



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIX Number 4

April 2025



Editorial

When, on a sunny Sunday afternoon, the sound of automatic gunfire rattles through your kitchen window, most of us are going to urgently consider locking the doors and drawing the curtains. But Spouse said that he could tell the difference between live and blanks, and this was definitely **BLANKS**. Phew! As indeed it was, a World War II re-enactment at the school — School, **PLEASE**, not everyone is on Facebook, do consider communicating with the Crier as you always used to do!

Our lovely Pub has deservedly won Rural Pub of the Year Award in March. — as we all know, brilliant beer and the best welcome in this village local. **BUT** John and Lana have also received an offer that cannot be matched by Batemans and are going! Oh no! Now we rather wish they hadn't got all those awards...ding bats!! Drat! John and Lana, you are going to be extremely missed.

The Village Feast is upon us, and if you are not helping yet, get in touch with Jenny Brand — this is a brilliant event and much enjoyed, especially by the workers! I am looking for Lucky Dip donations — please leave at Kent House.

Betty Prime, a lovely lady who made enormous contributions to village life in the past, died last year and to commemorate her, the WI have decided to keep the wild flowers flowering on a bank that she always tended at the corner of Greenhead Road see p. 3 and 7 for the inauguration ceremony that took place there recently.

We have the latest from our new MP Charlotte Cane who is settling in at the Commons with a Lego model of Rivendell (see p. 28) and also a really lovely poem from Karen Redman who used to live in this village. If anyone in the village likes writes poems and would like to have us consider them for publication, please send them in.

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Storm over Swaffham Prior from Devil's Dyke*, oil by **Mike Barker**

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Easter Lilies

This is a rather belated letter to let you know that we will be having the Easter Lilies in church again. In case you have recently moved to the village we decorate the church with lilies for Easter. People very kindly make donations towards them in memory of loved ones. I then include the names to be remembered along with the names of the donor and their family on signs inside our church. If you would like to remember someone in this way then please put all the appropriate details on paper with the money and put it through my letterbox at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, S.P. (The letterbox is at the back of the house!) Alternatively you can put your money, along with the details and money through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road, S.P.

I missed the deadline for last month's Crier, hence this letter and a poster in the Crier (see page 5).

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Ruth Scovil

Any Odd Jobs Needed?

One Sunday last month, two young girls, Luna (from Swaffham Prior) and Molly (from Bulbeck) entrepreneurially went all round the village asking if anyone had got any odd-jobs that needed doing. Alas, they could only find one button that needed sewing on — until they got to us, where they set about washing and mini-valeting two cars, and a pretty good job they did of it too (especially as our Hozelock hose connectors had as usual gone on the blink over the winter!) You can contact them on 07563 342820, and we can heartily recommend them.

Caroline Matheson

This Month's Cover Picture

April is traditionally a time of showers and our cover this month shows a dramatic rainstorm over the village.

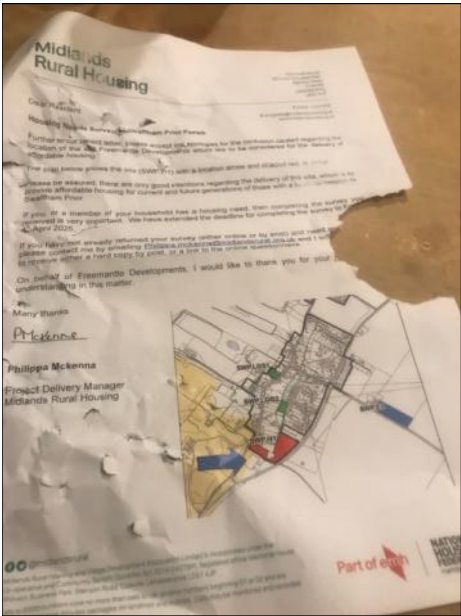
The painting is from Mike's 'A Hard Rain' series of climate emergency art about extreme weather, especially storms. Mike explains that the colour palette he has used is 'based on the extreme rainfall scale developed by the Met Office to show newly happening intense rainfall found in the most extreme storm events.'

Mike regularly takes part in Cambridge Open Studios in the village during July.

mikebarkerart.co.uk



From Left: Hilary, Catie, David (Betty's son in law), Margaret, Rachel and Mary (Betty's grand daughter, and daughter), Ruth, Jenny Brand, Caroline, James, Helen (Shirley's daughter), —and foreground, Shirley, Gill and Lynda.



Above WI, friends and family celebrating the inauguration of Betty's Bank in Greenhead Road (see page 7) and left, one village resident's (canine) opinion of Midlands Rural Housing plans for another pretty bank or two off the High Street.



A colorful poster on a light blue grid background. At the top, a lightbulb icon is on the left and a green book icon is on the right. The school's name, 'SWAFFHAM PRIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL', is written in a red, curved font. Below it, the words 'PLACES AVAILABLE' are in large, bold, black letters. Further down, the text 'SCHOOL, NURSERY AND WRAP AROUND CARE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025.' is in red. Below that, 'PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION' is in red. The email address 'office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk' is in blue, and the phone number '01638 741529' is in large black digits. A red heart is on the left, a yellow star is on the right, and a globe icon is at the bottom left. A red apple and a black star are on the right side.

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

PLACES AVAILABLE

SCHOOL, NURSERY AND WRAP AROUND CARE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025.

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION

office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

01638 741529

Bric-a-brac donations wanted! Calling all Spring cleaners!

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior, is running a bric-a-brac stall at the Swaffham Prior Village Feast on Saturday 24th May 2025

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.



QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 5 April

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

Easter Lilies

Each year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies will cost £3.00 per stem this year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.



Ruth Scovil

Swaffham Prior Bell Ringers – April 2025

March brought a new addition to the tower: Gareth's birthday present this year was a set of bell mats numbered from 1 to 6! Now there is no excuse for forgetting which bell you are ringing, but still plenty of reasons that you might be ringing in the wrong order.

Members of the Anglesey Clangers enjoyed a mini-outing this month, visiting churches in Great Shelford and Fulbourn. All bells are different to ring and adapt to, but Great Shelford had the added interest of being one of the few towers in the country to be rung anti-clockwise rather than clockwise.

