



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIX Number 7

July 2025



Editorial

A Big Welcome to our new County Councillor, Yannifer Malinowski in this magazine (see p.17) and especially as this is the first time we have had a contribution from our County Councillor for a very long time — our previous councillor was always promising but always forgot! Yannifer was at the Village Feast and also Reach Fair with our MP Charlotte Cane so we hope you've already met her.

In fact, it's politics plus in this magazine, with contributions from both District and County Councillors and all the latest from our MP Charlotte Cane, not to mention our own PC coverage (James this time) as well as the Parish Clerk's and a somewhat lugubrious overview of the state of the nation from Lower End from our previous long-time PC Reporter — "We'll all go together when we go...." — Uh Oh!

The PC have asked us to highlight low carbon's proposal for their Long Barrow Solar Farm at the far end of Caddenham's from whom you should all now have received a letter, leaflet and a request for comments by 11 July! One of the other solar farm proposals may be looking at using pylons and these might run just behind Mill Hill. We may not like this! See *Our Reporter*.

Meanwhile, Sylvie Short of Two Churches Together fame (you can still buy this book) is has just written a poetry book (*A Garden of Verses*) and and you can read the one she has written about this village in this issue. (p 37).

Next month is the combined August/September issue—don't forget to get your October Copy in early!

Caroline and James Matheson

Cover Picture: *The Event on the Carpet* by **Thomas Newbolt**

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Keith Carter on the Heating Scheme

Keith Carter wrote an absolutely brilliant letter in the last *Crier* but unfortunately used the Heating Scheme (HSP – as good an acronym as any) as the front man or the fall guy. HSP had never pretended to be able to heat the whole village no matter what some of its supporters may have often suggested.

Unless I am mistaken Keith's main concern appears to be with Milliband and the nation's infatuation with Net Zero to which Britain (*the only nation in the world*) is legally committed to achieving by the year 2030. I do know what happens if and when we do not achieve it and thereby break the law. Our prisons are full.

That aside Keith raises an interesting question which we hope he will develop. Otherwise is this no more than just waving a banner outside the Village Hall saying JUST STOP OIL. This may be a minor sore point with many villagers who thought, and had been so assured many times, that they would be charged at the price of oil if they moved to HSP!

This is the perfect time to hear Keith's more detailed argument as the "London Climate Week" takes place in London. Is he a true Trump supporter on "green issues" without perhaps even leaning just a little towards the views of Charles III and the Prince of Wales

Alastair Everitt

We've had many plaudits for Keith's article and we hope he writes again soon! Eds



PICNICKING WITH WASPS

You've just settled down to an alfresco lunch and bzzzz, bzzzz — uh-oh, wasp attack! But do not flap and shout, instead, put a small piece of meat on a plate and tempt one on to it, smartly placing a beer glass over the top. As if by magic, the others disappear. Then when you can see he has got a nice big mouthful, LET HIM GO! He'll just fly off to feed the larvae in his nest. A few minutes later, another one will appear (or possibly the same one?) — do the same thing, except it's much easier to guide him to the wasp plate.

After that no guidance is needed at all and you can probably forget the beer glass as well, but simply be aware of the sleek Food Aid airlift quietly going on in one corner of the table, just one stealthy wasp every 5 minutes.

Wasps are a boon for the garden, disposing of many unwelcome garden pests, and not only will you enjoy your picnic unmolested but will have the great pleasure of having succeeded in communicating with a tiny but evidently pretty intelligent little creature — *this* is your food, *that* is ours, take as much as you like of *this* and nobody will molest you either. Roger, over and out—or something like that! *Eds*

FEAST 2025 GURNING CONTEST

THE RESULTS!

Many thanks to all those who competed and voted.

This was an excellent contest and we're just sorry that No. 9's magnificent BRIGHT BLUE TONGUE did not show up very well in the photos — a winner for us on the day! Also, that No 10 and his delightfully lugubrious expression lost his number caption in the magazine — another Ed's pick.

But here are the actual results from your votes

1st: No 4, Ralph Cooper (58 votes)

2nd: No 3, Rosie Mayer-Gould (19 votes)

3rd: No 2, Flora Wright (18 votes)

Big Congratulations, Ralph, and you will receive your winner's certificate from the Village Hall Management Committee!



This Month's Cover Picture

Thomas Newbolt is a highly-regarded artist and teacher of national and international repute who has kindly contributed covers for the *Crier* for many years. He works in a lovely weather-boarded studio just down from the High Street and draws from life and works from his imagination. *The Event on the Carpet* is just delightful and we'd love to know the back-story!

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

It fell to me to do this month's report, continuing the newly re-established tradition of the Crier having its own reporter at the PC Meetings and the favourable feedback that we have had so far for filling in the background that official minutes necessarily leave out. Looking at the agenda, there was nothing which looked likely to be hugely contentious but it's not always obvious what may lie behind the neutral wording of an agenda item or what preparatory work the Councillors may have been doing before the meeting ...



First there was the standard introductory item "To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence where appropriate". Alan Durrant, Sandra Gynn and Paul Latchford were absent and Paul easily won the best reason prize: he was up a mountain in Sweden training Scouts. Somewhere around here there should have been Approval of the Minutes of the May meeting but it had been accidentally left off the Agenda. Fortunately someone noticed and they were duly passed a little later in the agenda.

It looked like we were without a CCC or ECDC Councillor or their reports so the meeting hurtled on. John Trapp arrived a few minutes later and got to give his report then,. He is concentrating on keeping the PCs informed on the plans for a unitary authority: this looked like being a combination of the County Council, ECDC and South Cambs DC. It wasn't clear whether this was a welcome move, maybe too early to say? It subsequently transpired that Yannifer Malinowski's absence as the new CCC Councillor was explained by her not having got an invitation: her predecessor had never turned up and the Clerk had given up trying to get him to come.

The first piece of serious discussion, and probably **the most serious in terms of its implications**, arose from correspondence from low carbon/Long Barrow Solar about their proposal to build a solar farm on land at the far end of Caddenham's Lane where this meets the A14. This had arrived too late to appear on the agenda but had been included so that awareness could be raised before fuller discussion at the July meeting. The company have since sent a letter dated 30 June to everyone in the village asking for feedback by 11 July! The PC could simply have kicked this into the July long grass but to their credit didn't and ended up discussing **all three solar**

farm proposals which are likely to affect the village. The other two are Sunnica's between Mildenhall and the A14 on the Cambridge/Suffolk border; and Kingsway's proposals for land around West Wratting, Western Colville and Lark Hall. It appears Long Barrow Solar and Sunnica intend to use underground cables to connect to the National Grid Sub-Station and energy storage at Burwell and so may not have too much long-term effect on the village but Kingsway are proposing pylons and recent arrangements for land surveys imply that they are looking seriously at a line which would run close to the houses on the South side of Mill Hill. It is not clear why they need

**Kingsway are
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the South side of
Mill Hill**

pylons while the other two can use underground cables (and the Heating Scheme already has) so this may be worth fighting.

And so to the first unexpectedly contentious item: the planning application. Here several of the Councillors had really been doing their homework and had realised that the proposed two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension were actually very much larger than the existing outbuilding and garage which they replace. Technical planning terms like “massing” came into the conversation. In the end it was agreed that, in its response, the PC would express concerns rather than actually object; principal amongst these concerns were that the proposed new garage must remain a garage and not in future become a dwelling and that consideration be given to the provision of safe access for vehicles.

