
Mixed flowers. Emily Thomas. Margaret Joyce. Peter Hart

Sunflower. Judy Thompson

Pot Plant. Dan Spencer. Jenny Brand

Veg Animal. Hugo and Ralph Cooper. Ma isle Wicks-Jones. Jamie

Warner

Junk Model. Ralph Cooper

Overall Winner: Julian Luttrell

Thank you to everyone who entered and supported the Show. It was a lovely sunny afternoon, and many thanks to the Judges and to Andrew Noyes for some brilliant Auctioneering

Village Hall Committee

PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

"The Little Chapel in the Fen"

All welcome to

Harvest Festival Service Sunday 6th October 3pm

Traditional harvest service and hymns
Produce welcome
For more information contact Trish: 07979
868676



From our District Councillors
Charlotte Cane &
John Trapp

September 2024

Full Council

The Full Council meeting took place on Thursday 25 July. Unfortunately, due to a fatality on the rail line, Charlotte was unable to travel to the meeting from London.



Corporate Plan action plan

John joined the rest of our political group on the Council in abstaining on the Administration's proposed Corporate Plan action plan. There were some elements we supported, such as the work on inclusive play, which we had initiated. But some elements did not go far enough, some were unevidenced, and some such as the Mepal crematorium we continue to oppose.

The Plan said the Council would be 'engaging' with the Combined Authority's ongoing bus reform work'—just days after the Leader of the Council had abstained on it at a Combined Authority Board meeting.

And the 'Road Safety Volunteer Scheme' that Conservative Councillors have pressed the police into taking on was mooted in the autumn of 2021 and three years later there is nothing to show for it.

A few priorities were identified, but had no actions associated with them.

It was not clear what the Action Plan would do to address the challenges the report identified such as the cost of living, and recruitment and retention of staff. Meanwhile it complained about priority and capacity concerns at the Combined Authority, but not those at East Cambridgeshire District Council for which it is directly responsible.

Neighbourhood Plans

Council 'made' the two Neighbourhood Plans for Mepal and Sutton, so they now form part of ECDC's Planning Policies.

Neighbourhood Plans play a vital role in the planning process. They are not just a means to forestall inappropriate development. They give an opportunity for local people to consider and discuss what makes their community work, what is needed to meet the challenges of the future, what most needs protecting and enhancing, and where appropriate development can provide the right sort of housing and amenities for current and future residents.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Government has launched a consultation on plans to amend the National Planning Policy Framework and other planning reforms (link below).

Many of the changes will primarily affect District Councils as local planning authorities in their local plan and development management functions.

Some of the main changes proposed are as follows.

The new method will include a stronger affordability ratio driver and the removal of the clause about previous oversupply in an area – to give a combined national target of 370,000 new dwellings per year.

The need for Councils, Housing Associations and other providers to deliver genuinely affordable homes—changes will be delivered through increased Government investment, changes to borrowing rules and rent stability.

This will have obvious implications for East Cambridgeshire, whose Local Plan is now nine years old, and where the building of affordable homes has been below what is needed for many years. (4,548 dwellings have been completed in the last twelve years, of which fewer than 18% have been affordable.)

Background information:

Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament, Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Bus Franchising Consultation

The CPCA will be engaged in a consultation on bus franchising which may provide the County with an opportunity for a strategic bus policy, and to provide new *routes*.

District Council Surgeries

We are resuming our face-to-face surgeries and the next one will be at Bottisham Sports and Social Club on Wednesday 25 September from half past six until half past seven in the evening.

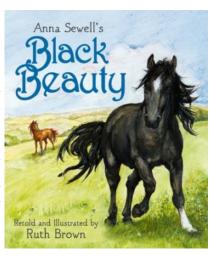
You are always welcome to contact us directly, either by email or telephone.

The Reading Group Reads... Black Beauty By Anna Sewell

The meeting opened with two contrary quotes from an article by Michel Morpurgo about Black Beauty (BB), and other concerns.

He wrote "Leave classic books alone. It is important for children to read books with a sense of the time in which they were written."

He also wrote, regarding BB, "It is really difficult to get that across to children. They don't have masters and they don't have servants. Tell it in a way that 21st century children can read." He is writing a new version!