Congratulations to Janet and Phil who rang their first Quarter Peals. Another milestone along the learning ladder, a Quarter Peal involves ringing and absolute concentration for 40 minutes non-stop (1260 changes of bell order). Thanks again to the experienced ringers from Prior, Bulbeck and Bottisham who came along on Sunday afternoons to support the learners.

On the afternoon of Sunday 9th March, you may also have heard the bells ringing for the national day of reflection marking the 5th anniversary of the start of the Covid pandemic.

Our newest learners, Lynne and Jim from Lode, are now ringing both handstrokes and backstrokes during our ringing practices and joining in with the rest of the band, their hard work with Gareth is really paying off.

Do come along on a Tuesday evening (19:30) if you are interested, or contact swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com



Betty's Bank

Friends, family, and WI members gathered at the bank on Greenhead Road- resplendent with primroses, where the WI has had a sign erected ,in memory of Betty Prime. She and her husband Ron were much loved members of the community in Swaffham Prior. Betty, who died last year, aged 100, had been a long standing member of the W.I. in the village and whose house and garden, backed onto the bank. Over the years she'd transplanted many primroses, from her garden to the bank and had been promised it would be looked after. It will.

MJ.



Betty's Family with the new sign



...and the assembled company

Photos by Andrew Noyes

ANNUAL VILLAGE FEAST

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 24TH MAY 12.30PM - 4.00PM



EVENTS, STALLS & CRAFTS

MAYPOLE - MORRIS DANCING - YOGA - RAFFLE

CAR & MOTORBIKE EXHIBITION - EMERGENCY VEHICLES

BAR & REFRESHMENTS - BARBEQUE

BRIC-A-BRAC - PLANTS - CAN SHY - GURNING - LUCKY DIP

BOWLING - WI STALL - TOMBOLA - FOOTBALL - FACE PAINTING

CAKE STALL - PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT - BOOKS JIGSAWS, TOYS

ICE CREAM VAN - CREAM TEAS

ANNUAL EGG-THROWING CONTEST AT 4.00PM



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



By Royal Charter since 1201

Monday 5th May 2025

12 noon to 5pm

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

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

www.reachfair.org.uk



Fair Green, Reach CB25 0JD



JULIE'S EASTER TREAT

Simmel cake cupcakes

450g marzipan	75g raisins
150ml sunflower oil	200g plain flour
50g honey	2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp vanilla extract	2 tsp mixed spice
75g full-fat cream cheese	Icing sugar, for rolling
4 medium free-range eggs	Edible gold balls, to decorate.
150g currants	

1. Place 12 muffin cases into a muffin tray and preheat the oven to 180c.
2. Roll the marzipan out to about 3mm thick and cut 2 sizes of discs 12 of each measuring 5cm and 6cm. Set these aside while you make the cake mix.
3. Beat the sugar, oil, honey, vanilla and cream cheese in a mixing bowl until smooth, then beat in the eggs until thoroughly mixed through. Stir in dried fruit, then sift in the flour, baking powder and mixed spice and stir well.
4. Spoon half of the mixture into each muffin case, lay one of each of the smaller marzipan discs on top of each one and press down gently. Then top each one with the remaining mixture. Bake for about 25mins until cooked and firm.
5. When the cakes come out of the oven, place the larger discs of marzipan on top of each one and gently press down, the heat from the cupcake will soften the marzipan and seal it on. Then press eleven gold balls around the edge of the marzipan on each cake and leave to cool.

Easter rocky road

175g dark chocolate, broken into pieces	200g of digestives or rich tea biscuits,
125g milk chocolate, broken into pieces	broken into pieces
2 tbsp golden syrup	75g mini marshmallows
75g unsalted butter	50g hazelnuts, roughly chopped
160g mini chocolate eggs	75g raisins

1. Grease a 20x30cm baking tin with baking paper.
2. Place both the chocolate pieces into a large heat proof bowl and add the golden syrup and butter. Place the bowl over a pan of simmering water. Stir from time to time until the butter and chocolate are melted and the mixture is smooth. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for 5 mins.
3. Cut the chocolate mini eggs in half, leaving a few whole, set aside the whole ones for decorating. Gently fold in the halved chocolate eggs, biscuits, marshmallows, nuts and raisins into the chocolate mixture and combine well. Spoon into the lined tin and level with a spoon. Scatter with the remaining mini eggs.
4. Refrigerate for a hour or so and when completely firm, cut into bars to serve.

A New Nature Reserve for the Village.

If you have walked along the road to Reach recently, you may have noticed some changes in a field on the left just before you get to the old railway bridge. A new nature reserve is beginning to take shape. The reserve has been created by the Prospects Trust at Snakehall Farm, who over the last four years have been busy transforming an arable field into something very different. Hundreds of native trees have been planted, gravel paths have been constructed, two ponds have been dug out and wildflower meadows created. Benches have been added, wheelchair friendly kissing gates installed at the entrance and exit, and recently a wooden cabin has been added. This is so that the Trust's Co-workers (people with additional needs) can nature-spot or do off grid activities in the space plus in the future cabin can be hired for groups undertaking nature or health related activities. The vision is to make an area for biodiversity and carbon offsetting and build a recreational space for the Co-workers of the Trust to enjoy, but also to open the site up for the local community to appreciate. Unlike Reach, Burwell or Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior has never had a community nature reserve, so this is really a great addition to the village. In future we hope to add information boards and plant many more trees. Already we are seeing the benefits with a wealth of wildlife and wildflowers starting to colonize the triangular seven-acre plot.

So, if you fancy a stroll or need somewhere to walk the dog (please don't let them leave anything behind!) please feel free to come along and enjoy the natural peace and watch the Prospects Trust Nature Reserve grow, as it develops from a field to a fully formed woodland.

Dr Peter Fretwell, Prospects Trust Trustee.



POEM OF THE MONTH

Here bygynneth the Book of the Tales of Caunterbury

Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote,
The droghte of March hath perced to the
roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan Zephirus eek with his swete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the Ram his halfe cours y-ronne,
And smale foweles maken melodye,
That slepen al the nyght with open ye,
So priketh hem Nature in hir corages,
Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,
And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,
To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes;
And specially, from every shires ende
Of Engeland, to Caunterbury they wende,
The hooly blisful martir for to seke,
That hem hath holpen whan that they were
seeke.