There was then significant discussion about the accounts, not so much about the sums involved but about the level of detail in the way they are presented and thus how usable they are for planning purposes, e.g. for variable items like mowing (the largest single item) which is weather dependent, and more predictable but only occasional expenditure like surveying and pruning the cemetery trees every three years. Solutions such as earmarked reserves were mentioned but may have the unwanted side-effect of increasing the precept. A tricky balance to draw.

And so, finally, to the matter of the Annual Village Assembly that never was, on which we reported briefly last time. It seems that Annual Village Assemblies are subject to the Local Government Act 1972 but this may well just be incorporating older legislation which predates the expectation that there is a Parish Council which meets regularly. Various people *can* call for a Village Assembly including the Chair of the PC, two PC members, or six villagers but it’s a case of *can* not *must*; the main constraint is that it can only take place in March, April or May. So we can’t now have one this year but nothing illegal has been done by not having one at all. It was agreed by the PC that for 2026 it should be in the last week of May with the Hall booked as soon as possible, and that tea and biscuits would be provided to encourage people to come. Whilst some felt that something stronger might be more of an incentive, this isn’t allowed by the legislation! Given the usually quite small turnout and the absence of any public disorder following the cancellation of this year’s meeting, there may be a question about its long-term future. One for next year’s meeting and/or discussion in the Crier in the meantime?

James Matheson

Newmarket Cinema

Film shows for July - September 2025 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.

July 21st - A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood (PG)

August 18th - Paddington in Peru (PG)

September 15th - A Private Function (1984) (15)

Doors open at 6.45pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £6 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats either send an email to richardjbowler@outlook.com or call 01638 666810.

Richard Penney



Strawberry Teas
Sunday 27th July
3.00pm – 5.00 pm

Front Lawn of
14 Tothill Road
By kind invitation of Jenny & Terry

Tickets £6.00/£3.50
Must be booked in advance please
(home delivery bags available on request)

Janet Willmott 07833 960678
janetwillmott@icloud.com

All welcome 😊
Will go ahead whatever the
weather! If pouring with rain
will be in St. Mary's Church

In aid of
St. Mary's Church
Swaffham Prior

Cambridge Open Studios

July Weekends 2025

All studios are open from 10am – 5pm and entry is free. Keeping with tradition, studios will be displaying cheerful yellow flags outside during opening hours. Details of all participating artists and venues can be found at <https://camopenstudios.org/>

Open Studios in Swaffham Prior

Jane Goodall, botanical printed textiles at 6 Foster Lane, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0FA. Weekends 5/6 and 19/20 July. wheelchair access at this studio.

Mike Barker, painter at Pound and Keep, Cage Hill, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JS. Weekends 12/13 and 19/20 July.

Karen Fisher, oil painter at 17 Rogers Road, Swaffham Prior CB25 0HX. Weekends 5/6 and 12/13 and 19/20 July.

Deborah Cutting, textile artist and felt maker at St Cyriac & Julitta Church, High St. Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD. Weekends 5/6 and 19/20 July.

Annelie Hollstenius, potter at St Cyriac & Julitta Church, High St. Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD. Weekends 5/6 and 19/20 July.

Bianca Bagatourian, decorated silks and pottery at St Cyriac & Julitta Church, High St. Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD. Weekends 5/6 and 19/20 July.

Leonie Smith, illustrator and printmaker at St Cyriac & Julitta Church, High St. Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD. Weekends 5/6 and 19/20 July.

Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be for sale at St Cyriac's Church on both weekends of 5/6 and 19/20 July. Toilet facilities also available.

Open Studios in Lode this year will include:

Swaffham Prior artist Ruth E Blundell, 3D wooden animals + paintings inside and around St James' Church, High St, Lode CB25 9EW. Weekends 12/13 and 19/20 July. wheelchair access at this studio.

Everyone welcome at all venues. No entry charge. No need to book, just call in! Why not make a day of it and discover some of our wonderful local artists!

Celia Tyler

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOTTISHAM



Coffee & Cake Concert

SATURDAY 19th July 10.30AM

Wayne Marshall OBE

International Concert Organist

Wayne, a recent Bottisham resident, has performed and conducted all over the world including at the first and last night of the Promenade Concerts, the debut concert of the Chineke! Orchestra in the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Royal Festival Hall in June 2025. He is in great demand and we are fortunate that he has agreed to play for us. He is an expert at improvisation and will play a variety of easy listening music arranged for the organ including music by Widor, Saint-Saens, Frank and Marshall

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

Suggested donation £10, in aid of the church building fund
– children free. All are welcome.





at St James' Church, Lode

10am to 5pm 12th, 13th & 19th, 20th of July

Sit down & relax in this wonderful church

3D Wooden Animals + Paintings
Come and EXPLORE inside & outside the church to find 3d wooden creatures - mice, sheep, ducks, owls and more! + peaceful paintings. ALL WELCOME!
St James' Church, High St, Lode, Cambridge, CB25 9EW
ruthblundell@hotmail.com
07792 656223



Download the COS app



Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

TEA COFFEE CAKE!

reasonably priced!

Wooden Animals Peaceful Paintings

also, reasonably priced!

All profits go towards the upkeep of our 5 churches in the Anglesey Benefice



KEEP THE DATE!!
VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER
SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER



6.30pm, Swaffham Prior Village Hall
In aid of St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior
and Projects in Mara, Tanzania

Substantial salad supper
with scrumptious puddings
Bar serving wine and soft drinks
Entertainment
Raffle draw for our famous Fair Trade hampers!

We would love to encourage everyone who would
like to attend to come along, so this year ask that you

“pay what you can afford”

Suggestions: Adult £9; over 65/under 16 - £8; under 11 - £6

Meal order forms available from late August
admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk;
or from St Mary's Church

- ❖ Advance ordering essential
- ❖ Please advise of allergies when booking;
we hope to be able to accommodate special diets
- ❖ Newcomers to the village/benefice especially welcome!

Swaffham Prior Heat Network – July'25 Update

Hello Community members,

We hope you're enjoying the beautiful summer weather and keeping hydrated during these warmer days!

We're delighted to share that our Heat Network is continuing to grow strong, currently connecting 97 properties. Work on the next phase has already started at Cage Hill, and once completed, we'll be moving to High Street in July.

Our team is proactively organising traffic management arrangements to ensure minimal disruption. A detailed Traffic Management Notice will soon be provided to residents on High Street outlining schedules and necessary details. During construction, we remain committed to maintaining continuous access for vehicles—24 x 7— by safely installing temporary road plates over trenches.

We have already begun planning for the next batch of connections, and surveys are currently ongoing. If you are interested in connecting your property, please submit the expression of interest form provided at the bottom. Our team will reach out to you shortly.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we bring sustainable warmth to more homes in the village.

Images showing Ongoing construction works at Cage Hill (above) and Landscaping works at the Energy Centre (below).

Join an Open House Event and/or Meet Our Team

Would you be Interested in seeing our heating system in action? We are organising Open House events where you can visit a home already connected to the network.

Our team is available to discuss how the heat network could benefit your home. Meetings can be held with our business or technical team at the Village Hall, your home, or via video conference. To book a meeting for either, call or email us.

