



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIX Number 12

December 2025



Editorial

Read all about the Little Picklers (that's Litter Pickers, but littler than usual) in this issue. The children at the School — (actually, the Butterfly Class) have got fed-up with all the litter we adults are flinging all over the place and have started a campaign to put a stop to it — see page 8. I must say I considerably agree with them, and what I particularly resent are the plastic bottles people are always leaving on the picnic area on White Fen. But I am not guiltless myself. No, I did the worst thing. I forgot the doggy bag—yuck, shame on me! But do you know, when I went back to next day, I found someone had removed and disposed of it — that someone, if you are reading this, thank you so much and I'm sorry, I won't ever do it again.

More news, or rather no news of note about the local government organisation—the ruling faction at ECDC have predictably voted to go in with Peterborough (the “honest” choice they told us about last month) and so is that bye-bye Addenbrookes, Cambridge Schools and goodness know what else for us? Peterborough here we come. Thank you ECDC, and you can read all about it in Our Reporter.

The Arts and Crafts exhibition at the Village Hall was really super as so was the Christmas Market and the Ceilidh so we hear. And we loved Advent by Candlelight this year, more in next month's issue — copy date is Dec 31 for this, and we should be on the streets about a week into January.

See you Carolling, Christlingling and don't forget to watch the Boxing Day Hockey and the Reach Riders go by on Sunday 28th.

Wishing All our Reader a Very Happy Christmas,
from Caroline & James Matheson
and all at the Crier Team

Cover Picture: *Lanterns*, needlefelting by **Annie Brown**

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

QUIZ NIGHT

We would like to thank everybody who came to the village quiz in October, it was certainly well attended.

Congratulations to Quizzimodo who were the winners and to The Hopefuls and Densa who came joint second. Our thanks go to Andrew who, once again was our quiz master and also compiled a great music round. Pip and Maz did a great job selling raffle tickets, thank you. To those of you who contributed to the raffle prizes, we thank you too. Another big thank you goes to the ladies in the kitchen and helped serve the food, they were, Mandy Kingsmill, Janet Wilmott, Dee Noyes and Brenda Wilson. We really do appreciate everyone's help.

We raised £558 for St. Mary's Church, well done to you all. Here are the dates for your diaries for our two quizzes next year, 18th April and the 17th October, hope to see you there.

Lynne and Jenny





Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Christmas Carol Singing

With Village Band

10th December 6:30 – 8:30

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

All Are Welcome



This Month's Cover Picture

Annie & her husband keep a flock of sheep at Fordham and the felt for her artwork is made by Annie from their fleeces. Their sheep are grazed locally, often in the fields above Swaffham Prior and in those near to the Devils Dyke.

Annie's work is inspired by local landscapes and, in her own words, our December cover 'offers a moment of tranquility in our busy lives'.

You can see more of her work at her studio at Haddenham Arts Centre and if you want to try your hand at needle felting (as I did this summer), she runs very enjoyable day or half day workshops in the area .

Instagram : annie_brown_felting

www.anniebrownneedlefelting.co.uk

Celia Tyler



Christmas Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sunday 14 December

10.30am Christingle Family Worship, Swaffham Prior
3pm Carol & Crib Service, Quay

Thursday 18 December

3pm Carol Service, Lode

Friday 19 December

10am Nativity and Crib Service, Lode

Sunday 21 December

4.30pm Carol Service, Swaffham Prior
6.30pm Carol Service, Bottisham
Carol Service, Swaffham Bulbeck

Wednesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

6.30pm Holy Communion, Bottisham
11.30pm Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Thursday 25 December - Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion, Quay
10am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

From our Reporter

There's a good feeling at PC meetings these days, members even joined others in the village in saying that they had enjoyed last month's *Crier* Report by Keith Carter. His closing observation was a deserved tribute to the PC: that the Prime Minister's recent attempt to define British Values would have been better if he had simply pointed to our PC, and thousands like it across the country, who voluntarily come out on a Thursday evening and spend time trying incrementally to make life in their parishes a little better for their neighbours. Perhaps this mention of the Prime Minister prompted the Chair's pre-meeting joke about the new Kia model, the Starmer, and its deficiencies.



The PC also have the motivation of lastingly important things to discuss at the moment, many of which are ongoing issues with ongoing actions, and on which they all broadly agree: local government reorganisation; solar farms along with their unwelcome infrastructure of batteries and pylons; and nominating the Red Lion for Asset of Community Value status to help to protect against the risk of it being sold off to become a house now that we're down to our last pub out of a peak of over 10.

The Government's local government reorganisation came up first, introduced by John Trapp, the only local government member present this time; Jannifer Malinowski being ill and Charlotte Cane occupied with her other, and maybe even more important, role as our MP. For ECDC there are two main options for this reorganisation in which the County Council and five District Councils in the county are to become two "unitary authorities", one centred on Cambridge and the other on Peterborough which is itself already a unitary authority but two small on its own for the new scheme. The active issue for us in ECDC is over whether ECDC should join with Cambridge (option A) or Peterborough (option B) though two other options, D and E, are still potentially in play; Option C apparently having been ruled out by government rules.

Option A



Option B



One might imagine that the word local would make it an easy decision, we're a lot closer to Cambridge than we are to Peterborough, and this is certainly an important part of view that a lot of locals, including our PC, take. Unfortunately the ruling group on ECDC favour Option B and have said so in ECDC's official response to the consultation, described by John as disingenuous for obscuring the fact that this is by no means a unanimously held view on ECDC and might not even be the majority one had elections been held more recently than 2023 which, as someone commented, seems like a long time ago. The local County and District Councillors (see Yannifer's report p30) have drafted a letter to the Secretary of State for Housing,

Communities and Rural Affairs putting a very powerful case for Option A and this has been signed by the 5 of them (including Charlotte, John and Yannifer) plus 16 of the 18 Parish Councils round here including ours. It was noted that the County Council itself favours Option A.

The general view on the PC very reasonably seems to be that Option A may not be perfect but it is a great deal better for us than Option B. Those with the longest memories mentioned the last major local government reorganisation in the 1970s which had created Humberside County Council (since abolished) and, more locally, the wiggly border around Newmarket as an example of the way these things may need revision at a later date so the aim should be to get it as right as is practically possible now.

The proposed solar farms present an equally important long-term issue because of their impact on the landscape and there is opposition from the PC on this basis. This, one way or another, has been on the agenda for a number of recent meetings, this time it's in the form of an amendment to a planning application for land south of Partridge Hall Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck. It's hard as an occasional reporter to keep track of all the active applications and the implication of each for the village, particularly in terms of the pylons or underground cables needed to connect to the Burwell sub-station. The Devil's Dyke may be helpful in the argument against pylons but routing cables under it would be a challenge so it may be a double edged sword. The argument may not be conclusive and in ruling out one route, others less favourable on other grounds may become more likely. Because of the safety aspects, the siting of battery equipment may be the most easily winnable and has been raised by our MP nationally. The point raised in the previous meeting about construction traffic adding to existing farm traffic on our Heath Road has resulted in some unhappy feedback from local farmers who feel that they are victims of this problem not aspects of it.

Nominating the Red Lion for Asset of Community Value status was expected to be straightforward especially as this had been achieved 5 years ago but renewal is now needed. Again the PC is united in its support, in many cases with perfectly proper self-interest a factor! Someone wondered, maybe jokingly, how much Batemans would mind it not keeping this status but the problems are bureaucratic, not objections by anyone. First there was the need to send recent minutes of the PC to demonstrate support, then a map in case the pub had moved since the last application, and then another minute as the PC membership had changed, and then something else. It's enough to make anyone give up the will, maybe that's the point?