Geoffrey Chaucer c.1340-1400

When the sweet showers of April fall and
shoot
Down through the drought of March to
pierce the root,
Bathing every vein in liquid power
From which there springs the engendering
of the flower,
When also Zephyrus with his sweet breath
Exhales an air in every grove and heath
Upon the tender shoots, and the young sun
His half-course in the sign of the Ram has
run,
And the small fowl are making melody
That sleep away the night with open eye
(So nature pricks them and their heart en-
gages)
Then people long to go on pilgrimages
And palmeres long to seek the stranger
strands
Of far-off saints, hallowed in sundry lands,
And specially, from every shire's end
In England, down to Canterbury they wend
To seek the holy blissful martyr, quick
In giving help to them when they were sick.

Translation by Professor Neville Coghill

Geoffrey Chaucer, page, and later brother-in-law, of John of Gaunt, courtier, soldier, Comptroller of Customs at the Port of London, Justice of the Peace for Kent, Knight of the Shire, and first resident of Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey, Chaucer also somehow found time to become the father of English poetry. *The Canterbury Tales* is only a fraction of his extraordinary oeuvre, but In Coghill's view "In all literature, there is nothing that touches or resembles *The Prologue*. It is the concise portrait of an entire nation...".

Incidentally, through the happy accident of William Caxton establishing England's first press in London and immortalising Chaucer's works in print soon after the latter's death, his work did much to make the London dialect of Middle English the standard printed version of the language whose modern descendant still generally prevails in the media. If you doubt that, because the original, above, looks a bit unfamiliar, try comparing it with the contemporaneous *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, written in a West Midlands dialect and almost as alien, to the untutored eye, as Anglo-Saxon.

The opening lines above present a world reawakening from winter, exploding

with fertility and fecund energy. Without much searching, you can even find an extended phallic metaphor, and amidst all this urgent need to procreate, where do human thoughts tend? Why to pilgrimages, naturally, because, of course, human beings are uniquely pious creatures, aren't they? Oh sure. Here beginneth the tradition of straight-faced irony in English Literature.

Andrew Grant

FREecycle



As a reminder, everything is offered for 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/text (07980 423210) or 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:

5 litre plastic cans – clean, only ever held de-ionized water (for steam irons or batteries); too good to recycle. Susan 07747 074 019

HP LaserJet P1005 A4 USB Mono Laser Printer, black & white, in working order, but needs new printer cartridge. Robert 07785 110434

If you have a fish tank you probably have some snail to keep it clean. If not, we have recently welcomed 60 Rams Horn baby snails to the world - lovely stripey ones - if you would like some call Rhona on 01638 741444

A small FLYMO Homevac250 electric lawnmower. Used a few times as a back up and in excellent condition. John 07956 536140

A small oak writing desk & a White Knight spin dryer, Mary 01223 811255

Modern style chrome kitchen mixer tap - brand new; Ricoh CX3 digital camera - hardly used. Steve, 07917 697259

Brother AX-430 electric Typewriter (Full working order and an extra print circle included). Anne 01223 812395

Wants:

Space heater; small fridge; washing machine, tumble-dryer, clothes-airer, any old carpet (any size) and gravel (not sharp). Peta 07787 543655

BON MOT NUMBER 159

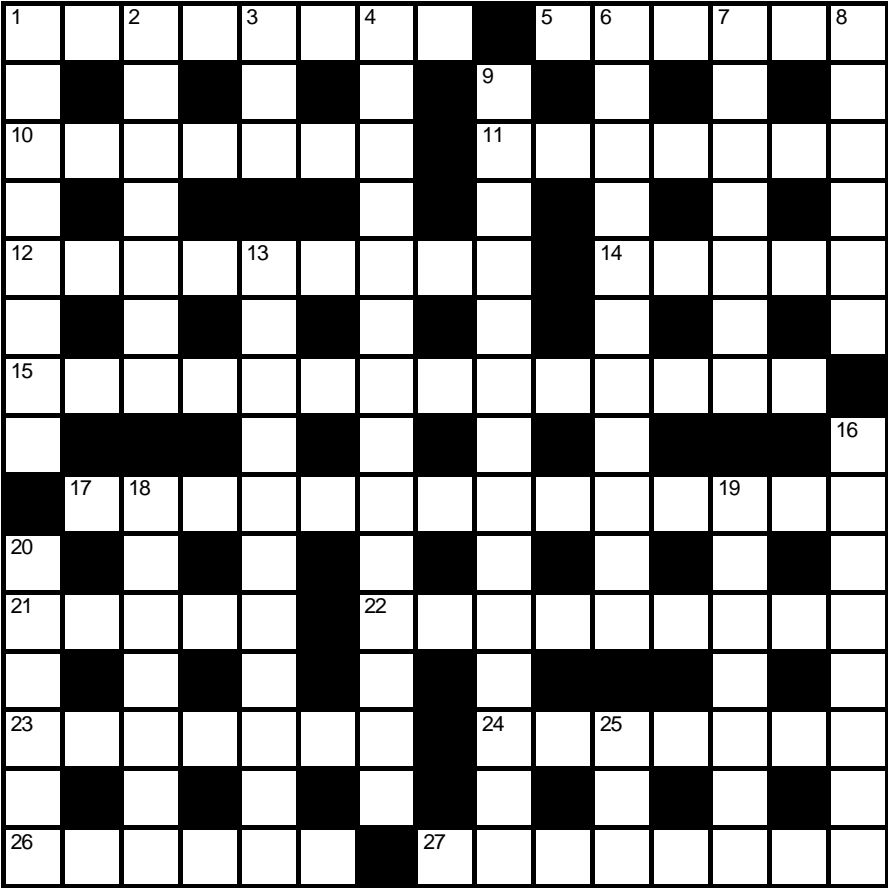
Whoever said "Oh to be in England, now that April's here" wasn't waiting on the platform at Newark Station.