Get in Touch to Register Your Interest

If you're interested in joining, please contact us or register your interest online through our form at: <https://forms.office.com/e/8mg3xtEpnY>

Our contact details

Email: heatingswaffham-prior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk,

Customer service line: 0345 0455210

24x7 Helpline: 01782 390777

**Heating Swaffham Prior Team
Cambridgeshire County Council**



Julie's summer salads

Carrot, pistachio & dill salad

- 500g, peeled and grated carrot
- ½ red onion, thinly sliced into half moons
- 75g pistachio nuts, roughly chopped
- 1 small packet of fresh dill 30g, finely chopped
- 2 tsp of nigella seeds
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Finely grated zest and juice of one lime
- 1 tbsp of clear honey
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Mix the olive oil, lime zest and juice together with the honey to make the dressing, add salt and pepper to taste.
 2. Mix all the rest of the ingredients together, combine well and add the dressing.
- A delicious light and refreshing salad.

Tomato & peanut salad

For the salad

- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- 200g baby tomatoes, halved
- 2 handfuls salted peanuts
- 1 small packet 30g coriander, roughly chopped

For the dressing

- 7cm piece of ginger, peeled and finely grated
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp tamarind paste
- 1 tbsp light soya sauce
- 1 tbsp clear honey
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Mix all the Salad dressing ingredients together, add the onion and let soak for about 20 mins to allow to soften
2. Add the tomatoes, peanuts and coriander to a bowl and stir in dressing, Season to taste.
3. Transfer to salad platter and serve at room temperature.

Pear, chickpea & green leaf salad

For the salad

- 50g rocket leaves
- 50g watercress
- 2 pears, halved, cored and finely sliced
- 400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- Handful of sunflower seeds, to garnish

For the dressing

- 1 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Juice of half a lemon
- 1 tsp rose harissa
- Salt and pepper to taste

Arrange the salad leaves, pear slices and chickpeas in a large shallow bowl or platter, Mix all the dressing ingredients together, then simply pour over the salad, garnish with sunflower seeds and serve immediately.

The View from Lower End



What a year. And what a month. Many of us had hoped that a couple of months would have allowed a few issues to be settled before moving on to the big ones. And then Israel diverted attention from the future of Gaza to a possible Nuclear War. Netanyahu threatened to put the finger on the Aya-tollah Ali Khamenei and Trump added his own gut-busting promises. It was like telling our King to get off the throne and hand over to Harry, or like Canada being told to become just another US State. For anyone older it took us right back to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, and to those wonderful lyrics and that rousing tune of Tom Lehrer:-

**“We will all go together when we go
All suffused with an incandescent glow.
No on will have the endurance
To collect on his insurance
Lloyds of London will be loaded when they go.”**

Age may be an excuse enough to forget the Cuban Missile Crisis but there is no reason why anyone should forget the disastrous Bush/Blair intervention in Iraq of March 2003 which left the region in a chaos from which it has never recovered. It was all carried out on trumped up evidence and Blair has never apologised for or acknowledged his awful error while under the influence of the mighty Bush.

For the rest of the summer and autumn everyone will be able to go on holiday, enjoy some excellent cricket (may be the best for some years), retain our humour by watching *Yes Minister* and *Yes Prime Minister*, read and perhaps learn from some expert analysis, be grateful that we do not have to make any of the difficult decisions. And remember that **“We will all go together when we go.”**

With that unifying thought we can continue to marvel at the glorious flights of the swifts against the backdrop of Buddleia which continue to attract the butterflies and a flood of bees all of which appear to encourage the naughty behaviour of pigeons which so often ape that of human beings. Or vice versa.

Over the next two months or so there will be an exciting range of events and decisions not all of which need we fear. One of these will be the election of our new Archbishop of Canterbury. The 17 members of the highly confidential Crown Nominations Commission will be drawing up a short-list of candidates to be voted on. We now know that “he” or “she” must have the “utmost integrity”, with plenty of “theological depth”, and to be “unapologetic” about offering a Christian perspective in debates. The latter has been clarified a little by saying the C of E is drawing up

plans to support the nation during “serious conflict”. The Right Rev Hugh Nelson, Bishop to the Armed Forces, said that lessons should be learned from the lack of preparation for a pandemic before Covid-19 struck. I am not sure there is an easy comparison between a pandemic and nuclear war. As a nation we ought to have had the results of our ongoing Covid Enquiry years ago. What is wrong with us we should ask when Matt Hancock only started to give his evidence on 2nd July 2025! Not unusually we are dragging out feet again.

But one good thing for the Church may arise from a ruling made by The Dept for Food and Rural Affairs that bread must contain calcium carbonate (chalk). For years we had been getting this chalk from a quarry in Steeple Morden, in Cambridgeshire. But DEFRA now no longer thinks our chalk is good enough and that now we must get it from a single quarry which is in Orgon, near Avignon, and owned by a Swiss chemical company Omyas. Maybe this may enable the revision of Canon B17 which has sometimes been a cause of dispute in some parishes.

One really recent piece of good news is that the Truth may be out on Public Enquiries and what a useless implement they are. This was revealed by a Peer, Lord Norton of Louth, who last year chaired a Lords committee on statutory enquiries. He said “there was a broad cynicism about their purpose”; “the public thinks something must happen – and nothing happens”, that they are often viewed “as a bunfight for lawyers”. There are currently 18 statutory public enquiries being held covering topics ranging from the PO Horizon IT Scandal, the Corona Virus pandemic, to the conviction of Lucy Letby. There are plenty of others - name your favourites and often / usually they do did not explain why recommendations were not implemented.

Jason Beer, KC, who grilled Paula Vennells, said too much was demanded from public enquiries because they are only the first step in the process, and not the last. He suggested that the enquiries should be given similar powers to those of coroners courts and allow them to refer people to the CPS for possible charges. This would make an awful lot of people happy and a very good 2026. Maybe there should be a Public Enquiry on Public Enquiries. Or would this just be sweeping it under the carpet again as so often happens with them.

A lot is going to happen in the next few months, so watch this space, and let’s all sing “**Roll out the Barrel. We’ll have a Barrel of Fun.**” and welcome the new landlords of The Red Lion.

Alastair Everitt

PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

“The Little Chapel in the Fen”

All welcome to our

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 5th October

3pm

~

Traditional harvest service and hymns
Produce welcome

~

Find us at CB7 5YJ, between Upware and Swaffham Prior.
Be early to guarantee a seat.

~

For more information contact Nicola: 07968 658319

Bottisham Patients' Participation Group

Blood tests: Due to demand for blood tests we have to advise patients to attend alternative venues in order to manage demand versus appointment availability. Bloods tests are available at:

Newmarket Road Park and Ride Drive-through phlebotomy service

Need to arrive in a car. Have the blood request form from GP (or have been invited for a blood test from the hospital and they can access the request remotely). Open Monday to Friday 9:30-4pm, no appointment needed. Location: Newmarket Road Park and Ride Cambridge

Newmarket hospital: Book a timed appointment via the website

https://swiftqueue.co.uk/pre_timescreen.php?id=12827 Or phone: [01638 558442](tel:01638558442)

Bottisham Medical Practice

Blood test appointments for those not medically able to attend the above locations due to disability or having no available transport

How to contact us? Do you know about the “contact us” portal on our website? This is for non-urgent clinical queries, sick note requests, and questions about investigation results and can be found on our usual website if you click on menu and then contact us <https://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk> Phone [01223 810030](tel:01223810030)

We have rejuvenated our patient participation group and at each of the four meetings a year one of the team will give a clinical talk. These have been well attended. Our PPG is also organising a resuscitation course with East Anglia Air Ambulance and helps with the organisation of the weekend flu vaccination clinics. We are always looking for volunteers to join this committee or help at these events. Would you like to help the surgery and help your local community? Are you a sixth form student wanting to go to medical school looking for ways of volunteering with community / health engagement for your UCAS form? Please contact our PPG for more information.

Appointments Missed: Between the 1st April and 31st May we had a total of 83 appointments which we had to record as Did Not Attend. This equates to 23.75 hours over a 9-week period which is approx. 2.5 hrs per week. We appreciate that circumstances and situations may change once an appointment has been booked but if you are unable to attend please let the Reception team know so we can make your appointment available for someone else.

The Pod and Blood Pressure: As more regular blood pressure testing in over 45 year olds is now required, it would be helpful for you to use The Pod. The Pod is behind the screens in the surgery waiting room and does not require an appointment to use. Should you need help using this then the receptionist can advise. The reading is recorded and if it is adverse then an appointment for consultation can be made.

Next meeting: Thursday 3rd July 6.30pm at the surgery when Dr Keith will be talking about “Dementia: what might make you worry someone is developing dementia and what to do about it” 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.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Charlotte Cane MP's Community Update May-June 2025

As a Member of Parliament, my role is to represent your interests in Westminster and to support our community here at home. Whether it's speaking in Commons debates or helping with local issues, I'm here to tackle the challenges we face and to be a strong voice for Ely and East Cambridgeshire.

Leading the Debate on Renewable Energy Safety Large-scale battery energy storage sites in Ely and East Cambs will be vital for hitting our net zero goals—but safety must come first. I've raised this in Parliament and launched a petition for tougher regulations and mandatory consultation with fire services. My petition can



be signed online here: bit.ly/batterystoragesafety

Respecting Rights in Gender Self-ID Debate Many of you have shared your experiences, fears and views on gender self-identification. I spoke in a Westminster Hall debate to urge Ministers to work with women's and LGBTQ+ groups to provide guidance that respects the rights of all, and keeps trans people safe.

Tackling Flooding & Drought I chaired the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Flood and Drought, and I'm pushing for sustainable solutions like rain-water harvesting on new-build developments. Locally, I chaired the Cottenham Flood Forum where we discussed drainage and development concerns.

Ely Junction Upgrade Still in Limbo Despite rail's huge potential to ease congestion and boost freight capacity, the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement (EACE) programme was again overlooked in the Government's Spending Review. I'm pressing the Chancellor to fund this long-overdue upgrade to Ely Junction.

Protecting Developer Funds for Local Needs I've written to the Secretary of State over concerns that East Cambs District Council is directing developer contributions to a commercial crematorium project in Mepal. These funds could instead provide vital infrastructure such as children's play areas, cycle paths, pavements, sports facilities, GP surgery upgrades, and school improvements.

In the Community

Cheveley Community Meeting: Great discussions on AI, solar farms, road safety, and more with residents and councillors.

NFU Farmers' Surgery: Rural crime was raised as a key concern, and I followed this up at a meeting with the Minister for Policing to push for action.

Swaffham Prior now has it's very own Little Library!

It is widely discussed that reading has huge benefits for everyone.

From overcoming disadvantage to improving mental well being, reading gives us so much that it seemed bizarre to me that access to free books was either a short visit once a month from the mobile library or approximately an hour's walk away at Burwell Library from our village. Both valuable services, but inaccessible for many.

I just had to do something about this situation, so after approaching the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, I was able to commission The Prospect's Trust to build us an outdoor unit for us to call our Little Library. This also involved work making a path, a new section of picket fence and a gate wide enough to be wheelchair accessible.

The Little Library had its grand opening at the village feast, with Cambridge author Menna van Praag cutting the ribbon and donating two of her own works to the library. It was great to hear the cheer from the villagers as the ribbon was snipped and I hope it is something that we continue cheering about.

It is free to borrow a book and you do not have to give a book in order to borrow. Being outdoors it is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week though do take a torch for evening visits later in the year.

The library can accept donations if there is space on the shelves but please do not leave books outside of the library if it is full. Instead please consider taking them to St Cyriacs Church or Snakehall farm shop in order to help raise funds for those causes, or try again another day.

The Little Library has already inspired the local Cub unit to participate in their reader badge and I have chatted to people who have enjoyed using the library, especially with their children and grandchildren. I hope to create more community engagement as time goes on, so keep watching this space for events and challenges.

You can find our Little Library behind the noticeboard at the Village Hall and there is more information displayed on the board.

Please email littlelibrarysp@yahoo.com if you have any suggestions or if you spot any problems. For more information about reading benefits head to the Book Trust's website.

Happy reading everyone!

Charlotte Greeno



From Our County Councillor **Yannifer Malinowski**



It has been a rollercoaster couple of months since I was elected as the new county councillor for Burwell Division, which doesn't just include Burwell but also Fordham, Swaffham Prior, Reach, Chippenham, Kennet and Snailwell as well!

My first priority has been to get stuck in and meet parish councillors and the hardworking people who are most active in our communities to make sure I'm providing a voice for them within the county council. This often means passing on reports of badly needed road repairs (especially potholes!) and requesting progress updates on the various paths and cycleways in our area. But I've also been sinking my teeth into other issues too - such as dead trees in Burwell village, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, and local heat pump schemes, among others.

One of the top priorities that has been raised with me repeatedly is the new bus routes affecting large parts of our area - the T4 and T5. While the county council has no power over bus routes due to the complicated separation of local government responsibilities in Cambridgeshire, if you would like to report feedback or issues with these bus routes, you are very welcome to get in touch. Along with my county council colleagues, I am supporting the fantastic work of the A to B1102 bus users group to make sure feedback on the buses is coordinated and reaches the Combined Authority and the new Mayor, so anything sent to me will be passed on to them.

Another priority for me is ensuring that the plans for the government's solar farms and the battery storage sites within them, that are coming to our area, are properly scrutinised. Whatever your view on solar energy and these projects - everyone agrees we need to keep our communities safe. To that end, I have been elected as the new Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny at the Fire Authority, where (as part of a cross-party group of councillors) we get to ask officers about these issues, to ensure they are properly prepared. So far, the response from officers is that they share residents' concerns about the risk and are awaiting further guidance from the government. I have met with local campaigners and fellow councillors to discuss this vital issue and will be working with Charlotte Cane MP to try to see what guidance we can get from the government on this key issue for fire safety in our area.

I have been overwhelmed by how positive most people feel about their communities in our wonderful villages here in this corner of Cambridgeshire as well as their gratitude at having a new county councillor who will turn up to do the job. I've enjoyed meeting many of you at events like the Reach Fair, Swaffham Prior Feast and Burwell Carnival. Thank you to everyone who has been so lovely and welcoming!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there are other local matters you are concerned about. I will try to be as responsive as possible and pass on your questions, even if they are not something that the county council can solve directly. I look forward to providing another update later in the year, hopefully once I have settled in further to the role.

Cllr Yannifer Malinowski

Yannifer.Malinowski@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, Ymalinowski1794@gmail.com

POEM OF THE MONTH

In Time of 'The Breaking of Nations'

Thomas Hardy

I

Only a man harrowing clods
In a slow silent walk
With an old horse that stumbles and nods
Half asleep as they stalk.

II

Only thin smoke without flame
From the heaps of couch-grass;
Yet this will go onward the same
Though Dynasties pass.

III

Yonder a maid and her wight
Come whispering by:
War's annals will cloud into night
Ere their story die.

The significance of this well-loved poem for a modern readership is almost the reverse of what Hardy intended.

Writing in 1915, he believed he was creating a picture of immutable rural English permanence that no war could overcome.

For us, it is a heartbreakingly nostalgic vision of a rural England that the First World War swept away for ever.

In the intervening years we have learned that nothing accelerates societal and technological change as rapidly as war.

Our hindsight and the innocence of his mistakenness give the poem a poignancy it did not have in 1915.

Andrew Grant



Mothers' Union

Rev'd Rhona McEune, the Anglesey Benefice Curate joined our May meeting where she spoke about the 'Ministry of Ringing'. Church bells are rung for many occasions: for services, Weddings, Funerals, the Coronation, and other special occasions such as V.E Day. Rhona pointed out that Bell Ringers can often spend many hours a week in church, practicing, ringing for services, and then rushing off to do the same at another church. It really is a form of ministry!

We learnt about the different parts of bell ringing equipment and mechanisms, and how the 'Changed Ringing' patterns emerged in the 17th century – these are still used today and are similar to an orchestra following sheet music. It is very much an

art, and is mostly associated with Great Britain, but other countries, especially those with close historical ties to us may use this method too.

Bell ringers are quite a community, going on outings, holidays, attending Guild Associations, and competitions. They will often travel from church to church, and many keep a record of just how many different churches they have rung in. A full peel of the bells takes 3 hours to ring, with a ¼ peel taking 45 minutes. Rhona told us that some ringers have rung 6,000 peels – that is a lot of hours of dedication!

We finished our session by having a go at the changed ringing method using some 200-year-old hand bells, which was great fun – and good for our brains. We could see why Rhona said that bell ringing enhances your listening skills!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 17th July at 2.30pm at the Passage Hall, Lode. Alison Johnson will be talking to us about Literacy in Prisons.

All are welcome to join us.

Alison Martin

The Reading Group Reads....

Orbital

by Samantha Harvey

“Who chose this book”? - was the opening remark at our meeting held in June to discuss the 2024 Booker Prize “Orbital” by Samantha Harvey!

The novel, told over the course of 24 hours, follows four astronauts (Japanese, American, British and Italian and two Russian cosmonauts) aboard the International Space Station as they orbit the Earth. In addition to detailing the official duties and tasks of the astronauts aboard the spacecraft, which is incredibly well defined and researched, the novel also features their reflections on humanity and subjects including the existence or nature of God, the meaning of life and existential threats such as climate change. Each chapter of the novel covers a single 90-minute orbit around the Earth, with 16 orbits in the 24 hours.

The book has received unimaginable rave reviews from the critics but because there is no plot, no story, just the inner and outer lives of astronauts in orbit, it remains difficult to quite understand why it is so popular. We all agreed it is very well if not beautifully written, but the consensus was that the “beautifully written” book was difficult to get to grips with having no plot, no story, just the inner and outer lives of astronauts in orbit. Apart from one of us, this book was not a favourite and we left the meeting feeling mighty relieved that we could look forward to our next read - “Wish you were here” by Jodi Picoult!



Zelda Stuck

Forthcoming:

August 6th:	Wifedom by Anna Funder
September 3rd:	The Various Haunts of Men by Susan Hill
October 1st:	James by Percival Everett
November 5th:	Long Island by Colm Tobin

Bookclub normally takes place on the first Wednesday of the month at 5, Lower End, All welcome.

The Swaffhams' WI

It was a beautiful balmy evening in June when we gathered together for our annual WI summer garden party. We could not have asked for a more summery evening to celebrate our wonderful friendships in Catie's and Peter's stunning garden. Everyone brought a signature dish to share and Gill's quiz got us all up on our feet, discussing ideas and puzzling over identifying those well-known faces, whose names always seem to evade you. Thank you so much to Catie and Peter for being the perfect hosts, to Gill for yet again coming up trumps with the quiz and to our



wonderful members plus partners who helped us celebrate the warmth and unity of the Swaffhams WI.

Our next meeting is on Monday 21 July at 7:30pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Our speaker in July is Alison Giles who is speaking about Scientific Women at the Whipple Museum in Cambridge. Alison has spoken at one of our meetings in the past and she is an excellent and entertaining speaker. Do please come along and join our thriving and friendly group.

Kate Muscroft



VILLAGE GARDENERS

On a warm and sunny evening in June, the Village Gardeners visited the garden of Shadworth House in Swaffham Prior to meet Tom Comins and his family, and to see his extensive carnivorous plant collection. The vast majority of Tom's plants are *Sarracenia*, commonly known as trumpet pitchers. *Sarracenia* are North American bog plants which we learnt should be grown outside, or in a cool greenhouse, with their pots sitting in trays of soft water. They dislike our tap water, so thousands of litres of rain water are collected and stored in order to maintain the Shadworth



House collection. *Sarracenia* love the sun, although they are very hardy and will tolerate freezing conditions in winter. The leaves are a tall, narrow, tubular shape with a hood to trap the insects that are attracted to their nectar and fall inside to be digested. Tom's plants range from tiny seedlings resulting from his own plant-breeding programme, to stunning mature plants standing up to a metre high. Other carnivorous plants on show included Venus fly traps with their distinctive jaw-like leaves that snap closed when triggered, and the delicate sundews that trap insects on tiny drops of a sticky dew at the ends of their tentacles. We all enjoyed our visit, and the carnivorous plants were unique and fascinating, and not at all what you'd expect to find in the lovely garden of one of the oldest houses in the village.

Our next summer evening outing will be to Snakehall Farm between Swaffham Prior and Reach to hear about the vital work of the Prospects Trust and to see what their co-workers are growing on the organic farm this year (Tuesday 15th July, 6pm). If you are not a regular Village Gardener but would like to join us for this visit, please let us know using the contact details at the back of the Crier.

Fiona Geraghty

Anglesey Abbey – July

The Rose Garden at Anglesey Abbey is in full bloom and boasting 60 beautiful beds of roses – the gardeners reckon this is one of the best years yet for the garden. The 180 roses planted in 2024 are now in bloom for their second summer and dwarf dahlias are putting on a show in the Formal Garden. Get ready for some fun-filled days out and relaxing evenings at Anglesey Abbey this summer:



Summer of Play and crazy golf

Bursting with energy, we have an activity-packed day suitable for the whole family during the summer holidays, sponsored by Starling Bank. From 19 July to 31 August, come and have a play in the giant sand pit, take part in some seaside arts & crafts and challenge your friends to a game of badminton or volleyball.

In addition to five creative and interactive seaside play zones, **crazy golf** will be back from 19 July to 10 August, and you can enjoy weekly art & craft workshops too.

Outdoor theatre: Twelfth Night

Due to popularity, an extra date has been added! You can now watch The Lord Chamberlain's Men perform Shakespeare's greatest romantic comedy, Twelfth Night, in the gardens on both Saturday 16 and 23 August. Sit back and enjoy one of Shakespeare's masterpieces performed in the open air next to Anglesey Abbey's Jacobean-style country house.

Tailoring an Image

Take a dive into the world of mid-20th-century men's fashion and bespoke tailoring in a new menswear exhibition at Anglesey Abbey this summer from 1 July to 31 October. The exhibition is supported by H. Huntsman & Sons, Lord Fairhaven's Savile Row tailor, as well as John

Lewis & Partners in Cambridge. Don't miss this opportunity to see a rare survival of bespoke clothing and accessories belonging to just one man.

Head to the Anglesey Abbey website to find out more about our upcoming events and book your tickets.



Annual District Council meeting

This is the meeting at which the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Council and Committees are elected.

For the Chair of Council, the voting was 14 for the Conservative candidate and 14 for the Liberal Democrat & Independent candidate. The outgoing Chair used his casting vote to elect the Conservative Kelli Pettit.

In all subsequent appointments for the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, and for the committees, the voting was fourteen-all, and each time the Conservative Chair used her casting vote in favour of the Conservative candidate.

A motion to the Government to include local opinion in planning was put forward and passed unanimously.

The extra funding required for the building of the Mepal Crematorium was debated, and despite strong arguments against the spending of an extra £4m on this project, bringing the total sum to £13m, this was passed, again with the casting vote of the Chair.

Seminar on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Councillors were presented with the work so far done on LGR; three options had been selected as being the most sensible from the six that were first proposed. The three options are:

Peterborough City, Huntingdon and Fenland DCs form one unitary, and Cambridge City with South Cambs and East Cambs DCs form another unitary; *East-West*

Peterborough City, Huntingdon, East Cambs and Fenland DCs form one unitary, and Cambridge City with South Cambs DC form another unitary; *horseshoe*

Peterborough City, East Cambs and Fenland DCs form one unitary, and Cambridge City with South Cambs and Huntingdon DCs form another unitary; *North-South*

Options 1 and 3 would be about equal in terms of population, whereas Option 2 would be unbalanced in terms of population, but might be acceptable soon since the area surrounding Cambridge is deemed to increase rapidly in size.

Parishes will be consulted as to their preference, once more detail is provided.

Ward surgery

A surgery at the Pavilion on the Denny at Swaffham Bulbeck on Thursday 24 July from half past six for an hour, followed by socialising at the Black Horse in the same village.



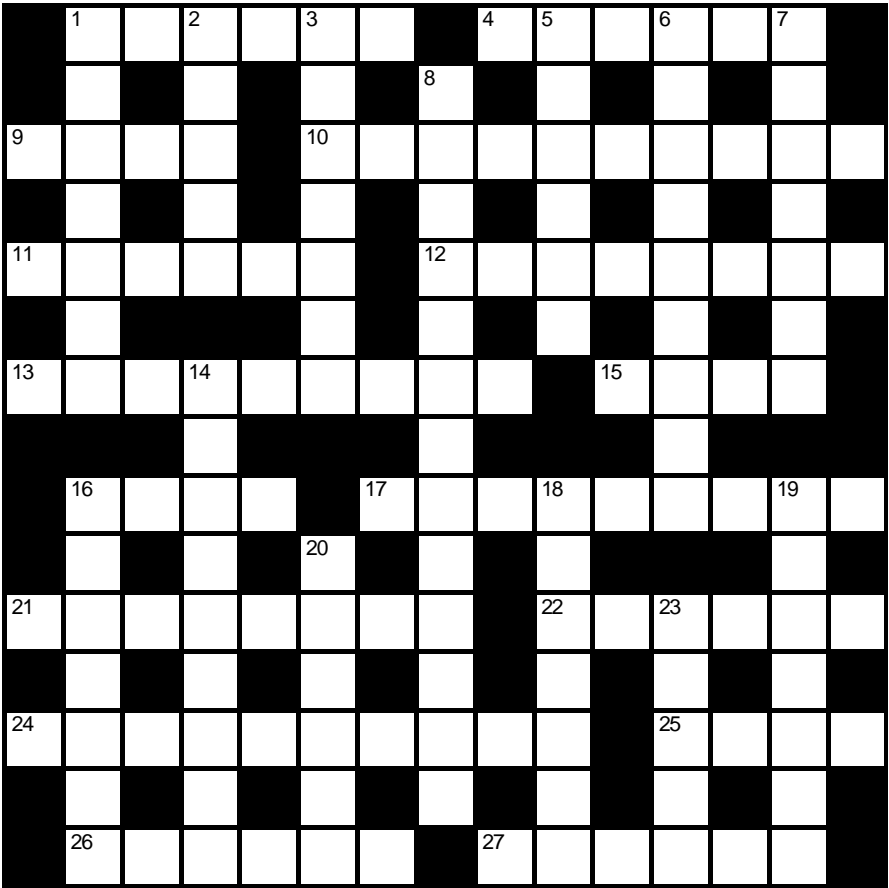
Crossword Number 229

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

BYWELL

Clues beginning with '*' contain no definition. Answers are of a kind, and contra-seasonal. Send your answers to the editors by 18th July 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 Nun sat uncomfortably, getting dark looks (6)
- 4 Young lady and gentleman returning what remains after destruction (6)
- 9 * Pole's expression of pain (4)
- 10 So daunting, revolutionary and amazing (10)
- 11 Aristocratic fool was in charge (6)
- 12 Magic lira tree will sell to the public (8)
- 13 Small photo of Tom and Jimmy (9)
- 15 * Detective is a silly man (4)
- 16 * Metal bends (4)
- 17 Mixture of sand and gravel all together (9)
- 21 * Retro country music - close to gospel - includes heavy metal (8)
- 22 French apple left by horse (6)
- 24 * Do cogs kill indiscriminately? (10)
- 25 * Tar found in the box? (4)
- 26 Snatch material to make inkpad (6)
- 27 Tries everything, first used in bodywork? (6)

Down

- 1 Swimming group could appear if NHS reorganised with us (7)
- 2 One welcome home for supporter of rail (5)
- 3 * Helping to make a salad dinner-table (7)
- 5 Correspond to a part in 'The Quatermass Experiment' (6)
- 6 * Starting to redevelop a third of Yorkshire (3,6)

- 7 Where cruisers might be sunk, last month included (3,4)
- 8 Painting in the street where we are holds the key - something to go on (8,5)
- 14 Poorly conceived motorways lead to dead end (9)
- 16 Show off and what he might do housing an officer (7)
- 18 One notice, back to front, gets a witty response (7)
- 19 Dark syrup for a rectal treatment (7)
- 20 Full range of beer and a rhododendron (6)
- 23 A prime minister of greater importance (5)

Solution to crossword no. 228

		B		B		B		E				L	
P	O	L	K	A		L	I	M	A	B	E	A	N
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		R				D		U		Y		E	

We congratulate Robert Nunn, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive a prize certificate from the editors. An honourable mention goes to Colin Dailly.

REACH FAIR 2025



Unusually, we managed to arrive *on time* (just! And in my case *THOROGOGHLY PUFFED OUT...*) with some visitors who had never been before and were very impressed with the Mayor & Corporation, penny throwing etc. We didn't see any penny throwing from vehicles though, and this was a disappointment. Perhaps they all come in a coach now instead of the shiny limos of yesteryear? Although they now appear to have forgotten this, I greatly fear that one naughty boy (many years ago and not ours!) threw them back, thus doubtless causing more than a few pence of damage to the paintwork and may have discouraged the tradition...

"The Maypole Dancing by the children of Swaffham Prior School was fabulous as always and then both stages entertained the visitors across the long afternoon." so says Within Reach (Reach's magazine) and we couldn't agree more — well done those kids and teacher-trainers, such a complicated plait made on the pole and then perfectly undone — not a foot wrong!

Within Reach goes on: "This year we had a rethink of our entertainment offering and rather than having a band on the top field, we opted to invite more local groups to perform. We welcomed Evoke Ceroc (a partnered dance group — who had the audience up and joining in!) and Synergy Majorettes (sparkly and full of energy!). These joined the Performance Without Limits dance group, who are a Reach Fair staple and the effect of these performers, interspersed with traditional Punch and Judy and Tug o' War, was to keep a more traditional fair feel for the visitors browsing the fabulous craft stalls who had come to exhibit their wares." Including of course *Planet Friendly Living*, our very own SP stall, brilliant as ever.

There were definitely fewer people there than usual (WR estimates about the same as last year, but this was lower than before) and this was actually a big relief, making it really quite pleasant wandering around and meeting people. Apparently, much of the shortfall was due to lack of cyclists because the CamCycle annual ride was not organised this year due to lack of volunteers. Hmmm! So—a passing fad then? This cycling business?



Anyway, a great time was had by all and there were special thanks to the Swaffham Prior & Reach Scouts for the barbecue — this was brilliant at our Village Feast too where there were even veggie sausages. No more Hog Roasts for me then, they aren't what they were! Till next year....

Caroline Matheson

(Many thanks to Brenda Doe for these photos)



A Garden of Verses

By Sylvie Short

Sylvie Short grew up in this village and wrote a very well received book about Swaffham Prior called *Two Churches Together: A History of Swaffham Prior*. She still receives this magazine and enjoys its poetry contributions. She has now written a book of poems *A Garden of Verses* and with her kind permission we are reprinting this one.

My Village

*Two grey churches silent and still
Standing together there on a hill,
A smallish hill, just rising ground
Used for them both, no other was found.
In my childhood one derelict, the other one used,
The crumbling church by us children abused.
We slid silently in over ivy and stone
The sill for a window, with glass long gone.
Then hurled old bricks and stones and wood,
We shouted to rafters, the sound was good.*

*Off down the lane, up onto stacks,
Climbing about with the sun on our backs.
Into Acorn Wood all mossy and green
Hidden in bushes, by others unseen.
Of twigs and leaves our dens we did make
Then huddled inside for coffee and cake.*

*Snug in my bed as dawn lit the sky
Horses and carts would go rumbling by.
Wheels grinding on road, wood creaking - and leather,
Making loads of hay as light as a feather.
Sometimes manure was on there instead
Which sent me scuttling back into bed.*

*The blacksmith's forge, all warm and dark,
Clang of metal, hiss of coal and flying of sparks.
Black iron made toffee in fire, bright red
'Your 'orse is all shod, now git orf 'ome,' he said.*

*Back to those stacks at threshing time,
We kids all gawping, stood in a line,
While terrified rats and mice bolted out
'Look there's another,' someone would shout.
Farmworkers on high with pitchforks in hand
To spear the poor creatures wherever they ran.
Then hold them aloft, squirming and wriggling,
Showing off to us youngsters, all nervously giggling.*

*All grown up now I drive round in my car
I'd hurried to get there, travelled quite far.
Watching sails of the windmill circling round,
tears run down my face, but I make not a sound.
'One day,' I said, 'one day I'll be back -
I promise...I promise, one day I'll come back.'*



Burwell Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Weight loss medications on the NHS

There has been a lot in the news recently about various weight loss injections, including an announcement by the NHS that one called “Mounjaro” will be available through GP Surgeries. The PPG thought it would be helpful to ask the Surgery to tell us more about who is eligible and how it will work.

What weight loss drugs are available through Burwell Surgery?

The specialist obesity service has used weight loss injections in diabetes care for some time. We are now assessing people against the new NHS criteria for the prescription of weight loss medications and those that are eligible are being referred to a service called Healthy You (<https://healthyyou.org.uk/>). This service can prescribe injections such as Mounjaro and Wegovy and offer the appropriate support to go with these interventions.

What is Mounjaro and how does it work?

Tirzepatide (also called Mounjaro) is a weight loss medicine that makes you feel fuller for longer and therefore less hungry. It comes in the form of an injection which you inject yourself, once a week. Another similar injection called Wegovy is also used. There are of course some potential risks (for example inflammation of the pancreas gland). But studies have shown a 10-15% weight loss with Wegovy and 15-20% with Mounjaro.

Is everyone eligible for Mounjaro on the NHS?

No. At the moment the NHS is prioritising only those with the highest clinical need. To be eligible, people must have both:

a BMI of 40 or over (37.5 if from an ethnic background)

AND

4 out of 5 of the following conditions: type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and vascular disease, high cholesterol and obstructive sleep apnoea.

Unfortunately if you do not fulfil all of the above criteria the Surgery will not be able to refer you to ‘Healthy You’ to access weight loss injections via this new service. However, it should be noted that this is a pilot service for much wider prescribing of these medications over the next 12 months, so watch out for further communication about this. The NHS will be gradually allowing more groups of people to access these drugs, recognising the constraints of budget (these are expensive drugs) and trained personnel to deliver the service.

If I am eligible, will the surgery tell me directly or do I need to contact the Surgery?

We are going to search out the patients we know of that fall into these (quite restricted) categories and offer a referral to Healthy You. It may well be that our records are incomplete in some areas – for example some people do not report symptoms of possible sleep apnoea (snoring with episodes of choking or stopping breathing). If we have not contacted you and you think that you might qualify then please contact us via AskmyGP and we will refer you on as appropriate.

What should I do if I am concerned about my weight, but am not eligible for

Mounjaro on the NHS?

Please do feel free to discuss issues with your weight with the practice if you would like to. There are a number of services we can access for you (see <https://www.cpics.org.uk/weight-management-services>). These include:

Free Slimming world or weight watchers membership for 12 weeks

Some digital programmes like <https://www.england.nhs.uk/digital-weight-management/>

Specialist health coaching, a variety of other programmes run by 'Healthy You' <https://healthyyou.org.uk/services/healthy-weight/>

Onward referral for specialist services like bariatric surgery.

Next PPG meeting – all welcome – why not join us online if you can't make it in person!

The next two meetings of the PPG will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 15th July and Tuesday 14th October at Burwell Day Centre – all welcome. If you would like to attend the PPG for the first time, or if you can't attend in person but can join via Microsoft Teams, then please contact

The Knitted Bible Exhibition comes to St James Church Lode August 2025



**Events and parables from the bible are
depicted in knitted figures.**

**Come and view them during regular church
opening times 9.00 am – 5.00pm**

For more info. Please contact the churchwarden
lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Notes from the Parish Council June Meeting

The June meeting of the Parish Council took place on the 12th June, starting at 7.30pm. It was chaired by Cllr John Covill and was attended by 6 parish councillors and five members of the public.