Near the end of the meeting and following on from an item about litter from the travellers' camp on Black Drove, there was an item "To receive letters from Butterflies Class, Swaffham Prior School about litter in the village and decide a response". The PC's response was overwhelmingly positive both for the content and for the younger generation showing an interest in the PC and the running of the village. Given that national politics seems to be failing to engage the young, it's all the more to the good that they do feel engaged at a local level. Among the agreed actions were to put them in touch with Janet Wilmott and the Litter Pick project,

publish some of their litter awareness posters around the village, and publish the letters and posters in the Crier (something we are very happy to be able to do – see pps 8-9).

As usual the meeting concluded with comments from the members of the public present and, also as usual, some interesting ideas came up: bringing back Beating the Bounds to keep an eye on what's going on, e.g. at Black Drove; and producing a map of all the droves (who could name them all and where they are – perhaps something for the next village quiz?).

James Matheson

Boxing Day Hockey Match

SWAFFHAM PRIOR

VS

SWAFFHAM BULBECK

**The Denny,
Swaffham Bulbeck**

**Friday 26 December
10.45 am (10.30 am players)**



**COME AND SUPPORT
SWAFFHAM PRIOR!!**

All proceeds to MAGPAS

Contact **Dylan Wade-Gledhill** if
you would like to play in the
winning team! 07876 658881
dylanwg2025@outlook.com)

New players especially welcome

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOTTISHAM



© Richard E. Flegg

COFFEE & CAKE CONCERT SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 10.30am

Stuart Field (raconteur and violin),
Sarah Maxwell (Soprano), Richard Ayres (Organ)

The History of our Christmas Carols

Come along and sing your favourite Christmas Carols



Suggested donation £5 (children free)
including coffee & cake towards
church heating & building funds.



ALL ARE WELCOME

Donations!

Many thanks to the Prior Arts Group for their very generous donation to the
Crier this month.



Butterflies Class Take Action

The following couple of pages contain a selection of the letters and draft posters sent by Butterflies Class to the Parish Council (see PC Report). It's great both that the children are taking an interest like this in the village and for the *Crier* to get input from them.

Dear Parish council,

I am Hannah and I am in year 5 in Swaffham prior school. In our geography lessons we are learning about councils and what they do. We have learnt that all councils look after certain parts of the country.

For part of our learning, we conducted a study and went out in the village to pick up litter and we noticed a problem with the trash. Evidence is that when we went around the village we found 92 pieces of trash just from the school gates to the start of cage hill! Just imagine how much litter there is in the village.

We do understand that there are bins around the village but this does not mean everyone will use them. So we will be making posters to put around the village to try to encourage people to stop littering.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours Sincerely,
butterflies class
Swaffham prior

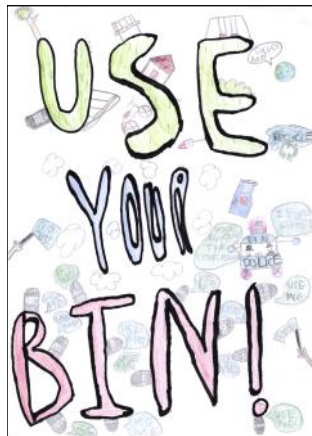
Dear Parish Council,

My name is Charles and at my school Swaffham Prior primary school we have been learning about you in geography. We know that you are responsible for the bins and the parks and other stuff.

We decided to go on a walk and found out there was a lot of litter on the paths. We found 92 pieces of litter just from school to the bottom of litter ragahill.

This is an issue because animals like birds might eat it and chickens also it might encourage people to litter. So we made some eye catching posters to stop people littering. Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours sincerely,
Swaffham prior school



Dear Parish Councillors,

My name is Iona and I am in Year 5 at Swaffham Prior Primary school. In geography, we have been learning all about the Parish Council and what they do, like making important decisions about parks, roads and bins.

As part of our learning, we conducted a local study of our village. We have noticed an arising problem of litter. Our class went on a litter pick from our school gates to the bottom of Cage Hill. On that route, we found 92 pieces of litter, despite there being 4 bins, which is a danger to the environment, wildlife and is unpleasant to look at.

We have thought of some ways to prevent this problem and some are listed here.

- Posters
- An organised litter pick
- An entry into the Swaffham Prior Crier about littering.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Yours sincerely,
A concerned Member of Swaffham Prior



Dear parish council,

My name is Holly I am a year five at Swaffham prior primary school. In our geography lessons we are learning about our local council and government and how to look after our village. You help our village by making important decisions about our parks, bins and events. The council is different from the government because you focus on our area and don't make laws for the whole country.

As a part of our lesson, we conducted a study and went out into the village and did some litter-picking and noticed there is a problem with litter. Last Monday we went out from our school gate to the bottom of cage hill. And we found 92 pieces of litter. That's not good. This is an issue because it's not good for the planet and plastic takes up to 500 million years to decompose, gully.

We all understand there are over 5 bins in the village but people don't use them as often as we think. So that's why we are making some eye catching posters and put them around the village. Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours Sincerely
year 5 class
Swaffham prior primary school.

Dear Parish Council,

I am Lacey, a concerned Year 6 pupil from Swaffham Prior Primary School. This is a letter to discuss the issue of litter. Firstly, I will explain our Geography unit. We have been learning about the local council and the National Government. Also, we have begun to understand your job as the Parish Council.

Our class has been concerned about the amount of litter in the Village. Despite there being 4 bins, we still found 92 pieces of litter just from our school gates to Cage Hill. Some pieces were even near a bin. This is an issue because many wildlife could get trapped in it or digest unhealthy products. This is a massive problem because wildlife is just as important as us so we need to act fast.

We have carefully considered some ideas so please read the following:

We could:

- Start organising village litter picks.
- Put the issue in the Swaffham Prior Crier.
- Put up eye catching posters to create awareness.

Thank you very much for reading this.

Yours sincerely, Lacey.

Julie's Turkey Recipes



Maple-glazed Garlic & Parsley Turkey Roulade

1 boneless skin on turkey breast
(about 1.7 -2kg)
2 tbsp melted butter
1 tbsp maple syrup

For the stuffing

3 tbsp butter
1 large onion, finely chopped
4 garlic cloves, crushed
100g crustless white bread crumbs
Large bunch of flat-leaf parsley

First make the stuffing, melt the butter and saute the onions and then the garlic for a couple of minutes. Put the bread into a food processor, add the parsley and plenty of seasoning and blitz well. Then add the onion and garlic and blitz again, the ingredients will come together to form a paste. Set aside and put it in the fridge.

Lay the turkey skin side down and spatchcock it being careful not to cut all the way through. Open it apart like a book, cover with a sheet of baking parchment and gently bash it out to a thickness of 2cm. Remove the parchment, season and spread the stuffing over the turkey. Roll the turkey into a tight log and tie at the ends with kitchen string to hold it together.

Heat the oven to 210c. Put the turkey roulade seam-side down in a shallow roasting dish. Brush with melted butter and season. Roast for 40 minutes until the skin has crisped up. Then brush with maple syrup and roast for a further 30-40 minutes more, basting with the juices. Cook until the middle of the roulade reaches 70c on a digital thermometer. Leave to rest for 10 minutes before carving. Use the juices to make a gravy in the tin to serve alongside the turkey.

Serves 8

Roast Potato, Turkey, Sausage & Stuffing Pie

1 tbsp olive oil
Knob of butter
1 large onion, halved and sliced
6 sausages or 8 chipolatas
2 tsp English mustard powder
50g plain flour
1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
150ml white wine
500ml chicken stock or leftover gravy

6 stuffing balls, leftover or shop bought
300g left over turkey, shredded
1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
100g creme fraiche
Small bunch of parsley, chopped
800g left over roast potatoes
20g mature cheddar, grated

1.Heat the oil and butter in a large, shallow ovenproof dish, add the onion and cook until soft. Add the sausages and cook until brown, unless they are leftover sausages.