John B Leaning

Crossword Number 226

Compiled by NIBOR

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th April 2025. 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 Arrogant birds on river (8)
- 5 Sailor meets Scotsman on the runway (6)
- 10 Start love-in perhaps, so you never can pretend to speak (3-4)
- 11 Tear away from damaged musculature to form clouds (7)
- 12 Ruined pile I'm led to reveals type of arthropod (9)
- 14 In a gun duel it's excessive (5)
- 15 Inaccurate lens is not good for physics, etc (7,7)
- 17 Small pixie has enough to be independent (4-10)
- 21 Mark something missing in skincare treatment (5)
- 22 Beetle plays rock arrangement in carriage (9)
- 23 Amended bail due, we hear (7)
- 24 Fix gin cocktail before shower (7)
- 26 Wood load (6)
- 27 Underwriters in certain heartless rights (8)

Down

- 1 Lotion found in a pit below small US state (8)
- 2 Aviator and I in firm patch (7)
- 3 Sally oddly is cunning (3)
- 4 Missile firer, boulder and articles dear in France (6,8)
- 6 Arm our young journalist with coach and protected vehicle (8,3)
- 7 Wild old mice may sound tuneful (7)

- 8 pamper commanding officers' group (6)
- 9 Literary genre emanating from 15 (7,7)
- 13 I fear butler collapse may be undeniable (11)
- 16 engravings etc and timeless things (8)
- 18 Old mare roams the land of a nobleman (7)
- 19 Send out oriental chap with a note (7)
- 20 scribble some catchy rhythms and words lovingly started (6)
- 25 Wildebeest finds broken gun (3)

Solution to crossword no. 225

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

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

A Welcome Return

Mist hovers listlessly over the fields,
browned expectantly by the plough
but still shrouded in dank winter air..

A promise of greener, keener times
to come yet lingering, mingling the
seasons seamlessly..

An almost indiscernible shift
breaches the rift as transitory
warmth teases blossom from buds,
small heads from hoods..

Uncertain transitions, fragile
positions, easily scuppered by a
retrograde twist in the tail - April
gales..

Yet heralding the beginnings of
Spring, with all the renewed joy and
optimism it brings.

Karen Redman

(formerly of this parish and now resident in Little Wilbraham)



Bottisham

Coffee & Cake Concert

10.30AM

Holy Trinity Church

SATURDAY 10th May

Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE

Former Organist & Choirmaster, Worcester Cathedral, St George's Chapel Windsor Castle, St Johns College Cambridge

Christopher will play a variety of easy listening music arranged for the organ including Handel's Water Music, Waltons Crown Imperial, other music by Bach and Elgar and finishing with Widor's Toccata

Come and enjoy a coffee (tea or juice), cake and then the concert, which will last around 45 minutes.

Only £5, in aid of the church building fund – children free





HEALTH UK

Working together for a Healthier Community this April



With an ageing population with increasingly complex needs and co-morbidities, GPs need our support.. Here's how you can help.

Missed Appointments

These are currently running at 6% but this is nowhere near enough to allow your GPs to meet guideline targets of 15 minute appointments (currently 10 minutes) and the recommended GP safe working limit of 25 appointments a day. Any missed appointment will give your GP a welcome break and an even more welcome chance to read our latest Guidelines, which are several thousand pages long.

There is no need to consult your GP about:

Soft tissue injuries, sports injuries, arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, post orthopaedic surgery, neck pain, back pain, hip pain, knee pain, ankle pain, wrist pain, shoulder pain, foot pain, elbow pain: — book a physio appointment (some available from Jan 2026) and consult your pharmacist for over-the-counter pain relief .

Stomach bleeding, liver/kidney/cardiovascular problems — ditch the over-the-counter pain relief.

Dementia — what, ALL modern meds implicated? Ditch the lot? Surely not?

Falls — if you are still breathing, ensure your under-floor heating is turned on and you keep a good stock of cushions and comestibles within reach. There is no need to bother the ambulance service, instead log on to [NHS/111/heretohelp.org](https://www.nhs.uk/111/heretohelp.org) and be sure you have your password, NHS number and grandfather's DOB to hand.

Home Visits

GPs don't really need to do these, so why not consider a Medical Student (who does, in order to qualify). Due to stress, burn-out, and the necessity to achieve healthy work-life balance (and also possibly an extra zero being inadvertently added to historic pay settlements) many GPs can only work a 5 day week (2 days on, 5 days off) and have to retire at 55 so as not to attract super-tax on pension contributions. So there are still far too few to go round, but Medical students make an excellent alternative, even if they do retire at 29.

Don't get ill — make healthy life-style choices

Are you doing your 20,000 steps a day? Or can't even do 20? This comes down to life-style choices and don't think you can just cut smoking and drinking (a bit of a damp squib as far as saving us money anyway) - we all know we should be eating a Mediterranean diet. Try Cypriot Lamb Bi Tiurrhat (9 Lambs' tongue salad with delicious freshly-picked Mediterranean mungu beans delicately flavoured with Harissa paste and zinging with vitamins and minerals) or for greater lamb economy a simple whole Lamb's head stew from Greece with a few fried feet on the side..

01/04/2025

PS. With apologies to Bottisham PPG (see p. 23, and Criers passim). We love our surgeries. We love our NHS which *is not* broken despite HM Gov's attempts to 'improve things', and it continues to save our bacon every day. Thank you.



SAT
10 MAY
16:00

CELLO RECITAL

Swaffham Prior Village Hall



CELLIST
JOSHUA
LYNCH

BACH Suite No. 3

BRITTEN Suite No. 1

CASSADO Solo Suite

Tickets: £10 Adults, £5 (Below 18s)

NEWMARKET CINEMA

April– June2025

The Stable, High Street, Newmarket

April 14th- Ladies In Lavender (2004) (12)

May 19th - Military Wives (12)

June 16th - Maid In Manhattan (2002) (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 Penny



Mothers' Union

We were joined at our meeting in February by Simon Gale who spoke of his work in Gambia with his wife Sharon. They have been regularly visiting the same family and area since a holiday they had over 15 years ago. He described how with a successful career, nice house and lovely family himself, he feels like this is a way of 'paying it forward' – which was the title of his talk.