Reports

East Cambs District Council. Cllr John Trapp attended. Cllr Trapp noted his intention to keep the parishes involved in the changes to a unitary authority and that the preferred choice would be East Cambs to join with South Cambs and CCC to form one authority.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

Equans will reinstate the yellow lines on the High Street during or after they commence the next tranche of works, which is scheduled to be done this summer.

Correspondence.

Tiger bus routes. The PC formally thanked the A-B1102 group, who have represented the PCs, spent hours developing routes and feeding back to improving them once they were running. Email regarding the availability of East Cambridgeshire Community Fund grants. Noted.

Email from Swaffham Prior School regarding low pupil numbers in reception. Cllrs Gynn and Lambert have reached out to the school to see how the PC could offer support but have had no response as yet.

Emails from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding Public Rights of Way hierarchy and from Long Barrow Solar Farm regarding a new solar project – to be discussed in July.

Planning applications.

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

The PC did not object to the application, but raised the following concerns; the large size of the proposed extension in proportion to the original house, the safety and access for construction workers and traffic due to lack of parking off the B1102, and that the garage building is allowed only on the basis that it is a garage so that potential future conversions to (e.g.) more dwelling space requires further planning permission.

2025-6 budget

Cllr Kent-Phillips explained the proposed changes to the budget. Cllr Greenfield noted that separate income and outgoings would enable more accurate budgeting, as would noting whether cost included VAT that the PC could then claim back.

The following changes to the 2025-6 budget were agreed:

Grant to the Scouts.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that if the PC paid for the repairs to the French drain in full, it would be able to reclaim VAT, whereas if only part of the amount was given, no-one could reclaim VAT. Cllr Kent-Phillips also noted that as a one off special project, the funds would come out of the PC's reserves, which were more than adequate. The PC agreed to fully fund the repair of the French drain at the Scout hut.

Budget	Increase by	Decrease by
Clerk's salary	£1000	-
Clerk's expenses		£250
Computer/internet/ phone	£400	-
Village Hall		£100
Bank charges		£50
Grass cutting	£2000	
Cemetery	£50	
Street lighting	£300	
Data protection act	£15	
General maintenance		£250

Storage of a decorative arch for St Mary's in the sexton's shed.

The PC agreed to the arch being kept in the shed when not in use and the Clerk will get a key cut to give to the church warden.

Survey of the cemetery trees

After discussing the ETS quote for the tree survey, the PC decided to obtain 2 more quotes for comparison, to be discussed at the July meeting.

Annual Village Assembly.

The cancellation of the 2025 Assembly due to unavailability of the hall on the chosen date was noted; additionally that the period in which the assembly must be held was now past (1st March -1st June inclusive) and that therefore the assembly would not take place this year.

It was agreed that biscuits, tea and coffee will be provided by the PC for the 2026 Assembly and the Clerk will book the Village Hall for either the 20th or 21st May 2026.

Purchase of a new PC laptop

The Clerk noted that the current PC laptop had insufficient memory for the tasks required and was tending to crash regularly. A quote for a replacement and transfer of all data had been obtained from World of Computers for £384.00 (excluding VAT) and was accepted by the PC

Cemetery bench repairs.

The quote from Jon Taw for repairs to the bench was rejected as too expensive.

The clerk noted that the insurers were happy for the bench to be repaired by volunteers as long as the clerk carried out a risk assessment and the repair work used materials of a suitable quality.

The Clerk will contact those who expressed an interest on Facebook to see what

costs would be involved, and check to see if it was originally a station bench or not.

Heating Scheme

Cllr Greenfield reported.

The marketing employee of the heating scheme now submits much information to the Crier.

Equaans have issued an updated noise survey, a report has gone to planning and a response from CCC is now being awaited. The owner of the affected property is known to be unhappy still.

The landscaping has been started.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllrs Kent-Phillips and Greenfield.

Gigaclear are installing ducting for Fibre on Tothill and Greenhead Roads, in the pavements. Gigaclear will be using existing infrastructure where they can and install new ducting where needed. At present there is still no intention to include the High Street, but they may put in capability to cover it at a later date. Once ducting is in, they will be looking for take up in the areas covered.

Cllr Covill.

Road resurfacing has taken place at Commissioner's Fen. The trees on the Village Hall driveway and by the derestricted signs to Burwell are overgrown. The Clerk will ask the ECDC Tree Officer if the driveway trees can be cut back and the overgrowth by the derestricted signs can be reported to Highways.

Produced from unapproved minutes and may contain errors; approved minutes can be found at <http://www.swaffhamprior-pc.gov.uk/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 July 2025 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

BON MOT NUMBER 162

**"To be part of something one doesn't
in the least understand is, I think,
one of the most intriguing things about life."**

Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976)



PEACEFUL & PRAYERFUL ART GROUP FOR ADULTS

Thursdays July 3rd, 10th, 17th

10:30am – 12:30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham

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

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

A wide range of art materials supplied:
Charcoal / felt tips / pencils / crayons /
watercolour pencils / paints / pastels

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:

A quantity of empty jam jars. Lorely 07901792622 (please note, this was in last month but with an error in the phone number, now corrected)

0.75 litre thermos flask (A Japanese brand – Tiger. Old but in good working condition). Jun 07980 423210

Brand new, white, Rak Ceramic Summit close coupled dual flush toilet cistern. Ian 07769994387

Wants:

Old picture frames (no glass wanted). Tessa 01223 812035



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

Following our AGM which was held in April the Swaffham Prior Village Hall Committee were again unable to fill the volunteer vacancy with responsibility for "Hall Maintenance".

In order to ensure that this valuable village asset remains in good condition we need help, so If you are able to become part of the committee and take on this role or can offer some of your time in a more occasional hands-on basis please contact Philip Blackburn on 07501230256 or at chairman.spvh@gmail.com

For anything else also contact Philip Blackburn on 07501230256

Services in July 2025

Sunday 6 July – third Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 13 July – fourth Sunday after Trinity Pentecost

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

Sunday 20 July – fifth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 27 July – sixth Sunday after Trinity

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; churchwardens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches;

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



Dates for Your Diary July 2025

Tue	1	Bellringing, St Mary's, 7.30 (& every Tuesday)
Thu	3	Peaceful Art, Bottisham Church, 10.30-12.30 [33] Bottisham Patients' Participation Group, Surgery, 6:30 [14]
Sat	5	Open Studios [7]
Sun	6	Open Studios [7]
Thu	10	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm Peaceful Art, Bottisham Church, 10.30-12.30 [33]
Sat	12	Open Studios [7,8]
Sun	13	Open Studios [7,8]
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, Snakehall Farm, 6pm [21] Burwell Patients' Participation Group, Burwell Day Centre, 6:30 [28]
Thu	17	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Fassage Hall [18] Peaceful Art, Bottisham Church, 10.30-12.30 [33]
Sat	19	Open Studios [7,8] Coffee & Cake Concert, 10.30am, Bottisham Church [8] Anglesey Abbey, activity days (until 23 Aug) [22]
Sun	20	Open Studios [7,8]
Mon	21	A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood, Newmarket Cinema. 6.45 [5] WI , 7.30pm, VH [20]
Tue	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Thu	24	Cllrs Surgery, The Pavillion, The Denny, SB, 6.30-7.30pm [23]
Sun	27	Strawberry Teas , 3-5pm, 14 Tothill Rd [6]

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