2. Remove both from dish, with the remaining oil and butter in the dish, stir in the mustard powder, flour, and stock cube and cook for 2 minutes stirring well and then add the wine. Bubble for a minute and then add the stock and heat for a further 5 minutes to blend into a smooth sauce.

3. Heat the oven 200c. Cut the sausages and stuffing into bite sized chunks, add the turkey, mustard, crème fraiche and chopped parsley to the sauce. When bubbling remove from the heat. Then scatter crumbled roast potatoes over the top, followed by the cheese. Bake in oven for 40 mins until the potatoes are crisp and the filling is bubbling around the edges.

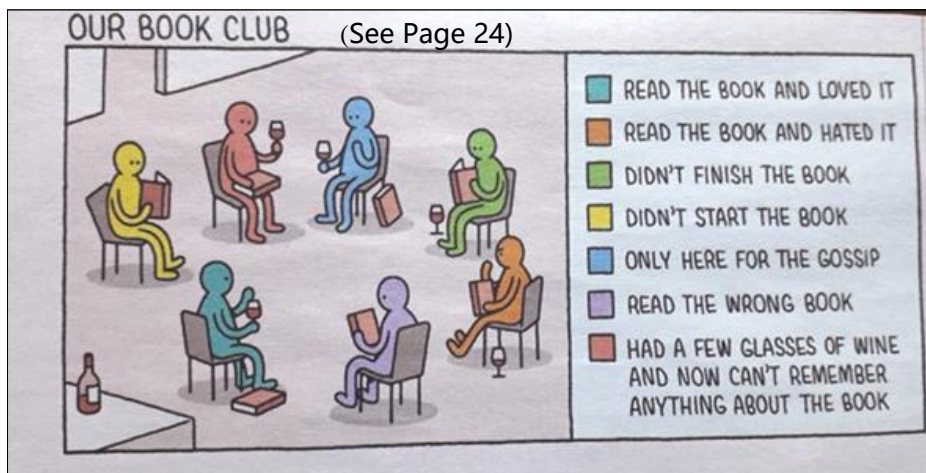
Serves 6



BON MOT NUMBER 165

**“Where art thou, Mother Christmas?
I only wish I knew
Why father should get all the praise
And no-one mention you.”**

Roald Dahl (1916– 1990)



POEM OF THE MONTH

The Hawk in the Rain

I drown in the drumming ploughland, I drag up
Heel after heel from the swallowing of the earth's mouth,
From clay that clutches my each step to the ankle
With the habit of the dogged grave, but the hawk

Effortlessly at height hangs his still eye.
His wings hold all creation in a weightless quiet,
Steady as a hallucination in the streaming air.
While banging wind kills these stubborn hedges,

Thumbs my eyes, throws my breath, tackles my heart,
And rain hacks my head to the bone, the hawk hangs
The diamond point of will that polestars
The sea drowner's endurance: and I,

Bloodily grabbed dazed last-moment-counting
Morsel in the earth's mouth, strain towards the master-
Fulcrum of violence where the hawk hangs still,
That maybe in his own time meets the weather

Coming from the wrong way, suffers the air, hurled upside
down,
Fall from his eye, the ponderous shires crash on him,
The horizon traps him; the round angelic eye
Smashed, mix his heart's blood with the mire of the land.

Ted Hughes

There is a kestrel that hunts the verges of the B1102 between here and Burwell. I saw him yesterday as I leaned into an icy northerly on the ridge above Rogers Road and slithered on the mud dragged onto the road by farm vehicles. He is clearly the area's apex predator and I was completely beneath his notice – too large to be prey; too earth-bound to be a threat.

A very different take on the bird from Hopkins' *The Windhover*, Hughes' poem is a masterpiece of the fusion of form and meaning. We cannot utter *heel after heel* without an effortful exhalation of breath; *clay*, *clutches* and *ankle* share a sound with cloying and gluey, and make us feel the weight of the soil. In contrast to the floundering speaker, the hawk is so still it is almost as if he is the fixed point from which the world hangs. *Steady as a hallucination in the streaming air* is a line of sheer virtuosity: a series of syllables of completely equal weight with no contrasting stresses to suggest movement (compare it with the three lines which follow).

So single-minded and solipsistic is the hawk's world view that Hughes suggests that from the hawk's perspective, were he to fall to earth, it would be the earth falling on him. There is more than a hint of vengeful vindictiveness in the struggling speaker's imagining of the scenario.

Andrew Grant

Swaffham Prior Bells

November was an amazing month for the ringers at Prior. We kicked off with a fabulous tower outing in Suffolk visiting All Saints in Laxfield, St Mary's in Dennington, St Michael's in Framlingham and finishing at St Peter and St Mary's in Stowmarket. The bells were varied and certainly tested us, the oldest one of the day being at Dennington and dated at 1416! We had time for a quick walk round the Castle Moat at Framlingham and were treated to the most delicious tea to finish off the day. All in all very enjoyable.

For the Remembrance Day Service the bells were half muffled. Leather pads were fitted to one side of the clapper which produces an echoing mournful sound. At 11.00am, in the absence of a trumpeter for the Service, the heavy tenor bell was tolled very slowly on its own. From inside the church a sombre and melancholy ring could be heard, appropriate to the occasion.

Mandy rang a superb quarter peal, her second, which takes her to Level 3, John also rang a quarter peal with local and visiting ringers from Cambridge and Leeds and Jim and Lynn received their certificates on joining the Ely Diocesan Association, giving us much to celebrate.

Janet Willmott and Mandy Kingsmill
email: swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com



Happy ringers at the Suffolk outing



Jim and Lynn receiving their certificates from Lesley Boyle, District Ringing Master



Crossword Number 233

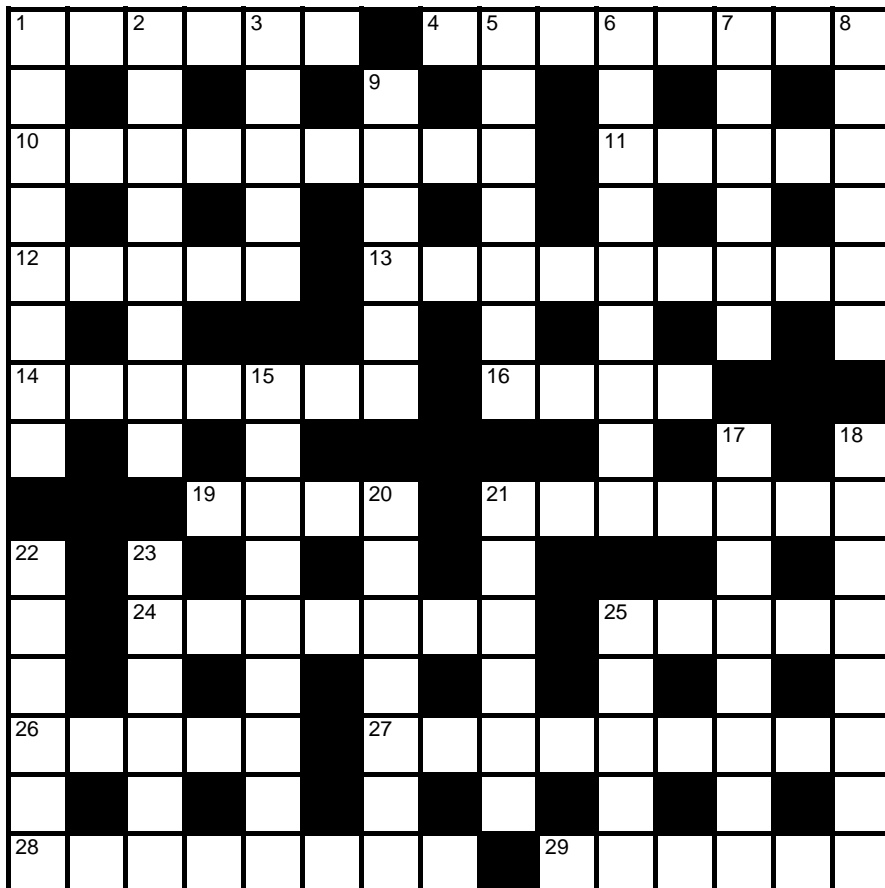
Sponsored by **The Red Lion**



Compiled by

BYWELL

Clues with '*' contain no definition; their answers are funny. Send your answers to the editors by 31st December 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