Simon and Sharon take toys, stationery and clothes out with them each time. They have helped to support the Gambian family they met with the purchase of a solar fridge (no-one has electricity, and without a fridge food must be bought daily) and have been helping with the digging of a well and the building of a larger family house; this house is quickly being filled by extended family members too. There is an emphasis on supporting the locals to help themselves, for example with small business loans. Everyone shares what they have (the family well is available for all neighbours to use too, saving long walks and carrying containers of water). There is very little crime.

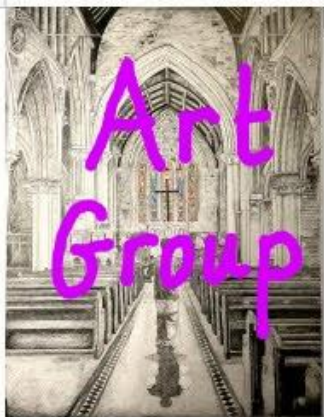
Simon and Sharon have also supported Shoeboxes which are sent for Christmas to families in Eastern Europe. This Easter Sharon is sending small Easter Eggs to Ukrainian schools where the teachers will distribute them.

We ended the meeting with tea and biscuits and chatting to Simon about his experiences.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th April (note earlier date due to Easter) at 2.30pm in the Passage Hall, Lode. Maggie Field will be speaking to us about her experiences of Girl Guiding.

All are welcome to join us.

Alison Martin



PEACEFUL & PRAYERFUL ART GROUP FOR ADULTS

Please note new dates and warmer location:

Tuesdays (from 1st March)
10:30am – 12:30pm
St James' Church, Lode

Those of all faiths or none are **WELCOME!**

No art experience required. Support given to get started if required.

A wide range of art materials supplied:
Charcoal / felt tip / pencils / crayons /
water colour / oil / paint / pastels

The Swaffhams' WI

March is always the month for the Swaffhams WI AGM. Our group continues to flourish with a strong committee and wonderfully friendly and supportive members. A big thank you was said to Gill Rushmore who is standing down from the committee after many years of service. The evening continued with reflections on all of the fabulous talks we have had during 2024 plus reminders of our excellent outing and parties accompanied by a perfect slideshow put together by Kaye. Once the business part of the evening was completed, we settled down to games of Beetle with Jean being the outright well-deserved winner.



Our next meeting is on Monday 28 April at 7:30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Please note that this is a week later than usual due to the Easter weekend. Our speaker in April is Dr Giles Yeo who will be sharing his expertise on the new obesity drugs. Do please come along and join our thriving and friendly group.

Kate Muscroft



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At the March meeting of the Village Gardeners, Dr Ian Bedford travelled from Norwich to give us a talk on '6 of the best – Springtime Bugs'. Until his retirement a few years ago, Dr Bedford ran the Entomology Department at the John Innes Centre in Norwich. His enthusiasm for insects has continued, and despite

him grouping the 6 into perceived 'good' and 'bad' bugs, the message came across that they all have an important place in the ecosystems of our gardens. He described the life stages, preferred food and habitats of the orange-tip butterfly, the rose aphid, the 7-spot ladybird, the black vine weevil, the buff-tailed bumblebee and the garden snail. He also explained the survival challenges facing each of them, and the ways that we can encourage (or discourage) the creatures in our gardens. As ever, finding the balance is key to a healthy ecosystem; if we try to eliminate all of the 'pests' we risk losing the beneficial, plant pollinating

Dr Bedford promotes the use of biological pest controls from Green Gardener, a Suffolk based company

insects, and with nothing to feed on we'll lose many birds from our gardens too.

Dr Bedford promotes the use of biological pest controls from Green Gardener, a Suffolk based company who sell chemical free, environment friendly products that work with nature. He brought along a selection of items for us to buy that he had personally trialled and endorsed.

The next meeting of the Village Gardeners will be held on Tuesday 15th April at 8pm (doors 7.45pm) in Swaffham Prior Village Hall, when Gwenda Kyd will be giving a talk on 'Tremendous Trees'. Gwenda is a scientist and a Bach flower remedy practitioner, with a keen interest in the use of trees in every aspect of our lives, particularly their use as a source of foods, medicines and a wide range of other beneficial substances. Using several trees as examples, her talk will explore these uses and link the extracted materials back to their role in the trees themselves. Everyone is welcome at the Village Gardeners meetings; attendance is free for members or £4 for visitors, and tea and homemade cakes are for sale after the talks.

Fiona Geraghty

The Reading Group Reads...

The Untouchable

by John Banville

John Banville is a beautiful writer: his language is superb; his descriptions truly evocative: his subjects not always so. This book is based on the notorious fourth spy of the Philby, Burgess and McClean ring, Anthony Blunt, who was exposed by Margaret Thatcher in 1979. He was a Knight of the Realm, a distinguished Art Historian, curator to the Queen's art collection, and director of the Courtauld Institute of Art. But he had been recruited as a Russian Spy while at Cambridge before the Second World War and had remained so for 30 years.

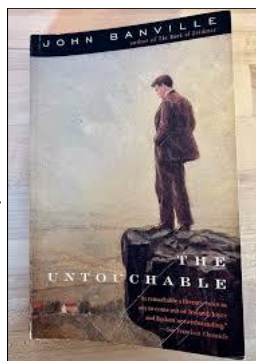
Banville's character, Victor Maskell, is reviewing his life to a female biographer, after his exposure and subsequent disgrace. The character revealed is not an admirable one: self-centred, delusional, self indulgent - where does the passion to become a spy originate? The only real passion in his character seems to be The artist Poussin - that and his homosexuality.

An interesting sideline to the book is to guess at the identities of the the other characters involved in the story: can Querrel really be a fictionalised Graham Greene? Or Alastair Sykes Alan Turing?

PS John Banville has written a much more accessible series of books under the pseudonym Benjamin Black.

Future reading:

April	Requiem for a Wren - Neville Shute
May	Someone Else's Shoes - Jo Jo Moyes
June	Orbital - Samantha Harvey
July	Wish you were here - Jodi Picoult



Brenda Wilson

News from Bottisham Medical Practice

Patients' Participation Group

Next Meeting Details: AGM 3rd April 2025 6.30pm in the waiting room at the surgery. There will be a talk by Dr Shackleton. If you wish to join our meetings or consider joining the committee please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or speak to reception. At this meeting we will be accepting nominations for positions on the committee, chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer.

Isobel – new practice nurse and diabetic nurse joins us in April. I am sure you will all give her a warm welcome to the surgery. She brings many years of experience with her and will be a welcome addition to our team.

Physiotherapists at Bottisham Medical Practice

We are lucky to have Charlotte (Tuesday) and Dominic (Thursdays) each week at the surgery. They are called “First contact physios”. They are trained to assess any injury or joint pain, give advice and decide on the next best course of action. You do not need to see a GP beforehand and in fact if you see the physio you are freeing up GP appointments for those that need it. We are sadly frequently having patients insist on seeing a GP rather than a physio who do not need to, and are just referred to the physio from the GP which is a waste of an appointment. It would really help if you have the following symptoms that you request to see the physiotherapist. If they do feel you need a GP appointment this will be arranged swiftly.

First contact physios: to see patients with the following symptoms (DOES NOT NEED TO SEE A GP first)

All soft tissue injuries, Sports injuries, Arthritis – any joint, Carpal tunnel syndrome, Post orthopaedic surgery. Neck pain, Back pain, Hip pain, Knee pain. Ankle pain. Wrist pain, Shoulder pain. Foot pain. Elbow pain

Patients wishing and able to see medical students

We are always looking out for patients with a “chronic health condition” to be willing to see our medical students. They are required to see patients in the surgery and on home visits for various projects. If you have a long term illness or condition which you believe may be of interest to a medical student please let reception know and Dr Keith will add you to the list if willing participants.

Easter: With the surgery closed over the Easter weekend and the bank holidays please remember to order your medication to cover this 4 day period in good time leaving at least one full week for it to be dispensed.

111 online: <https://111.nhs.uk/>

An excellent resource to use to assess what is the best next step with your symptoms and during out of hours you can directly request a call back from 111 without having to wait on the phone system.

Bottisham Medical Practice PPG

Full Council 25 February 2025

Unfortunately, one of the members of the Lib Dem & Independent Group was unable to be present as his wife had to be taken to hospital after breaking her wrist, and so the effect of the parity of political groups at the Council was not tested.

In view of the impending Local Government Reorganisation, it was resolved to cease work on the Local Plan (that sets out the development envelopes and planning guidelines for the District) since the new Unitary authority would revise this anyway.

It was decided that the District Council Tax for 2025/26 would be the same as the last twelve years; this was supported by both sides of the chamber. The Lib Dem & Independent group proposed a budget that: increased funding for tourism and the arts to boost the local economy, increased the Council's actions on climate and the environment, used funding from the abandoned Local Plan review to prepare for proper parking enforcement across East Cambridgeshire which is sadly lacking. This budget was defeated.

Later in the meeting, however, when the allocation of CIL money was the agenda item, Conservative councillors voted to block a further amendment from the Liberal Democrat & Independent Group from being debated. This amendment would have ceased spending on the Conservatives' very expensive and unwanted crematorium at Mepal and used the money to provide for more investment in District-wide community facilities, inclusive play and local facilities, and improve footpaths and cycleways in the District. Many projects, including one of £2.2m for the Staploe Medical Centre to expand at Soham, for which CIL money had been promised were curtailed to pay for the crematorium. The CIL commitment was almost £18m, but there was only less than £12m in the CIL fund, so by keeping £8m for the crematorium only £4m was left for schools, health, play areas etc.

An Extraordinary Council Meeting is to be held on 20 March to debate the response from this Council on the Local Government Reorganisation proposal.

The next ward surgery will be at the Bottisham Sports and Social Club, Downing Close, CB25 9DD, from half past six to half past seven on Tuesday 22 April 2025, followed by a social meeting at The Bell in the same village.



Anglesey Abbey

Get ready for a baa-rillicant Easter!

How far can you throw the farmer's welly boot, and can you carry your sheep to safety through the mini obstacle course? Come and complete all 10 sheep-themed activities on the Easter Adventures trail at Anglesey Abbey from 5 to 21 April and collect a chocolate reward at the end! The trail costs £3.50 (normal admission applies) and includes an Easter egg, bunny ears and a trail sheet. Don't forget you can also see Wild in Art's Shaun the Sheep sculptures until 27 April.

Shaun the Sheep has been un-baa-lievably popular at Anglesey Abbey and we've been blown away by everyone's support. Thank you to everyone who has visited and shared their photos with us! Please be aware that if you are planning to

visit Anglesey Abbey at the weekends while Shaun the Sheep is in residence, it is likely to be extremely busy and the car parks are reaching capacity at times. To avoid long queues on entry, you may want to consider arriving before 11am, or after 13.30pm. We'd also encourage all those who can visit during the week to come and enjoy a quieter weekday visit. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We hope you have a baa-rillicant day out!

Spring highlights in the gardens

If you are visiting this spring, be sure to visit the Formal Garden, planted in uniform rows of 'Blue Star' and 'Carnegie' hyacinths, offer a striking blue and white display during the months of April into May. Look out for the 'Little Beauty' tulips underneath the silver birch trees in April and enjoy swathes of daffodils around the grounds. The Winter Garden, Monks Lawn and Spring Garden are good spots to see daffodils and visitors can also see hundreds of Narcissus 'Dutch Master' recently planted by the caryatid statues on Coronation Avenue.

Head to our website for more information: nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey.

Issy Vetoshkina



Wicken Fen

We've been enjoying some stunning sunrises and sunsets over the winter here at the Fen. If you can visit either early morning or when the light is fading, you'll often be rewarded not only with beautiful skies, but building birdsong and, if you're lucky, occasional drumming woodpeckers. The days are getting longer now, so look out for signs of spring when you next visit.

Our **Mucky Pups** sessions for pre-school children continue on 25th April. Plenty of outdoor adventures including seasonal nature activities, crafts and stories. Details on our website.

Over the Easter Holidays, we have lots of family events available:

Family craft workshop – mixed media moths is a brand-new workshop for children and adults on 9th and 15th April. Delve into the watery world of Wicken Fen and find out what is living beneath the surface in one of our popular **pond dipping** sessions running on 14th and 17th April. On Wednesday 16th April, local mixed media artist Judith Handley will be leading a **lino printing workshop** (age 12+). Not to mention our **Easter egg hunt**, which runs daily from 5th – 21st April. Also, you can join a member of the Ranger Team for a gentle stroll on the boardwalk on Tuesday 8th April.

Tickets are selling fast for our **Dawn Chorus Walk** on Sunday 4th May. There is also a listening walk a bit later in the morning, this is part of our 'Voices of the Fen' sound art project, funded by Arts Council England, in collaboration with artist Kathy Hinde and Babylon Arts. As part of the project, there are workshops where you can **Make a flue from natural materials** on 28th and 29th June; with a live performance on 20th July to officially launch a brand new art sculpture trail around the boardwalk and woodland walk, which will run until the end of September.

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

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



Burwell Lode
*Photo by Mike
Selby*

Notes from the Parish Council March Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on Thursday 13th March, chaired by Cllr John Covill and attended by 6 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the public.

Report from East Cambridgeshire District Council.

Cllr John Trapp attended and noted:

that the council tax remained frozen, although there were rises in other departments

the Local Plan was no longer being revised, due to changes in government objections to the Mepal crematorium plans had not passed.

In response to questions, Cllr Trapp noted:

East Cambs is most likely to merge with South Cambs and Cambridge City to form a unitary authority.

the Combined Authorities will continue.

a new Local Plan will cover the unitary authority area.

neighbourhood plans should be taken into account in Planning plans?

the new unitary authority should be politically tripartite, with no overall control.

it will be a joint decision between the 6 councils involved as to which councils will form unitary authorities

council tax may rise under the new unitary authority

Cllr Trapp will look into unoccupied Sanctuary houses in Swaffham Prior.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

Cllr Greenfield via email. 1m of the missing double yellow lines are the responsibility of the Heating Scheme and will be replaced. The rest is the responsibility of the Water Authority.

Cllr Greenfield via email. Road surface degradation – the sub-contractor for the Heating Scheme to inspect and provide a report including remedial actions.

Cllr Latchford to contact the Water Authority following receipt of the above information and to order ground cover for the allotments tomorrow.

Planning applications.

Approved by ECDC planning department:

24/01287/FUL and 24/01288/LBC Addition of 3No. Conservation style roof windows to the rear including internal changes and the retrospective erection of a chimney. The Smock Tower Mill, Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge. CB25 0JZ.

24/01337/FUL Construction of koi/eco pond in residential garden. The Smock Tower Mill, Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0JZ.

24/01158/FUL Change of use from an annexe to holiday let accommodation. The Smock Tower Mill, Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JZ.

Issues regarding potholes.

Cllr Kent-Phillips had spoken to a Highways representative. There are 15,000 major potholes on A and B roads in Cambridgeshire. The criteria by which road repairs are prioritised for fixing are:

A roads, then B, then C, then unlisted roads.

The numbers of vehicles using (the higher the numbers, the higher up the repair list)

The number of claims for damage to vehicles associated with it.

Some extra funding for repairs to fen roads has come through. A trial of techniques to fix potholes long term is taking place but will not conclude for 3 years. Although the PC may be able to pay for repairs to potholes, the PC would then become legally responsible for that repair.

The PC concluded that all that can be done is to keep reporting potholes until they are fixed.

Cemetery benches in need of repairs.

Viv Elston had inspected the benches and reported that it would be more cost efficient to replace them rather than repair them. The Clerk will investigate the cost of 2 hardwood replacement benches – to be discussed in April - and attempt to contact the Reeve family, to make aware that their memorial bench is to be replaced.

Policies.

Adoption of a revised publication scheme.

Response to a Housing Survey regarding potential building on Dencora Field.

It was agreed that the Clerk will write (on the Council's behalf) in response to the housing survey pointing out that:

the village is aware of its housing needs

there is already a Community Land Trust in the village, providing 10 affordable houses, meeting most of the village's needs

their proposed site (SWP1 in the Local Plan) has already been developed for social/affordable housing, so the land is not available – they have been misinformed

the survey refers to the SWP1 site only, therefore is invalid (as the site is already in use) and cannot be used to support other projects in the village.

Proposal that the footpath on Station Road by the school is fully tarmacked and the grass verge removed.

After discussion, it was concluded that no proposal could be brought forward until ownership of the verge in question was established.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk had forgotten to check the cemetery tap for leaks – to do tomorrow and fix if necessary.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Hart reported that the footpath outside 28/30 Lower End was becoming overgrown. The Clerk will write to request the overhanging vegetation is cut back.

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

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10th April 2025 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.



In Conversation with Charlotte Cane, MP

“So what’s it like, being an MP?”, I asked Charlotte Cane as I reached for my cup of tea and she reached for her glass of water. We were meeting in Fordham recently for her first interview with the Parish News since she won the new seat of Ely and East Cambridgeshire by four hundred and ninety-five votes.

“It’s a mixture of curiousness and niceness” she explained, “we knock corners off each other in the Chamber, but once we are outside, everyone is very friendly and helpful. In many ways, it’s like any other workplace. At Christmas, for example, we did all the usual things – mince pies, carols and everyone being nice and having fun.”

“What’s your office like?”, I wanted to know. “Small!” she said, “There is room for me and my assistant and some shelves and that’s about it. Oh, and a Lego model of Rivendell!”

“Rivendell? From the Lord of the Rings?” I asked. “Yes! My adult children are building it. We all love the Lord of the Rings in our family – the books and the films”. We then got sidetracked into a discussion of Tolkien’s books as it turns out we are both enthusiasts. Anyway, back to work...

“Doesn’t it get frustrating, being in Opposition and losing all the votes?” I wanted to know. “We have more effect than you would think” she said, “In the case of the Winter Fuel Allowance, the opposition parties forced a vote. We knew we would lose, but we also knew that a large number of Labour backbenchers were acutely uncomfortable with their own government’s position and some even rebelled. The government can’t take too many instances like that, so they try to accommodate the opposition parties where they can”. As Charlotte put it rather nicely, “We won’t force your backbenchers to vote against Motherhood and Apple Pie provided you include some Motherhood and Apple Pie in the Bill. So, for example, in the case of the Energy Bill, Liberal Democrats felt community energy was not recognised strongly enough. Liberal Democrat spokesperson, Pippa Heylings MP, tabled an amendment to include community energy on the face of the Bill. This amendment was supported by MPs from both sides of the House and led the way for cross-party talks and to the Government agreeing to embed commitments to community energy into the Bill. By working together across party lines and engaging constructively with Ministers, Liberal Democrats have secured a real legislative win that will empower communities and accelerate the transition to clean energy.”

“Let’s turn to local issues” I said, “what are your priorities for the Fordham area?”. “Public Transport, especially buses, and housing” she replied, “we need more housing and the right sort of housing. When I moved here thirty years ago, Reach was the first affordable place to live near Cambridge. Then it became Ely and then Littleport. We need housing and infrastructure. We also have to give the Combined Authority the funds it needs to develop the infrastructure in our area”.

“And what about the proposed Unitary Authority?”

She thought for a moment, before replying, “In principle, I agree with it. There is a lot of overlap and confusion at the moment. Take one example – bins. East

Cambridgeshire District Council collects them, the County Council manages the recycling and disposal, and the central government sets the rules. It makes a lot of sense to put the whole thing under one authority. But the re-organisation should not be top-down. The government is pushing it through without proper consultation. They should have suggested it and then let local people discuss it.”



I wanted to know a little more about Charlotte’s career outside of politics. “It’s taken you quite a long time to become an MP” I asked, “Did you always want to become one?”

“Oh, no! I was an archaeologist for ten years after leaving Birmingham University. I was responsible for cataloguing and storing finds on digs”. “But you didn’t remain an archaeologist?”. “We couldn’t afford to. My husband was also an archaeologist, and archaeologists are not well paid. I became an accountant when mortgage rates hit fifteen or sixteen percent. Our *combined* salaries as archaeologists were barely as much as the average male wage for one person at that time and we simply couldn’t make ends meet. So I joined KPMG”.

“KPMG? One of the Big Four accountancy firms?”

“Yes,” she said, “they were actually very good to me. They knew I had a previous career, unlike most trainees who were straight out of university. They let me join early and work for several months to see if I liked it before I had to start studying for my exams. They were very clear that I would have to put all thought of politics aside in order to train, and that was fair enough. I specialised in Small and Medium Enterprises. It was very useful working with small organisations as you get to see the whole picture and understand the challenges they face. When you work with large organisations you only see a part of what they do”

“Have you always been interested in politics?”

“Oh, yes, but bringing up young children, working as an archaeologist and then as an accountant hasn’t always left a lot of time for it. But I’m loving it now I’m here”.

We could have talked for several hours more, but time was running out. I would like to end on this personal thought. We hear a lot about MPs being out for themselves, but this is not true. There may be a few rotten apples, but most of them are hard-working, community-minded public servants who give up a lot to represent us. Without them, we would live in a dictatorship and we owe them our gratitude, regardless of party affiliation or whether we voted for them or not.

Constituents can contact Charlotte at charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk

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Swaffham Prior Village Hall

There are lots of things going on in the village hall every month. Why not try something new from the list of regular events below:-



WI Meeting	3rd Monday of each month 19:30 – 21:30	Contact Kate at kate-muscroft@gmail.com
Village Gardeners	3rd Tuesday of each month 19:45 – 21:30	Contact Fiona on 01638741712
Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Society	Each Tuesday of each month (not 3rd)	Contact Daphne at hanson16@virginmedia.com
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 April 2025

Wednesday 2 April

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 6 April – Fifth Sunday of Lent

9am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

4pm Village Service, Quy Village Hall

Sunday 13 April – Palm Sunday

9am Online service on Zoom

Holy Communion, Quy

10.30am Palm Sunday Service, Swaffham Prior – pony procession, dramatised reading of the Passion

Monday 14 April

6pm Compline, Swaffham Bulbeck

Tuesday 15 April

6pm Compline, Swaffham Bulbeck

Thursday 17 April - Maundy Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Friday 18 April - Good Friday

10am Open Air Service, Quy churchyard

Sunday 20 April - Easter Sunday

9am Online service on Zoom

Holy Communion, Quy

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Sunday 27 April – Second Sunday of Easter

9am Online service on Zoom

Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Bulbeck

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Revd Max Osborne: max9@btinternet.com; 01223 481187 (Rest day: Tuesday)

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Rhona McEune: rihm67h@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

For general enquiries: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; churchwar-

dens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches;

Dates for Your Diary April 2025

Tue	1	Bell-ringing, St Cyriac's, 7.30-9pm {and every Tuesday) [6]
Wed	2	Bookclub, 5 Lower End [8pm]
Sat	5	Sheep themed activities at Anglesey Abbey (daily until 21 April) [24] Easter Egg Hunt, Wicken Fen (daily until 21 April) [25] Quiz Night, 7.30pm , VH [5]
Wed	9	Family craft workshop, Wicken Fen [25]
Thu	10	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Fassage Hall, Lode [19] PC Meeting, 7.30pm [17]
Mon	14	Ladies in Lavender, 6.45 for 7pm, Newmarket Cinema [18] Pond dipping, Wicken Fen [25]
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [20] Family craft workshop, Wicken Fen [25]
Thu	17	Pond dipping, Wicken Fen [25]
Fri	18	Good Friday
Sun	20	Easter Sunday
Mon	21	Bank Holiday
Tue	22	Cllrs Surgery, 6.30 - 7.30pm, Bottisham Sports & Social Club [23] Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	28	WI, 7.30pm, VH [20]
MAY	5	Reach Fair, 12 noon—5pm [9]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel/Email	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Becky Wilkes	07827 318351	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	gsl@1st swaffhamprior scouts.org.uk	Wed (Term) Mon	5:15-6:30pm 6:30-8.00pm 7.00-8.30pm	Scout Hut
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Wed of month	6:00pm	Variable
Village Gardeners	Fiona Geraghty	07785 971853	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
Bell Ringers*	Gareth Davies	07886 323686 swaffhamprior bells@gmail.com	Every Tuesday	7.30-9.00pm	St Cyriac's