The next surprise was when we were told that BB was not written as a children's book. Only one person knew that. It was written as an exposure of the cruelty horses often received, including the use of the "bearing rein" and "blinkers". It was brilliantly told through the graphic description of the life and experiences of BB. The book convincingly shows that horses have the same reactions, emotions and characteristics of human beings. But BB is about more than just the horse and animal rights. It is also a description and a serious questioning of society and the ethics at that time. Much still applies today.

In 49 very short chapters in 200 pages, Anna Sewell includes the lives and conditions of 13 individual horses and of 28 very diverse human beings. Every chapter raises moral and social questions not only for adults for which it was written, but also for children. Included also are some remarkable action filled totally convincing colourful description of an event like the Charge of the Light Brigade when horses and humans are as one in a charge that all knew they would most probably be left dead. All this in just 5 pages. She also does this when the cab needs to drive fast through London traffic. Very tense.

The book was an instant success and instrumental in the abolition of the cruel "bearing rein", the dangerous "blinkers, and the revision of London horse-drawn cab licences. Millions of copies were sold both here and in the States, where it had a similar influence on the treatment of horses.

It also became a children's favourite and is listed in the top ten Victorian children's books. But this only hints at the greatness of the book. To learn more about the background look up the Wikipedia entry for Anna Sewell and BB. It is fascinating and also tells you about the author. Anna is yet another example of the admirable resilience, some may say the doggedness, and positivity of women. I don't mean just being a bit feisty. She took seven years to write it, but died five months after it was published in 1877. Just long enough to witness its astonishing immediate success

I for my part will now read Morpurgo's Warhorse.

Alastair Everitt



Mothers' Union

19th September Meeting

We welcomed Philip Baker from Burwell Mother's Union to our meeting on 19th September.

Philip talked about 'Life and where it can take you' - with reference to his own life experiences, from early childhood

memories, marriage, moving to Cambridgeshire and his involvement with many local groups. Philip warned us to be wary of people who ask you to help! He was asked to help with Burwell village fete and did so for 53 years!

Philip had also been a PCC member for 45 years, was involved in setting up a local charity shop/fellowship group, supporting Sunday School and Youth Club, and 'Sweaty Church'- a noisy, active group for older children upwards (no upper age group) who enjoy good games and pop music!

Philip's Christian faith has led him to continue to trust that God knows what is going on and what is best for us, and to listen to God through life's noise, making adjustments and carrying on. This he has manged to do since the death of his wife, Susan. Philip and his family set up the Susan Baker Family Memorial Fund, which makes grants to local families who are in desperate need of financial help.

Philip is now embarking on a one-year course studying theology; his final piece of advice was to try new things — certainly a case of Philip practicing what he preaches!

A vote of thanks was given for a very interesting talk.

The meeting on Thursday 21st November will include a visit from Rob Needle who is the Diocesan Ambassador for the Children's Society. You are very welcome to join us to hear about current activities.

Alison Martin



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Unfortunately we have just heard from this month's speaker Saffron Summerfield that due to another health issue she will be unable to travel from Norfolk to give our talk on October 15th. This is really disappointing for us all! We'll work to find a replacement speaker or alternative event, but don't have anything

to announce at the moment.

Fiona Geraghty



Connecting Communities is a transport service designed to make it easier for those in the Newmarket area to travel.

Do you find it difficult to get to college, to the shops, medical appointments, work or to visit your friends and family in the county?

We are here to support those journeys that are not otherwise possible.

We cover Newmarket, Ashley, Barton Mills, Bottisham, Brinkley, Burwell, Cheveley, Dalham, Dullingham, Exning, Fordham, Gazeley, Kentford, Kirtling, Lode, Moulton, Red Lodge, Stetchworth, The Swaffhams, Woodditton

We support those who

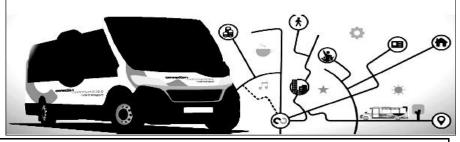
- · do not have access to a regular bus service or
- · have difficulty using public transport.

Give us a call to find out if we can help you to stay connected.

www.thevoluntarynetwork.org

transport@thevoluntarynetwork.org

01638 664304



BON MOT NUMBER 153

"Life isn't about being the best.
It's about being the best we can be."