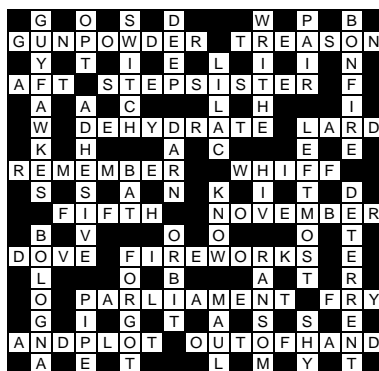
- 1 * Mancunian icon has almost nothing on (6)
- 4 Sloppy-kiss covered Valentine's at Aintree's Winter Events (3-5)
- 10 Scramble to ice crag, with no reservations (9)
- 11 * Outskirts of Derry (5)
- 12 Singer Madeleine - no longer mine (5)
- 13 For catching wayward spendthrift not using HP (5,4)
- 14 Passes two letters to a policeman (7)
- 16 * Every third negative reply (4)
- 19 Bilbao Athletic keep their promise (4)
- 21 Piece of wood, stranded by risen water, creates boating disturbance (3,4)
- 24 For narcotics some octopi ate seaweed (7)
- 25 * Live in the centre of Hanoi (5)
- 26 More than enough beer to drown Nigel Farage, for example (5)
- 27 From some mountains, a heap of wood, not Scottish and not finished (9)
- 28 Mocking joy riders losing their leader in a crash (8)
- 29 Fever as team leader confuses pushy follower (6)

Down

- 1 White sauce has got to cover hot lasagne initially (8)
- 2 Firmly fix heartless and mixed-up enchanter (8)
- 3 * Augustus's standard is a little under Augustus's standard (5)
- 5 Lively potassium sprinkled onto cake topping (7)

- 6 Judy, although half-cut, powers the boat as a competitive manoeuvre (4,5)
- 7 Fashion in which gentleman gets hold of a lady (6)
- 8 Most knavish knavish styles (6)
- 9 Helter-skelter debris for the honeymooners (6)
- 15 Those inspecting cutback at the coal face perhaps (9)
- 17 He worked with Tarzan to build a historic town (8)
- 18 Relates experiences on nobility (8)
- 20 * Edition of Proust found under his head (7)
- 21 Orbits around the Ritz perhaps (6)
- 22 * Central London to South Africa by road (6)
- 23 * Prototype toy withdrawn and redesigned (6)
- 25 * Contained in rhubarb, untypically (5)

Solution to crossword no. 232



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

Swaffham Prior Heat Network — December'25 Update

Construction & Connections Update

As we head into winter, the Swaffham Prior Heat Network continues to grow steadily. We now have around 104 properties connected to the scheme, with more homes lined up for the next batch of connections. Thank you to everyone who has already joined – every new household strengthens the long-term future of the network.

External works for a small batch of ten properties have already begun from Tothill Road. If you have not yet received an external works schedule for your property, the team will be in touch once we have approval from Traffic Management to begin works on your section of road in the village.

To minimise disruption during the coldest months, internal works (inside people's homes) are being planned for after winter. This approach is based on what we learned in the last couple of years: it is far less stressful for residents, and better for contractors, to carry out boiler changeovers, pipework and HIU installations once the cold weather has passed.

Heat Tariff Update – from 1 January 2026

From 1 January 2026, new heat tariffs will apply for connected customers.

The heat usage rate is being reduced from:

8.12 + 5% VAT to 7.24 + 5% VAT

The standing charges will be:

Band 1 (50–99 m²): £316 + 5% VAT

Band 2 (100–149 m²): £392 + 5% VAT

Band 3 (150–199 m²): £474 + 5% VAT

Band 4 (>199 m²): £558 + 5% VAT

A Heat Tariff Update letter will be circulated to all connected customers, explaining in detail how the new charges are calculated.

Feedback Required

We'd love to hear your feedback about your heating and hot water experience. You can share your feedback using the QR code.



Thinking About Joining? Now Is a Good Time

If you are not yet connected but are starting to think about next winter's heating, now is a good moment to get in touch. Planning the next batch of properties happens several months in advance, so:

The earlier you register your interest; the sooner we can survey your property and include you in a future tranche.

Joining the network means no more oil deliveries, no flue or fuel-storage worries, and a move away from fossil fuels.

You are supporting a local, community-based heat network designed to provide stable, long-term, low-carbon heat for the village.

Even if you are not ready to commit straight away, an initial conversation or survey can help you understand what would be involved, how the internal works

would look in your home, and what your likely running costs might.

If you prefer a conversation, we can meet at the Village Hall, at your home, or via video call.

Get in Touch or Register Your Interest

To be considered for next year's connection batch, please submit the Expression of Interest form using the QR code .



For Questions, issues, or Open House sign-up, please contact.

Email: heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Customer Service (General Queries) : **0345 0455210**
24/7 Helpline for connected customers: **01782 390777**

Stories and Smiles

Our Swaffham Prior term-time toddler group for under 5's and their carers.

Mrs Rowley, (Nursery Teacher) and Charlotte (local childminder), would love to welcome you and children in your care to be a part of our community group. Pop by for stories, crafts, play and social time at Swaffham Prior school. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, nanny, childminder, foster carer or any one who cares for a child on a Thursday, we would love to see you there!

Session Dates:

13th November, 20th November, 27th November,
4th December, 11th December, 18th December



Are you looking for a local allotment?

Fancy living the good life growing local and living off your home grown produce or flowers?

The National Trust have some allotments in the village of Lode with plots currently available. One recently vacated plot is in particularly good condition and ready for planting.



If you are interested please contact our Estate Management Officer, Claire Taylor-Balls: Claire.taylor-balls@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information.

Wicken Fen, Dec 2025

Winter is here, a magical time on Wicken Fen. Hedgerow fruits and berries have been food for thrushes, while the wetland hosts hundreds of ducks, geese, swans and wading birds. Sometimes, murmurations of thousands of starlings swirl above the reedbed before dusk. And sparkly, silver dawns are a beauty to behold. So why not wrap up warm and head for a walk on the Fen?

Once you've blown the cobwebs away, head to our café for a warm drink, soup, scone or sweet treat. Throughout winter, the Docky Hut Café is open 10-4pm everyday and the visitor centre and gift shop are open 10-4.30pm everyday. Don't forget that we're interested in your pre-loved jigsaw puzzles and books for our second hand 'book nook' in the visitor centre.

As always, we will have themed activities at the Family Discovery Area in the visitor centre and there will be special trails around the boardwalk during the Christmas/New Year and February Half Term school holiday periods. Check the events page on our website for event details, which will be announced in due course.

For the latest reserve news, visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

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

Ajay Tegala



Wicken Fen by Mike Selby

Celebrate Christmas at Anglesey Abbey

The house will be richly decorated for all to enjoy and the wider estate offers walks around the sensory Winter Garden, festive shopping, tasty treats and wintry adventures in the woodland play area.

The Snowman™ trail



Come and see if you can spot all 12 Wild in Art sculptures around the gardens, each festively painted with designs from the carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas. From now until 4 January 2026, pick up a trail map in the visitor centre and enjoy a magical, wintry day out with friends and family.

We're likely to be very busy at weekends. If you can, we recommend

visiting us during the week for a quieter Snowman experience. We look forward to welcoming you!

Christmas in the house



The Jacobean-style country house at Anglesey Abbey is beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, with festive displays highlighting Lord Fairhaven's vast and significant collection. Step inside to discover a treasure-trove of history and spot the miniature Snowman toys hidden among the Christmas decorations.

You can also meet Father Christmas in the house – there are just a few spaces

left. For more information and to book, please visit the Anglesey Abbey website.

Snowdrops

From mid-January to February, the gardens will be full of beautiful snowdrops. The snowdrop collection at Anglesey Abbey boasts over 500 varieties of these delicate white flowers and you can join a specialist tour to learn more about them. Please head to the Anglesey Abbey website to book your ticket.

We will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and open again on Boxing Day. From all of us at Anglesey Abbey, we wish you a very merry Christmas!

Issy Vetoshkina

nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey

Photo credit: © National Trust / Mike Selby

The Swaffhams' WI – November Report

I woke up this morning to a sprinkling of frost on the ground, a beautiful sunrise and the sense of Christmas in the air. The perfect feeling after a creative evening of silk painting at the



Swaffhams' WI meeting in November. Ali Rancine, an art teacher, joined us to demonstrate the beauty of the art of silk painting. Ali described how to block print on silk and how to paint silk using the batik method. Stunning!

As we had a limited amount of time, Ali had prepared silk squares for us with a gold outline of the design, which enabled us to choose and blend our colours without the paint running over the lines of the design. It was incredibly impressive and very therapeutic – the concentration in the room was palpable. The card frames for our silk paintings were designed so that if you put a little battery tealight behind them, the gorgeous colours on the silk shines through.

Many thanks to Ali for preparing a stunning evening for us, allowing us to be creative and have some fun at the same time. It was lovely to have a visitor join us for the silk painting too and so do please come along to one of our meetings to see what we do.

Our next meeting of the Swaffhams' WI is on 8th December and this will be our Christmas party. The fabulous programme for next year has now been finalised and we will publish it in January. However, make a note that our first meeting will be on **19th January** where **Master Miller, Jonathan Cook from The Prior's Flour @Fosters Mill, Swaffham Prior** will be talking to us. Definitely a meeting to come along to and join our friendly group to see what we are about.

Kate Muscroft (katemuscroft@gmail.com)





A TO B 1102



A to B1102 Update December 2025

As we conclude the year 2025, the A to B1102 Group launches what we plan will be a regular update shared across the Parish Magazines of the communities that we represent.

Newmarket Road Travel Hub Consultation

Following meetings to hear feedback from all our Parish Councillors on the Greater Cambridge Partnership's (GCP) proposals for a new Travel Hub, the Group collated the feedback to help Parish Councils make their own responses to the Consultation and wrote a feedback report which was submitted to the GCP. We continue to believe that this new site alone will not address the travel and congestion issues commuters face travelling daily into Cambridge; indeed we are concerned that the proposed Hub will make the traffic situation worse. Key concerns include the site not being large enough to cope with the likely increase in Park & Ride demand given the planned increases in the number of homes in its catchment area, difficulties for buses accessing the hub to make the proposed interchange work effectively, a lack of suitable infrastructure for sustainable travel and switching mode of transport (car to bike / bus etc..) and no bus lane from the A14 inbound to enable buses to avoid the daily queues of vehicles entering the City. Our report is available at www.atob1102.org/gcp-newmarket-road-travel-hub-consultation-response/

T4 & T5 Buses

The Group continues to lobby the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) for further improvements to the T4 and T5 bus service to improve reliability and passengers' confidence to interchange between the services. We are pleased to report that A2B Group are taking proactive steps to improve the reliability of the 6.45am service from Soham by setting up a bus depot in the Ely area, currently the bus has to travel from Royston each morning and A14 roadworks and other problems have impacted service reliability as a result. Our Facebook Group enables us to collate ongoing passenger feedback and share it with the operators.

Real Time Passenger Information (RPTI) on the T4 & T5 routes

We are also pleased to announce that following engagement with the CPCA and our Parish Councils, the CPCA has agreed to fund and **install** 12 RPTI units at locations along the T4 and T5 routes to provide up-to-the-minute information on bus services. Our Parish Councils were each encouraged to consider exploring funding for additional units so that more bus stops can be equipped with units, but at this time, for various reasons, declined to progress this option. The units will be installed over the coming months in the 12 agreed locations by the CPCA's contractor.

Happy Christmas!

Our thanks to all of our residents who have engaged and supported the work of the Group over the last year. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

About the A to B1102 Group

The A to B1102 Group exists to raise awareness of the transport changes affecting our area, to help residents stay informed, and to ensure that local voices are heard in decisions about future infrastructure. As a voluntary, non-political group with no commercial interests, we work alongside our parish councils to support their efforts, share information, and represent the villages of Fordham, Burwell, Swaffham Prior, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck, Commercial End, Longmeadow, Lode, Bottisham, Stow-cum-Quy, Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham. Find out more about the group's work at www.atob1102.org

Jonathan Cook, Chairman

REACH RIDERS GROUP FESTIVE RIDE



Sunday 28th December 2025

Horses and riders will be walking down

Swaffham Prior High Street about 11.45am

Do wave if you would like to see them pass by



Reach Riders Group



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardeners met in November to hear Nigel Start give a talk on 'The Pleasures and Perils of Poisonous Plants in Your Garden' which was appropriately subtitled 'or why you should always wash your hands after gardening'. Nigel began by describing his background which, in addition to a long spell at the Plant Breeding Institute in Cambridge, included work as a garden restorer. He once had a client who hadn't gone out of the backdoor of their house for so many years that the garden had become an impenetrable jungle. By the end of Nigel's talk about the dangerous plants that we might encounter, it was quite understandable why gardens might be neglected!

Plant survival relies on fighting off predators and for some plants, production of poisons (toxins) is a deterrent to being eaten. Early human civilisations recognised the potential medical use of these plants; Cleopatra, ancient Queen of Egypt, was known to test poisons on slaves, not always with a favourable outcome. Digitalis from Foxgloves and opium from Poppies were some of the earliest plant-derived drugs.

Many common garden plants contain toxins and when pruned their sap can irritate unprotected skin. Sap from Euphorbia plants is a well-known irritant, but we were surprised to hear that gloves should be worn also when pruning Wisteria, Fig and Leylandii trees, as well as for cutting flower stems of Japanese Anemones and Aquilegia. Generally, adverse skin reactions are relatively minor, whereas eating certain plants can be fatal. Whilst people are more careful in their food choices, our pets can be at risk.

The hedgerow plant Hemlock, which looks like a large cow parsley, contains a highly poisonous neurotoxin which is lethal to both humans and animals such as horses. In similarity to Ragwort, its toxicity remains even when dried in meadow hay. Eating the seeds from the pods of the yellow flowering Laburnum tree can kill a person or animal, and eating wild cherry tree seeds can be fatal to dogs. We were also warned not to eat certain raw fruits and vegetables. For example, green potatoes and green tomatoes contain solanine which causes gastrointestinal disorders, and raw beans such as runner beans have high levels of lectins which can affect digestion, but are made safe by cooking.

Bryony, ivy, mistletoe, the bulbs of spring flowers; the danger list went on. Finally we heard the sad story of a man who pruned an evergreen Laurel hedge and left the bagged clippings overnight in his car to take to the tip the next day. The next morning he was fatally overcome by the lethal cyanide gas that had been released by the cut leaves. It was a cautionary tale which certainly taught us not to be complacent when handling plants.

The Village Gardeners will be taking a winter break during December and January, and will meet again on February 17th 2026. In the meantime we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fiona Geraghty

The Reading Group Reads...

LONG ISLAND by COLM TOIBIN.

Colm Toibin apparently doesn't like sequels, but here is one after 15 years to BROOKLYN. The main protagonist is Eilis, who then was 25 and now 40, living on Long Island, seemingly happy with her Italian, plumber husband (she was engaged to him in BROOKLYN), and her two teenagers. All the Fiorellos live in what feels like to Eilis, a pretty claustrophobic cul de sac, where everyone knows what everyone else in the family is doing. She is the only non Italian, and her difference to her other two daughters- in- law, is appreciated by her mother- in- law. They have a close relationship.

But within a few pages we learn that life for all of them is going to change quite dramatically. Tony has fathered a child and the husband of this woman arrives and tells Eilis, that the baby, when it's born, will be left on her doorstep. No idle threat.

Over the next few months, the family come to terms and digest this new information. The only clear and unequivocal statement coming from Eilis, is that she'll never have this child in her house. No one screams and shouts, no real emotions expressed; Tony is teased but never castigated and the family make secret plans for this baby. It will be adopted by the in- laws. There is a lot of knowing and not knowing for Eilis, who, because of her decision, is totally excluded and only finds out about the plans because her children tell her.

This is of course a totally impossible situation for her and she decides to go back to Ireland to see her Mother for her 80th birthday. No one really knows, least of all Eilis, whether or not she will return. Her children will follow for a holiday. Only one of Tony's brothers, a wealthy lawyer in Manhattan, has acknowledged the complexity of the situation and pays for her air fare and hire car.

Nothing much has changed in her home town of Enniscorthy, (the home town of the author too), and she renews relationships with friends from her childhood. Three important characters emerge- her mother, who's deliciously cantankerous and who feels pretty neglected by her daughter. They struggle to understand each other. Jim, who'd been her lover 15 years before, but whom she'd left with no explanation and returned to her fiancée Tony in New York and Nancy, an old friend, who'd been happily married for years, but is now widowed.

Jim, good old Jim is quiet, decent, stable (and possibly boring), is now in an absolutely secret relationship with Nancy. No one seems to have any idea about what's going on. They are clearly very fond of each other and want to get married, but never tell each other this—no decisions and discussions are ever made about important things. Maybe, one day it might happen. Eilis then of course meets Jim and they fall for each other again. In true form, Jim doesn't get round to telling Eilis about Nancy and the reader is left with the impression that he's not deliberately withhold-



ing information, but never, as with most things, quite gets round to telling it her. Nancy finally finds them together, but she is NOT giving up Jim and finding an old ring, informs the whole community that she's engaged to him.

It really is from now on—watch this space. Who should go, who should stay (the baby has arrived and is clearly loved by all the Fiorellos). Jim is trapped between two women who love him, but he is just going to wait and see—well so it would seem. Another pretty ambiguous ending.

A book about deep sadness, lovely Irish humour and about things not said. Most of us I think hoped for another sequel when all would be revealed!

In January we'll be having our annual review of books read in 2025.

MJ

Red2Green

Red2Green is a registered charity celebrating 25 years of supporting and promoting adults 16+ with autism and learning disabilities. We are based across 2 sites in Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham; 2 converted barns (Harvey's and Granary) in Park End and our Community Garden on the Bottisham Village College site. We support 90 service-users, 5 days/week, 50 weeks/year.

What have we been up to?

We've had another wonderfully busy month here at Red2Green, filled with spooky Halloween and festive Christmas fun, creative activities and several enriching community outings. The atmosphere has been buzzing with energy and it's been fantastic to see everyone getting involved.

Our CEO, Liz Taylor, was also out and about this month, delivering insightful talks to both Milton WI and the Burwell WI Gardening Club. She shared more about the work we do at Red2Green and highlighted the powerful role gardening can play for individuals with autism and learning disabilities.

We're also thrilled to share some exciting news: Red2Green is now an official Charity Partner of the Minster Tavern in Ely! This new partnership opens the door to a series of fun and community-boosting events. We've already kicked things off with a brilliant Bingo night, our very first one raised almost £400! And the best part is... there's plenty more to come. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming dates and join us as we continue building connections and raising vital support.

Ways you can get involved:

There are lots of ways you can help support Red2Green:

Volunteering opportunities

Start a fundraiser in aid of Red2Green

Visit our Community Garden in Bottisham and buy some plants (Mon-Fri, 9:30-4)

One-off or monthly donations

Sign up to our monthly newsletter

Follow our social media pages and keep up to date with all things Red2Green

For more information about the wonderful work we do at Red2Green, please visit our website red2green.org or if you want to get in touch, feel free to email us at info@red2green.org or call us on 01223811662.



Anglesey Group Mothers' Union Branch meeting on 16th October

Our Autumn Social and Bring and Buy sale took place at our October meeting. After our usual short service, we had great fun playing Bingo with kit-kats for prizes and enjoyed choosing bargains from our sale table. £40 was raised towards our branch funds which enables us to pay for the hire of the Fassage Hall each month for our meetings. The afternoon finished with refreshments and time to enjoy many conversations!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th December at 2.30pm at the Fassage Hall, Lode, where we shall enjoy some Christmas festivities, including making a Christmas tree decoration and sharing some seasonal treats with our refreshments.

All are welcome to join us.

Alison Martin

BOTTISHAM & BURWELL PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Our meetings continued through the autumn months and we enjoyed an excellent digital lecture on Tuesday 28 October by Alison Jenkins of Ware on the Dalmatian Pelicans of Lake Kerkini. Alison has a passion for these birds and runs photographic workshops twice a year for other photographers to enjoy these fascinating birds.

Our previous meeting on the 21st October was a Zoom presentation by local wildlife photographer Kevin Pigney. Kevin's talk called 'Passion for Scapes' included landscapes around the UK explaining long exposures, planning a shot, using filters, camera techniques and the kit required. Kevin will return to us next season to give his new lecture, 'My Top Thirty' which we are looking forward to.

A Portrait Workshop was held on 14 October led by our club member John Wildespin who provided two male models and all lighting equipment to enable members to practice the technique of portrait photography.

Before we close our meetings for Christmas and New Year, we do battle with Melbourn & Ely Photographic Clubs in a 3-way Friendly Print Competition hosted by Melbourn PS, finishing with 'It's a Knock-out' Christmas Quiz, a fun evening with nibbles and a raffle to round off the year.

Our meetings in 2026 include:

6 January: 'Spotlight on Hugh Milsom' featuring prints by this well-known award-winning photographer as told by Jonathan Vaines of Bedford.

13 January: Panel Pics/Creative Board Competitions judged by Naomi Saul, Shillington.

20 January: 'The Many Faces of China & People' by Mike Sharples from Stafford. Zoom presentation.

Our meetings are held Tuesdays at Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD, from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, the third Tuesday in each month being held via Zoom conferencing. Visitors are always welcome for a small fee of £4.00 which includes refreshments.



If you are interested in joining this active club, please contact our Secretary, Debra Bennett, for further information and a copy of our programme. Email: secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com or visit our website www.bottburpc.org where you will find more detailed information and a gallery showing a selection of our members' work

I look forward to meeting you.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB
Chairman

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

New appointment booking system: Thank you for your patience as the Practice develops the new booking system. Appointment booking is now open online via Accurx triage system from 8am Monday to Friday. Each appointment request is reviewed by a GP and you will be contacted with the most appropriate appointment. This improves access to our appointments and makes the system safer as all requests are reviewed by clinicians.

Saving our time (which means more appointments for you!)

A small plea from the staff: if you request an appointment please have your phone on to receive a call or answer a text. We have a significant number each day who request an appointment and then don't respond to calls or texts to book the requested appointment. This is wasting a lot of time! We are responding rapidly to appointment requests often within minutes if it is urgent and then are left in limbo if there is no answer.

Bowel cancer screening: if you receive a screening kit in the post please complete it. This detects possible signs of bowel cancer before you have symptoms. We have on average 5 patients a week who do not complete the screening, these then have to be processed by a GP wasting clinical time.

Missed Appointments: For full month of October 87appts DNA equates to 13.67hrs of clinical time wasted.

Christmas and New Year Holidays. Please remember to ensure you order your repeat prescriptions in good time and enough to cover you over this period.

Basic Life Support: Following our CPR training session for patients, do you know where the defibrillators are located in your village?

Next Meeting: 29th January 2026 when Dr Keith will speak. 6.30pm at the surgery. If you are interested in joining our meetings please contact our chairman Steve Gilson s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or contact reception.

PEACEFUL & PRAYERFUL

ART GROUP

December for adults

Fridays 5th, 12th

January 9th, 16th, 29th

all 1.30 - 3.30 PM

WELCOME art materials supplied

ST JAMES' CHURCH **LODE**

All required is the wish to create!

(Correction: Jan 29th should read Jan 23rd)

Anglesey Group Benefice
Mid-Week Communion Service
St James Church Lode
Most Thursdays in the year
10.30am

Refreshments served after the service
This is a more relaxed service
Communion is brought to you in your seat



Please contact Julie Sale 01223 811222 for more info

Newmarket Community Cinema

Please find below details of our film shows for January - March 2026 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.

January 19th - Conclave (12)

February 16th - Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (PG)

March 16th - The Ballad of Wallis Island (12)

Doors open at 6.45pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £7 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats either send an email to richardjbowler@outlook.com or call 01638 666810

Charlotte Cane MP

As the year draws to a close and we gather for festive events across our villages and towns, I've been reflecting on what makes Ely and East Cambridgeshire so special — our sense of community, our compassion, and our determination to look out for one another. That spirit has shone through in everything from local campaigns to doorstep conversations this autumn.



In November, I joined my constituent Lisa Smart, from Cottenham, outside 10 Downing Street to deliver a petition with over 15,500 signatures calling on the Government to save vital hospice beds at Arthur Rank Hospice. Lisa's daughter received end-of-life care there, and her powerful story shows just how much this service means to families across Cambridgeshire.

The petition is part of a joint campaign I launched alongside Liberal Democrat Cambridgeshire MPs Pippa Heylings and Ian Sollom to reverse an £829,000 funding cut. Without that funding, nine of the hospice's 23 beds face closure – meaning more than 200 patients could be left without access to specialist care each year. Everyone deserves compassion, dignity, and peace at the end of their lives. We must not let a funding failure take that away.

In Parliament, I've been urging the Government to deliver fair funding and real reform for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In Ely and East Cambridgeshire, 4% of pupils have Education, Health and Care Plans — higher than the national average. Our schools do incredible work, but they need the Government's support. Every child deserves the chance to thrive, with properly funded and accessible support close to home.

I continue to press the Government on fuel poverty, after uncovering official figures showing that 9.6% of households in our constituency — that's 4,487 homes — were living in fuel poverty as far back as 2023. Shockingly, Ministers have yet to

publish the data for the past year, even as families continue to struggle with soaring energy costs. I am urging the Government to publish the latest figures, to end fuel poverty and tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

Whether it's meeting residents on the doorstep, attending local events, or holding my three monthly surgeries, I'm always here to listen and help. Since being elected, I've now closed over 9,000 cases where residents have come to me for advice or support.

As your local champion, I'm here to stand up for you – and I'll keep doing just that. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who keeps our community running through the darker months — from NHS staff and carers to utility workers, emergency services, and transport teams who work tirelessly through the holidays.

Wishing you a peaceful and happy festive season,

Charlotte

Charlotte Cane, MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire

charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk | 020 7362 1601

P.S. This is just a snippet – to keep up with everything I'm doing, sign up to my newsletter at bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte.



**From our Local County Councillor
Yannifer Malinowski**

With Local Government Reorganisation thrust upon us, Cambridgeshire County Council voted to submit Option A to government for consideration, placing East Cambridgeshire with South Cambridgeshire and the City as one of the two authorities to replace our current district, city and county councils.

Locally many parishes and councillors are working together, coordinated by county councillors Yannifer Malinowski (Burwell and Fordham) and Jonny Edge (Woodditton), in writing a letter to ministers that appeals for them to consider the unique geographical challenges of our corner of the county and to ensure our area's future aligns with Cambridge. This is opposed to the option to tie East Cambs to Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough that is proposed by East Cambridgeshire District Council - otherwise known as Option B. Ultimately the national government will decide, but Swaffham Prior Parish Council have joined as signatories to Yannifer and Jonny's letter.

Consultations have now closed, but one of the key findings was that around 60% of East Cambs respondents preferred Option A, with a higher turnout from East Cambs in participation than in other areas of the county - suggesting strong strength of feeling.

Cllr Yannifer Malinowski (she/her)

County Councillor for Burwell & Fordham

Comms Officer for Pippa Heylings MP

Campaigns Organiser for South Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrats



**East
Cambridgeshire
District Council**
www.eastcambs.gov.uk

From our District Councillors
**Charlotte Cane &
John Trapp**

Local Government Reorganisation

The Leader of the Council is still pursuing Option B (with East Cambs joining Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough) for the Local Government Reorganisation. Cambs County Council has debated the options, and plumped for Option A (with East Cambs joining Cambridge City and South Cambs).

The Full Council will have debated this on Thursday 20 November; the ECDC submission will be sent to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Homelessness together with the submissions from the other Councils. This will be considered by the Minister, and a decision will be made soon.

Parish Councils in this ward have signed a letter to the Minister informing them of our desire to join with South Cambs and Cambridge City Council.



Public Space Protection Order

The Operational Services committee will be deciding on prohibiting car parks and other open spaces to be used for drag racing, stunts and other car manoeuvres at their next meeting.

Street Sweeping

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a statutory duty to provide clean streets, footways and open spaces that are in public ownership. All towns and villages are divided up into “zones” with the busiest being cleaned more regularly. <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/clean-streets>

East Cambridgeshire Community Fund

The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund will be open to applications between 31 October and 12 December 2025. Community groups are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to £1,000 to spend on new or existing projects designed to improve the quality of life for residents.

Information about the grant including eligibility criteria and application guidance can be found on the council’s web site. <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-wellbeing/grants-and-community-projects/community-fund>

Surgery

There will be no surgery in December. Do remember that residents can contact us by telephone (07976 607512, 01223 812120) or email (charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk, john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk) as preferred.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp

Notes from the Parish Council November Meeting

The Parish Council meeting of the 13th November was chaired by Cllr Covill and attended by parish councillors and 5 members of the public.

Reports

East Cambs District Council.

Cllr John Trapp attended and a report was circulated by email. Cllr Trapp noted that a business case for Option B for Local Government Reorganisation had been made and after looking into it, Cllr Trapp was unconvinced as the population size of the two Unitary Authorities would be 2:1 (although roughly equal in financial terms) and Peterborough City Council would need a lot of support. Cllr Trapp has also written to the GCP regarding improvements needed to the planned park and ride site.

Cllr Covill asked if joining with CCC would mean a 4 day week. Cllr Trapp said no, the new council will start with a clean slate. Elections for the new council will take place in May 2027, and the new council take charge in 2028.

Clerk's Report

The allotment tap box has been repaired and reinsulated.

The clerk contacted Sanctuary regarding the overgrown footpath beside 2 Greenhead Road – no response as yet.

The bulb in the defibrillator/phone box has gone and on inspection the light fittings need replacing, preferably with an LED light.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Covill. An electrician has examined the defibrillator light and will be able to replace it for roughly £150.00 (parts and labour) at the weekend.

Cllr Gynn. Noted that play and sports equipment were being left out in the school playground. Clerk to write to the school noting the PC's concerns.

Cllr Kent-Phillips. UK Power will be taking down a tree out the back of the Scout Hut that interferes with the power lines on Monday 15th December, so the power will be switched off for an hour to facilitate this.

Cllr Kent-Phillips had received 30 leaflets regarding improvements to the Highways Agency, available to anyone who is interested.

Cllr Latchford. Asked if anyone knew the reason for emergency roadworks overnight on the High Street – no-one knew who undertook them or what it was for.

Cllr Greenfield. The next Kingsway meeting is scheduled for 18th November and he will attend. Much is happening, progress is being made and many groups are involved but the confidential nature of much of the information produced makes it hard to share details. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the parcel of land originally put forward for the Burwell South substation now has planning permission for a solar farm, so at present there is no definite location for the substation.

Matters arising from previous minutes (for information only)

Cllr Greenfield – The A-B1102 group had given a full response from all PCs on the B1102 to the Greater Cambridge Partnership consultation on the proposed new Newmarket Road Park and Ride site. Copies are available from Cllr Greenfield.

Planning applications.

25/01065/FUL Erection of fencing to enclose vegetable garden and garden pond. Goodwin Manor Farm, 1 Station Road, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LG. The PC had no objections to this application.

25/00770/ESF The construction, operation and decommissioning of a ground-mounted solar

farm and associated infrastructure, including inverters, customer switchgears, substation compound, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and access, as well as landscape and ecological improvements. Land south of Partridge Hall Farm, Heath Road, Swaffham Bulbeck.

The amendment involves the updated version REV C of the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (dated August 2025), as part of the ES Transport and Traffic mitigations for the proposed development.

The PC responded to the amendment with two statements. Firstly, that the PC support County Archaeology in their objections and secondly that the PC remains concerned that the route of the cables is not known.

Approved:

25/00541/FUL The creation of a two-storey extension and a single-storey rear extension to the house, including the demolition of the existing outbuilding and the construction of a garage. 2 Fairview Grove, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LB.

Renominating the Red Lion for Asset of Community Value status.

Nomination of the Red Lion as an asset of community value required a recently minuted decision; the PC agreed to this.

Local Government Reorganisation

A letter supporting Option A for Local Government Reorganisation (grouping East Cambs with Cambridge City and South Cambs) was review and agreed by the PC, allowing Swaffham Prior PC to be added to the list of supporting signatories.

Travellers' camp on Black Drove.

Cllr Covill explained a traveller encampment had been moved on from Black Drove, leaving a lot of litter. A clean-up had been rescheduled after rain left the site too wet to clear. Reach PC has suggested that a combined letter (Swaffham Prior and Reach PCs) suggesting a more proactive response to evicting the encampment and cleaning it up afterwards.

The PC decided to write to East Cambs Street Scene requesting that the remaining litter be removed immediately, copying in Cllrs Trapp and Cane. The PC also agreed to ask a local farmer if the droveway could be made inaccessible to cars and caravans by ploughing up the ends once the rubbish has been cleared.

The PC recorded thanks to Charlotte Cane MP for writing to CCC regarding these matters.

Letters from Butterflies Class, Swaffham Prior School about litter in the village.

Cllr Lambert showed letters from years 5 and 6 at Swaffham Prior Primary regarding litter between the school and Cage Hill. The letters suggested that 1) posters the children had created be displayed in the village, 2) litter picks take place and 3) notices be placed in the Crier.

The PC agreed to pass the posters and letters onto the Crier for publication (posters to be returned afterwards to go on the noticeboard) and to consult Janet Wilmott for the date of the next litter pick and whether she would be free to talk to the school about it.

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, 11th December 2025 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Services in December 2025

Wednesday 3 December

8pm CbyC on Zoom

Sunday 7 December – Second Sunday of Advent

9am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Sunday 14 December – Third Sunday of Advent

9am Online service on Zoom

Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Bulbeck

10.30am Christingle Family Worship, Swaffham Prior

3pm Carol & Crib Service, Quay

Thursday 18 December

3pm Carol Service, Lode

Friday 19 December

10am Nativity & Crib Service, Lode

Sunday 21 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am Online service on Zoom

Holy Communion, Quay

4.30pm Carol Service, Swaffham Prior

6.30pm Carol Service, Bottisham

Carol Service, Swaffham Bulbeck

Wednesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

6.30pm Holy Communion, Bottisham

11.30pm Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Thursday 25 December – Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion, Quay

10am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 28 December – First Sunday of Christmas

9am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode



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

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

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

Quay: quay@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; churchwardens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches;

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



St Mary's Church Swaffham Prior
Christingle Family Service
Sunday 14 December at 10.30am

- Make a traditional Christingle as part of the service
- Nativity performed by Beavers
- Please give in support of the work of the **Children's Society** - <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/christingle/st-marys-church-swaffham-prior-3>
- All welcome!



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:

Anne, 01223 812395

Dog crate, middle sized with cushion. Good condition;

Ladder, long, 2 sectioned aluminium ladder. Little used.

BBQ, nearly new, small, uses charcoal, clean and neat

Hostess trolley, full working order with 4 pyrex food holders in the top and lower area for keeping food. Good condition.

Steve 07917 697259 15 new MR16 spotlight bulbs.

Philip 01223 811233 Home brewing accessories.

Celia 0780 4508335 Cat Tree, hardly used, comes with 2 perching platforms, toys and a hidey house, grey, Feandrea make. Text Celia.

Wants:

Lis 01223 811233 I would like to **receive or borrow** a 12 inch / 30.5cm round cake tin, if possible before the end of January.

Jane 07800 934585 Lift wanted/offered from Swaffham Bulbeck to Addenbrookes (usually Tues, Weds, Fri, to arrive at Addenbrookes 7am and leaving 8pm). Please contact Jane for more information.



Dates for Your Diary December 2025

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Mon | 1 | Advent Windows, all day every day until Christmas [2] |
| Thu | 4 | Toddler Group, 10:40-11:30am, Swaffham Prior School [17] |
| Fri | 5 | Art Group, St James' Church, Lode, 1:30pm [28] |
| Sat | 6 | Coffee and Cake Concert, Holy Trinity, Bottisham, 10:30am [7] |
| Mon | 8 | WI Christmas Party, Village Hall [20] |
| Wed | 10 | Carol Singing, Village Hall, 6:30-8:30pm [3] |
| Thu | 11 | Toddler Group, 10:40-11:30am, Swaffham Prior School [17] Mothers' Union, Passage Hall, Lode, 2:30pm [26] PC Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm [33] |
| Fri | 12 | Closing date for applications to East Cambs Community Fund [31] |
| Sun | 14 | Crier Copy Deadline Christingle, St Mary's, 10:30am [35] |
| Thu | 18 | Toddler Group, 10:40-11:30am, Swaffham Prior School [17] |
| Sun | 21 | Swaffham Prior Carol Service, St Mary's, 4:30pm [3] |
| Wed | 24 | Christmas Eve |
| Thu | 25 | Christmas Day |
| Fri | 26 | Boxing Day Hockey Match, The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck, 10:45am [6] |
| Wed | 31 | New Year's Eve |

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 |