Peter Charters (1939 -)



From our District Councillors Charlotte Cane & John Trapp

Change of allegiance

One of the Conservative members has become an Independent, and so the distribution of membership is now: 14 Conservatives, 13 Lib Dems, and 1 Independent. We shall see how this affects decision-making within the Council, but it could be significant.



Waste collection

The working party on waste collection has made recommendations to the Operational Services

Committee that will be discussed at its meeting at the end of September, and it could mean a weekly black bin (smaller than the other two bins in order to encourage recycling) to replace black sacks, and a weekly food waste collection in smaller bins.

Meet your councillors

Our next surgery will take place on Tuesday 22 October from 6.30 to 7.30 at Brinkley Village Hall

FREECYCLE

Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

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

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

Offers:

Birdcage on wheels (75cm x 50cm, 150cm high) with shelving underneath. Terry 07787 582410



News from Wicken Fen and...

Now that the long summer days have melted into autumn, Wicken Fen has cooled down and slowed down. Some species have headed south, to warmer climbs, just as a new cast of wildlife has arrived from further north. Wild geese, ducks, swans and thrushes. The latter come to gorge on berries and fruits, bright colours in the landscape alongside leaves of a hundred shades.

With autumnal colour, it's a great time of year for walking. Why not join one of our friendly walking groups? The Wednesday health walks start in the car park at 10am every week and on Fridays the gentle-paced Wicken Wellbeing walk starts at 10am in the visitor centre. Warming drinks, soup and scones are available from the café afterwards, along with other tasty snacks and treats.

Before winter sets in, take advantage of the tranquil boat trips, which run daily (depending on weather) until the end of October. Or hire a bike from Cycle Hire, which is open 10am to 4.30pm daily until the end of October, with last hire at 2.30pm and helmets available. We have recently added two recumbent trikes to the fleet. If you'd like more information about what we offer, our Visitor Centre team can always help; we're available from 10am to 5pm daily on 01353 720274.

As always, there will be themed activities at the Family Discovery Area in the

visitor centre. And why not browse the gift shop or second-hand Book Nook as the festive period draws ever nearer. Our popular Father Christmas at the Fen events are running each weekend from 23rd November to 22nd December – book fast before they sell out!

On 16th November, you can create your own unique prints inspired by wildlife and



landscape with tutor Judith Handley's lino-printing workshops. Ideal for greetings cards. Children and adults alike will enjoy our spooky, spider-themed family painting workshop on 31st October and 1st November.

Details of our events can be found on our website at

https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on

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

Anglesey Abbey



It's the season for crisp autumnal walks and warming hot drinks! While the dahlias are still dazzling, the wider estate is full of autumn colour Anglesev Abbey. Coronation and Jubilee Avenue are particular highlights at this time of year, as well as the carpet of cyclamen at the end of the accessible Winter Walk

October half-term

Embark on a Halloween trail this half-term from Saturday 26 October to Sunday 3 November. Explorers will be given a UV torch to find hidden clues, and there will be some spooky challenges along the way. Are you up to the challenge?

Trails are £6 per child, which includes a clue card to fill in as you go, as well as a prize at the end. Please note that normal admission applies. You can book now on our website.

Coming up this winter

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce that Wild In Art's 10 life-sized bear sculptures are coming to Anglesey Abbey from 19 November 2024 to 5 January 2025. **The Bear Hunt trail** is inspired by Michael Rosen's beloved chil-

dren's story *We're Going* on a Bear Hunt, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury and published by Walker Books. Each bear has been painted creatively by ten national and international artists.

Head to our website to find out more about the sculpture trail and to book your tickets to see **Father Christmas in the house**



for the first time this year at Anglesey Abbey. Find out more at national-trust.org.uk/AngleseyAbbey. *Izzy Vetoshkina*

Notes from the Parish Council August 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,

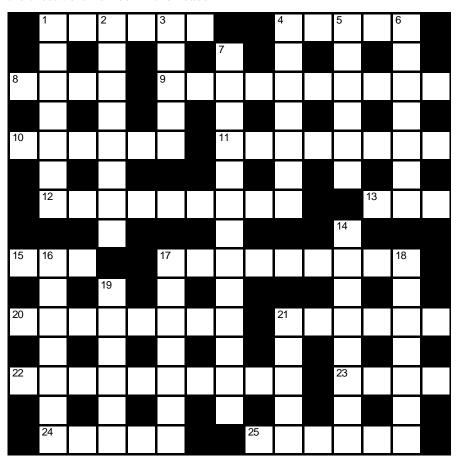
Produced from unapproved minutes and may contain errors; approved minutes can be found at http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/minutes.htmlIf anyone would like any further information on any of the above items, please contact the Clerk.

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12th September 2024 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Crossword Number 220

Compiled by **OUNCE**

Clues marked * or ** are related. Send your answers to the editors by 18th October 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

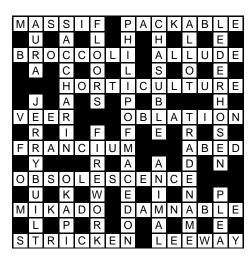
- 1 ** Small half of 9A? Steal view (6)
- 4 ** Distress half of 9A (5)
- 8 Mark loses nothing from award (4)
- 9 * Spot puller, possibly, home of 10A (10)
- 10 * Large ringer dispersed grubbiness USSR left (3,3)
- 11 Dandies arrange at long last to leave (8)
- 12 * Shapely figure resulting from sugar hols? (9)
- 13 Court women only once at first (3)
- 15 Seventeenth Greek heard line (3)
- 17 Ace earns a horrible delivery (9)
- 20 Conclude Northern gangster diabolic (8)
- 21 Faith lost ahead of time dreadful swelling (6)
- 22 Susan cares about statements (10)
- 23 Prevaricator on radio with old harp (4)
- 24 ** Clepsydra, irrigate half of 9A! (5)
- 25 ** Bomb kitten with half of 9A? (6)

Down

- 1 HK spice makes one hungry? (7)
- 2 Airbus company crashes Santa's steeds (in America) (8)
- 3 Former Tory, one out of prison (2-3)
- 4 Bases in talk a listener hears (7)
- 5 Assertion that eggs back rule reversal (6)
- 6 Virtuoso mother is French; raw beginner at beginning of October (7)

- 7 * Dad's Dad congeals poor half of 9A (8,5)
- 14 * Enclose leaders of Labour Union in mud, reversing part of 7D (8)
- 16 Rotter departs Northeastward breaking tool (7)
- 17 Mythical being after coin, gold, right? (7)
- 18 Number of mice run higgledypiggledy up 7D? (7)
- 19 Outcome found in creature's ultimatum (6)
- 21 Attack breaks stone (5)

Solution to crossword no. 219



We congratulate Dainin O'Dowd, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive a prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Colin Dailly, Dee Noyes and Robert Nunn.

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

October 2024

Things seem to be happening again this month after the summer break. In addition to the regular groups meeting as shown below there is also the Harvest Supper on Saturday 5th and Village quiz on Saturday 19th to look forward to.

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
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 October 2024

Wednesday 2 October

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Thursday 3 October

11am Harvest Festival, Lode – followed by lunch

Sunday 6 October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 13 October – Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 20 October – Twenty first Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 27 October – Last Sunday after Trinity/Bible Sunday

<u>9am Online service on Zoom</u> 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: bottisham@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 604019

Lode: lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 811222 Quy: quy@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 812652

Swaffham Bulbeck: <u>bulbeck@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk</u>; 01223 812525; 01223 811501

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

For general enquiries: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; churchwardens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; <a href="mailto:churchwardenswardenswardenswardenswardenswardenswardenswardenswardenswardenswardenswardenswardensward

Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches;

Dates for Your Diary October 2024

Sat	5	Harvest Supper, VH
Sun	6	Prior Fen Chapel Harvest Festival, 3pm [22]
Thu	10	Peaceful & Prayerful Art Group [3]
Sun	13	Harvest Festival, 10.30, St Mary's [35]
Tue	15	Tristam Shandy, Newmarket Cinema, 7.30 [15]
Thu	17	Peaceful & Prayerful Art Group [3]
Sat	19	Quiz Night, VH 7.30pm [6]
Mon	21	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Thu	24	Peaceful & Prayerful Art Group [3]
Sat	26	Owl Event, St Cyriac's,. 2.30 & 3.45 [10]
Thu	31	Peaceful & Prayerful Art Group [3]

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 (Term) Wed	5:15-6:30pm 6:30-8.00pm 7.00-8.30pm	Scout Hut
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	6:00pm	Variable
Village Gardeners	Fiona Geraghty	741712	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Kate Muscroft Kaye Lewsinski	07752011308 Kayejanelew@ gmail.com	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall