

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIX Number 5 May 2025

Editorial

It's the Merry Month of May bursting upon us, and very merry it's going to be in this village, with lots not to miss. First, there's Reach Fair (p. 6), then there's going to be a film crew from Anglia Ruskin University going around the village (p. 3) and your chance to say what you think about the Heating Scheme, then there's the VE Day commemoration (p. 5 — and see Julie's Recipes on p. 10!), National Mills Weekend, in which our very own Windmill will be participating, concerts galore (pp. 5, 24), our brilliant VILLAGE FEAST (pp. 7,8 — we'll be on the bar) and to round it all off, our Annual Village Assembly (p. 3). Phew!

This is also the month in which you get a chance to nominate your candidate for the Gay Bulleid Award (p. 6) — someone who in whatever capacity has been doing a good job for the village. Last year's welldeserving winner was Martin Mead — who will we choose this year (see p7)?

SO much of what goes on in this village is centred around the Village Hall and they need more help (see p.26), particularly for overseeing Hall Maintenance, but anyone who would like to volunteer a bit of spare time in any role would be very welcome. Yes, things do not run themselves by themselves, WE do it, and often have a great deal of fun in the process! So do take the plunge and see what's it's like.

We have our own reporter back on the Village PC again! Welcome to John Chalrmers (actually an exeditor of the Crier) but he won't be able to do it all the time, so if anybody — could be YOU — would like to try their hand, please get in touch with the editors.

As many will know, Alastair Everitt did this for many years. You can still find him in this issue (see p. 16) where he's talking about Camp Coffee!

Caroline Matheson

SWAFEHAM PRIOR

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Cover Picture: Swaffham Prior Smock Mill, fine black and white ink illustration by Tegan Jepson

Letters to the Editors





Dear Editors

Village Quiz Night

What a turn out for the quiz last month, it was nice to see everyone. Congratulations goes to the team, 'First Place', who won and to the runners up '5Non Blondes'.

Thank you to Mandy Kingsmill and Kate Muscroft who served the food and helped in the kitchen. Also thanks to Andrew who was our quiz master and guitarist, we expect singing next time.

April did another amazing job selling raffle tickets, thank you once again and to all of you who donated prizes, we do appreciate everyone's help on the quiz nights.

The money raised for St. Mary's Church was £539 so thanks to you all. Our next quiz for your diaries is the 18th October, We hope to see you there.

Lynne and Jenny

Dear Editors,

Planning permission for Solar Tiles

Following my first attempts to get advice about the likelihood of permission to install solar panels on my roof in the Conservation Area I found that there is in fact an established process for this – which my initial communications with ECDC hadn't made clear enough. For a not insignificant fee one can present a basic set of information and illustrations about the proposal, and wait for an answer, so I did.

It became clear why a fee was involved because the response was very detailed, including opinions in five different categories – Principle, Visual Amenity and Heritage, Residential Amenity, Highways, and Energy and Sustainability, each colour-coded from Green (likely acceptable), Amber (requires amendment), Red (unacceptable) and Purple (need to consult a specialist). I got three Greens, one Amber and one big fat Red, the latter on Visual Amenity and Heritage. They consider that amongst other things I live too near the road and surrounded by a surprising number of listed buildings.

However, taking advice from friends who found themselves in a similar situation, I have established that I don't need to apply for any permission after all. Despite being in a Conservation Area, so long as I follow some rules my proposal comes within the specification of a Permitted Development, so I could simply get on with it. To be fair, this possibility was included in the summary of the ECDC's response but I hadn't picked up on it.

I am sympathetic with the Visual Amenity business, but don't think that a set of modern black frameless panels on a slate roof would be much of a distraction. I have not yet committed to the project but will now look into the whole business much more seriously.

John Chalmers



What do we think about the Heating Scheme? Tell the film crew

Many of us will remember Janet Hall, who was one of the first people to come to talk to us about the Heating Scheme in its early days.

She is now involved with similar project in Grantchester as they are planning to follow in Swaffham Prior's footsteps. and she is coming with a team from Anglia Ruskin University to do some filming here on Friday 9th, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th of May.

She would like to talk to as many residents as she can, so please get out and meet her! *Eds*

She can be contacted on: j@lineundrawn.

ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY Wednesday 28th May, 7.30pm Village Hall

Please come along to the Annual Village Assembly which is on Wednesday 28th May, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This is a chance for everyone to meet, to hear from and speak to all the many groups in the village and to float new ideas as to what you'd like to see happening here over the next 12 months

Jude Griffiths, Clerk to the Parish Council

This Month's Cover Picture

In Tegan's detailed drawing we see Swaffham Prior's smock mill as it might have looked around 150 years ago. Why is it known as a smock mill? The brick tower base is topped with a timber-framed, eight-sided, black weatherboard 'smock', a shape which resembles the smocks worn by farm workers years ago.

It was built on Mill Hill around 1830 and was at one time owned by the Foster family who also acquired the village's other windmill, the tower mill in 1896. After being struck by lightning in 1927, the damaged smock mill could no longer operate and all milling passed to the tower mill until 1946 when it became uneconomic to continue working that mill. In 1988 Steven Bradley rebuilt and converted the smock mill to a dwelling and added the extra ground floor rooms beside the central windmill building. In more recent years, James and Shell Forsyth have built a new cap and sails, faithfully copying the original details to enable the mill to work again, this time generating electricity. The tower windmill restoration was completed in 1992 by Michael Bulleid and the current owners continue the proud tradition of milling at Swaffham Prior as The Prior's Flour Business. *Celia Tyler*

Artist's contact details: tegan.jepson@gmail.com

From Our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The meeting began by trying to make sense of a new procedural requirement from ECDC to exclude public and press from the consideration of two planning preapplications (requests for advice), on the basis that the matter is confidential – as distinct from formal applications which presumably are not... It was decided to comply, and those affected duly left the room when the time came, so we won't know what transpired.

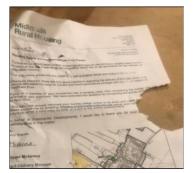
John Trapp's report was almost exclusively dedicated to the proposed reorganisation of local government and councils, about which he assured us the PC would be consulted... He favours merging with South Cambs and Cambridge City but **not** Fenland. He was assured that existing councillors will have influence on decisions, though whether that will have any more weight than the PC's view



is another matter. He suggests that ECDC should spend all its reserves as soon as possible on good causes, from which category the Mepal Cemetery should be specifically excluded. Submissions from interested parties and organisations must be in by the end of November. Aside from local government he was asked a question about the number of empty Sanctuary houses but my notes didn't include any response.

The Midlands Rural Housing survey came under a lot of fire, firstly because the PC had specifically not approved it, secondly because it was invalid in several respects (the wrong site to start with), and thirdly because it was rubbish. However the whole business is clearly not going to go away; ECDC had asked for proposals from landowners and received four or five, and potential developers are clustering around. Planning rules regarding social housing may be revised but everyone is aware of the need. John Trapp will arrange a meeting for himself and David G with the Planning Manager to dig further into the matter.

Ely Food Bank's application for a grant was refused, but one from the Scouts was considered. Whilst maintenance of the Scout Hut itself is being supported by various charity organisations, there is a problem with a drain that runs along the full length outside the front, which may have to be dug out and replaced. Meads have offered the necessary labour but there may be a capital cost for materials which the PC could cover. To be continued.



As correctly predicted by last month's canine resident's submission, the Midlands Rural Housing survey came under a lot of fire unapproved, invalid, wrong site, rubbish... There was lots of discussion about benches (I presume those in front of the village hall) which are in poor condition. Apparently two of them are historic relics from the railway station, with cast iron frames which could be repaired and smartened up, but new wooden slats for the seats will be required. For some reason it was decided to scrap one and try to fix the other, with requests in the Crier for anyone who could contribute to the work.

PCs must now all have 'gov.uk' email and website addresses, a significant cost and hassle in terms of transferring all the historic data and contact arrangements. Fortunately Steve KP has found a local organisation which can apparently do it all for us at a remarkably reasonable price. Fingers crossed.

There are still noise problems for those living near the heating scheme energy centre – CELLIST no longer from 'temporary' generators but from the main plant itself. This could be difficult to resolve.

Our Clerk has now achieved her final qualification for the role (congratulations) and can

therefore be trusted to continue to provide the excellent service that we have become accustomed to. Her request for a new Laptop was received favourably.

Closing discussions included concerns about the impact of new overhead cables that would be required to take power from the proposed Kingsway solar farm (around Balsham) to the Burwell switching station, about children climbing onto the bus shelter roof (let's put up a sign suggesting that it might be dangerous), and resurfacing the fen road - yet again.

John Chalmers

Cakes, tea and coffee will be available after the service; donations, please for the Royal British Legion

St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

A Service for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day

Sunday 11 May, 10.30am



BACH Suite No. 3 BRITTEN Suite No. 1 **CASSADO** Solo Suite

ANNIVERSARY A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

MAY

2025

Tickets: £10 Adults, £5 (Below 18s)

CELLO RECITAL

SAT

10 MAY

16:00

LYNCH

Swaffham Prior Village Hall



National Mills Weekend 2025

The Priors Flour at Fosters Mill, is taking part in National Mills Weekend 2025 on Sunday 11th May from 2pm to 5pm

by celebrating our heritage of traditional milling along with our heritage of real bread (bread made with flour, water, salt and yeast and nothing else).

We will be hosting a "Bread Creche" – a space to talk all things real bread! Get advice on your sourdough starter, discuss ways to use different flours (there are 14 flours to choose from at the Priors Flour), dried yeast, dough hydration, autolyse timings, shaping and moulding techniques or whatever you need help with. Share your experiences, learn from others! Our wood fired oven will be hot and ready to bake off your waiting dough at 3pm.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be served all afternoon. The mill and shop will be open, the mill will be working, wind permitting and visitors are invited to tour the mill.

Jonathan Cook, miller said "Our milling heritage has been intertwined with our use of grains for food and feed stuffs for over 12,000 years. Over the last decade, it has been wonderful to witness the resurgence of interest in real bread and artisanal stoneground flours. Millers are the link between "field" and "fork" and this National Mills Weekend, we want to celebrate this. There has been more than one mill here in Swaffham Prior since the times of Doomsday and we carry on a vital and incredible tradition to this day".

Jon Cook



Swaffham Prior Village Feast Saturday 24th May 12.30 to 4.00pm

This year's Feast will be full of fun and games for all the family.

Someone will be calling in the next few days and we would be grateful for donations for the bottle stall or draw prizes.

If you have any items for the following stalls you would like to be collected please call Jenny Brand on **01638 742161** to arrange collection.

STALLS - Plants, Cakes, Books, Puzzles & Toys

Thank you for your support and looking forward to seeing you on 24th May.



The Gay Bulleid Award Now is your chance to get your nominations in for the recipient of this prestigious 'Good Neighbour' village award.

Someone who makes the village a better place, brings people together, is always involved behind the scenes, that sort of thing. Nominations to me at clerk@swaffhamprior-pc.gov.uk.

Jude Griffiths

ANNUAL VILLAGE FEAST

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



EVENTS, STALLS & CRAFTS

MAYPOLE - MORRIS DANCING - YOGA - RAFFLE CAR & MOTORBIKE EXHIBITION - EMERGENCY VEHICLES BAR & REFRESHMENTS - BARBEQUE

BRIC-A-BRAC - PLANTS - CAN SHY - GURNING - LUCKY DIP BOWLING - WI STALL - TOMBOLA - FOOTBALL - FACE PAINTING CAKE STALL - PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT - BOOKS JIGSAWS, TOYS

ICE CREAM VAN - CREAM TEAS

ANNUAL EGG-THROWING CONTEST AT 4.00PM

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



From our District Councillors Charlotte Cane & John Trapp

Extraordinary Council meeting 20 March 2025

This Council meeting was to confirm formally an acknowledgement to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution that we had received his letter about Local Government recognition, and that we were working with the other Councils in Cambridgeshire to formulate a consistent plan for the county.



The Council formally adopted the Witchford Neighbourhood

Plan that was modified to include a Climate Change Single-Issue Review. It is interesting to note that NPs are organic and can be updated to keep abreast of changes to local concerns and issues.

Operational Services committee 24 March 2025

Not an exciting meeting, as the agenda contained a number of housekeeping reports: the ECSS business plan for next year, the Community Safety Partnership six-monthly report, End of Year Reports on Service Delivery and the Plans for next year, Home-lessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, Housing Adaptations and Repairs Policy, Quarter 3 2024/25 Budget Monitoring Report (which predicts an overspend of £335,000 on operating costs and an underspend of £1.7m on capital mainly because money set aside for buying black bins (£1m) and for the Mepal Crematorium (£1m) has been deferred until the following year), Quarter 3 2024/25 Performance Report for the Waste and Street Cleansing Services which shows that bin collection is still not within target, Citizens Advice West Suffolk SLA Performance Update (which surprisingly showed that residents as far afield as Littleport and Ely were coming to the Newmarket CAB, the one at Ely having been scrapped sometime ago, as well as residents from Bottisham Ward).

Finance & Assets committee 27 March 2025

Two items of housekeeping were discussed: the ECTC Business Plan for the next year, and End of Year Reports on Service Delivery and the Plans for next year.

It was also agreed that three ECDC assets in Ely, Oliver Cromwell House, the Maltings and Maltings Cottage should be sold to City of Ely Council for £1 each, or if the City of Ely Council did not want to buy them, to offer them on a 25-year lease. Substantial renovations and repairs are necessary to all three, and a short-term lease as hitherto done would not be in the interests of these heritage buildings. Having been assured by the Monitoring Officer that this would be legal, and with constraints on the use to which they could put and on the resale of these properties, this was unanimously resolved.

Sanctuary Housing

Sanctuary Housing will soon no longer have a support desk at The Grange, Ely. Instead, they will reach out to their tenants and do local visits.

Surgery

The next ward surgery will be at Reach Village Hall, Downing Close, CB25 9DD, from half past six to half past seven on Wednesday 21 May 2025, followed by a social meeting at The Dyke's End in the same village.

Julie's VE Day War Time Recipes

Lord Woolton's vegetable pie

11b potatoes 11b cauliflower 11b swede 11b carrots 3 or 4 spring onions 1 tsp vegetable extract 1 tbsp oatmeal Chopped parsley Wheatmeal pastry or extra potatoes for the crust

Cook the first 7 ingredients together for 10 minutes with just enough water to cover. Stir occaisonally to prevent sticking. Allow to cool and put into a pie dish. Sprinkle with chopped parsley. Cover with wholemeal pastry or mashed potato. Bake in the oven on a moderate heat until the pastry is brown or potatoes have browned.

Sugar Beet soup

1.Boil the beets (2 large roots are sufficient for soup for 6 people) for 1 hour on the stove and once cooked transfer to a hay box for 6 hours. Rub through a sieve, skin and all.

2.Make a roux by melting 1 tsp of margarine, adding a little flour and stirring to a smooth paste. Add 2 pints of vegetable stock very slowly and the sieved beet. Then add 10 fl oz of hot milk. Cook slowly then when heated pour into a tureen.

Wartime eggless sponge

8 oz self raising flour 2 level tsp baking powder 3 rounded tsp custard powder Pinch of salt 3 oz lard or margarine 2 rounded tbsp castor sugar Milk to mix

Mix the flour. Baking powder, custard powder and salt together. Rub in the fat and sugar and then add the milk to mix. Spread into 2 sandwich tins. Bake in the oven at 350f or gas mark 4 for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

Wicken Fen News

Wicken FenSpring is in full swing at Wicken Fen! It's the perfect time to enjoy a walk around the reserve. Listen to the birdsong, which reaches its peak at this time of year, with African migrants such as cuckoos, reed warblers, and sedge warblers filling the air.

As part of our *Listen to the Voices of the Fen* sound art project, funded by Arts Council England in collaboration with artist Kathy Hinde and Babylon Arts, we have

some exciting workshops and events coming up.

You can craft a flute from natural materials on 28th and 29th June and a subsequent live performance on 20th July to officially launch a brandnew art sculpture trail around the boardwalk and woodland walk. which will run until the end of September. A clay ocarina (a small flute-like instrument) making workshop is



happening on 3rd May, and on 4th May, Kathy will be leading a dawn chorus listening walk at 10.15am. You can also make your own aeolian harp on 31st May, powered by the wind. Find more details on our website.

The Summer Nature Trail opens on 1st June, offering stunning views of orchids and other colourful Fen flowers, as well as sightings of dragonflies and damselflies.

Over the past 18 months, thanks to Natural England's Species Recovery Capital Grant Scheme, we've been working to enhance wildlife habitats and improve access to nature. Located near Reach village, the project has improved habitat suitability for turtle doves. This includes planting wild bird cover crops, creating flower-rich mead-ows, and planting 5,400 saplings to create 600 meters of hedgerow. We've also excavated a new pond, re-profiled a ditch to provide additional drinking points for birds, and installed a culvert to connect two fields, creating a new green footpath linking Burwell and Reach. This work is a significant step towards restoring vital habitats, boosting biodiversity, and offering a beautiful green space for the local community to enjoy.

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website <u>www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen</u>. Details of our events can be found on our website at <u>https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on</u>

Ajay Tegala

Swaffham Prior Heat Network – May 2025 Update

We are pleased to announce that both internal and external installation works for all properties in our latest batch have been completed, bringing the total number of connected properties to 97. Surveys for the next group of installations are currently underway. If you have submitted Expression of Interest to connect your property, you can expect a visit from our engineers soon. Once the surveys are complete, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) will review the results and send Heat Supply Agreements to property owners for signing. After that, installation dates will be scheduled.

Common Issues

The Energy Centre is continuously monitored by our engineering team and is operating smoothly.

Recently, our engineers have been out and about to address complaints regarding heating issues. They discovered problems with the internal systems such as faulty zone valves, pressure issues in the internal system, or the need to rebalance the internal heating system. Immediate actions were taken by the technical team to resolve these issues. Although many of the issues members are encountering are unrelated to the heat network, our engineering team is available to provide support and technical expertise as needed.

We received a couple of calls about the temperature displayed on Heat Interface Units (HIUs) being lower than specified in the Heat Supply Agreement. According to the agreement, the temperature of the network supply will be 72 degrees Celsius for external air temperatures of 0 degrees Celsius and below, and 62 degrees Celsius for external air temperatures of 20 degrees Celsius and above, with a sliding scale in between. The number on the HIU indicates a set point, not the incoming network temperature. This set point can be adjusted by a competent and authorized person to suit the property and system it is fitted to. Our team visited these properties, measured the incoming temperatures, found them to be above 70 degrees Celsius, and adjusted the HIU settings accordingly. The issue has now been resolved, and the displayed temperatures are accurate.

If you have any issues or need assistance, please contact our 24-hour helpline at 01782 390777 or email us at <u>heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u>.

Moving House?

We recommend that everyone take a moment to review their Heat Supply Agreement. This will help you understand the contract details and your rights and responsibilities. In accordance with sections 20 and 21, all tenants/ Homeowners must inform us one month in advance if they are moving in or out of a Private or Sanctuary property. This is necessary to facilitate arrangements such as Heat Supply Agreements, account setup, and meter readings. Failure to sign the Heat Supply Agreement will result in the unavailability of services provided by the Swaffham Prior Heat Network Team.

Your Bill

Bills for the first quarter of 2025 have been sent to all customers. If you have any

concerns about your bills, please reach out to us; our team is happy to assist. If you are having difficulty making payments, please inform us as soon as possible -we may be able to support and agree a payment plan with you. Failure to pay the bills within the specified timeline without prior notification will result in an automatic referral to our debt team.

Feedback from a Resident:

Great team! Both the contractors and installers carried out brilliant work. No mess and we have never been so warm—fantastic system. I cannot understand the criticism the heat network has been subjected to from some Swaffham Prior residents. This has been tried and trusted technology throughout Scandinavia for many years. — *Resident from Mill Hill*

Curious About SPHN? Join an Open House Event!

If you're interested in seeing the system in action, we're arranging Open House events where you can visit an existing SPHN-connected home. This is a fantastic opportunity to see how the installation works and ask any questions you may have. Email us to register your interest, and our team will be in touch to arrange a visit.

Meet Our Team

We would love to meet with you and discuss how the heat network could benefit your home. Our team will be available in the village as needed. If you would like to schedule a meeting with our business or technical team to learn more about the heating network or discuss any issues, please call or email us to book an appointment. Meetings can be arranged in the Village Hall, at your property, or via video conference.

If you're interested in connecting to the Heat Network or have any questions, please reach out to us or register your interest online through our form at: <u>https://forms.office.com/e/8mg3xtEpny</u>

Our contact details

Email us at <u>heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u>, Call our customer service line at 0345 0455210 24x7 Helpline contact No. **01782 390777** Heating Swaffham Prior Team, Cambridgeshire County Council

BON MOT NUMBER 160

"In wilderness I sense the miracle of life. Behind it, our scientific accomplishments fade to trivia."

Charles Lindberg (1902 - 1974)



T4 & T5 New Bus Routes to replace No 11 Bus

The Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) who manage our buses have announced that shortly, our No11 bus will be replaced by two new routes, the T4 and T5 services (see below).

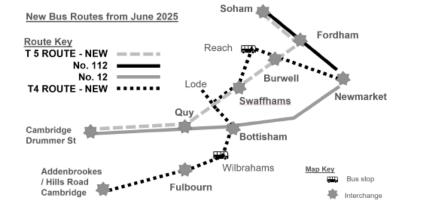
At the time of writing this information, the implementation (change over) date has not been confirmed. The A to B1102 Group has therefore created a webpage where we will publish all the information you need to



access the new services **once it is available.** You will find route maps, timetables, interchange and ticketing information. Once we know, you will know.

The webpage can be accessed scanning the QR code above or by typing the following to your browser:

www.atob1102.org/new-bus-route-information



POEM OF THE MONTH

The Trees Philip Larkin

The trees are coming into leaf Like something almost being said; The recent buds relax and spread, Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again And we grow old? No, they die too. Their yearly trick of looking new Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh In fullgrown thickness every May. Last year is dead, they seem to say, Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.

Larkin's reputation rests on a surprisingly meagre output for a poet without Keats's, Shelley's, Brooke's or Owen's excuse of a tragically early death. Larkin is celebrated for the often lugubrious eye he casts on everyday life to discover in it universal significance, captured in masterly but unobtrusive command of rhyme and metre and striking and often surprising imagery. For example, he once described his own appearance, not unfairly, as resembling "a balding salmon" and that of fellow poet Ted Hughes as resembling "a Christmas present from Easter Island."

In this poem, the trees' coming into leaf prompts a reflection on human transience and mortality such that their greenness, which most would read as a welcome sign of rebirth and renewed hope, becomes, to the lugubrious Larkin, "a kind of grief". Note, too, the paradoxical pairing of "unresting" and the static solidity of "castles" suggesting an ever-renewing defensive campaign against besieging death and the onomatopaeic "sh" sounds of the last line, in which we hear the breeze moving through the new leaves.

I was pointed towards this poem by the recent dreadful felling of an ancient oak in Enfield, by the ironically named local "Carvery" whose car park it overhung and whose owners' brand name, "Toby", as in "Toby jug", channels the very qualities of traditional stout-hearted Englishness as are associated with oak trees. Larkin would have found plenty to work with there.

Andrew Grant

The View from Lower End

It may not have been much fun for people over the last few months. They had cause to be worried about the new oil field in Swaffham Prior, about Donald Trump, about Putin, about the unforgiving and relentless war in the Middle East, the effects of a Tariff War, the spread of 1.5 million houses across the English countryside, the revelations of Adolescence and the horror of parents as they became first aware of responsibilities they preciously knew nothing about. Should they worry that we are still awaiting the results of the Covid Enquiry with the pandemic being increasingly blamed for the inadequacies of the young, and the huge change in society. They have been dithering around so much on this, and other enquiries. It is fortunate a war is not impending. All we are being told is that our Civil Service is pretty hopeless, that we do not have sufficient planners, and then in the next sentence that we have too many planners. A good outstanding case is why the "Lockdown" was delayed.



"Camp Coffee was generally only known by 'working class families' in the 1950s and 1960s"

Yes indeed, by those of us who worked! Eds

Five years ago it had been decided that "Lockdown" was necessary, All medical evidence proved it. But "Mr Caution" Willis decided that another dozen or so committees should be given their say before a final decision could be announced After many more people had died, the expected decree was at last released on 23 March 2000.

The Trump situation is not like this because he is a very unusual happening and possibly the best comment to make is "Let's see what happens", especially as China has now entered the Tariff War with enthusiasm. Is was with some relief to be brought down to some sort of reality the other day by sight of a large advertisement for Camp Coffee. I first spotted a bottle a couple of years ago having strayed into the Home Baking aisle of a supermarket. Surely no one uses that now I thought. After the recent ad I chose to find out more as once it had certainly been part of my past. Indeed it had been and next year, 2026, will be its 150th anniversary. The British were still expanding and consolidating its Empire with the Scots giving us a helping hand in India. To get an entertaining account of the time

see the film Carry on up the Khyber or read George Macdonald Fraser's Flashman and the Mountain of Light which also explains, pretty accurately, why we possess the Koh-i-Noor Diamond' The Scots, being of a more delicate palate than the English missed their coffee and in 1876 the Gordon Highlanders asked the Paterson Company of Glasgow for a coffee drink that could easily be used by the army on field campaigns in India. The regular process of grinding and brewing coffee beans was too complicated and time consuming for a military field kitchen. Originally the picture on the bottle depicted a Sikh carrying a tray of coffee but later the drawing was of a Gordon Highlander officer and a Sikh soldier.. The drink was a blend of coffee, chicory, water and sugar. It was generally only known by "working-class families" during the 1950s and 1960's. Later it became replaced by other versions of instant coffee but also has remained for some as a favourite for cooking recipes. Maybe a special "Camp Coffee Class" recipe should be included in next years Village Show to celebrate the 150th anniversary.

What a nostalgic comfort for those who remember it from their own childhood, from their grandparent's memories, or their 'parents' remarks. Just a spot of light relief to stop you worrying about your mortgage, your pension, maybe even your job as Trump attempts to change the world to his liking. But as a democracy we still have an influence with all the local elections coming up soon. Who to vote for? That is quite a difficult one. Does any party offer hope? Why is Farage becoming more appealing?

Alastair Everitt

Eds note: Scotland is part of Britain.

Anglesey Abbey – May 2025

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has visited Anglesey Abbey over the last couple of months while the Shaun the Sheep sculptures have been in residence. Every visit, cup of coffee, book bought, or donation given helps us care for Anglesey Abbey and continue to put on events for all ages to enjoy. Thank you as well to all the wonderful volunteers who have given up their time to help over the Easter holidays, on daffodil tours and in many other ways – you are hugely appreciated!

Garden highlights

As we head into No Mow May and National Walking Month, the wildflower meadows at Anglesey Abbey will be teeming with butterflies and provide the perfect spot for you to enjoy a spring walk outside in nature. The meadows contain over 50 species of wildflower in the summer, and if you visit in May, make sure you look out for the rare bee orchids. Other May highlights include the delicate wisteria decorating the house and the flowering horse chestnut trees along Coronation Avenue.

Upcoming events

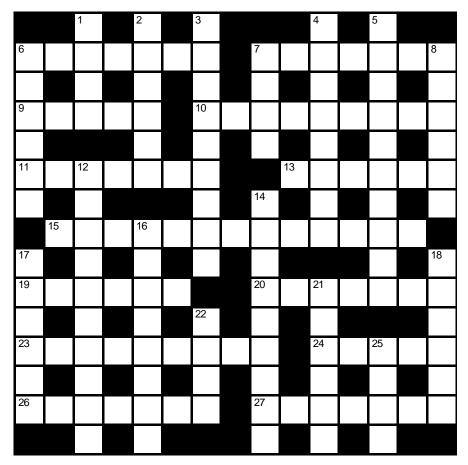
Join us for more family fun on a **May half-term activity trail** during the school holidays and tickets are already live for some of our summer events. **Adventure Cinema** will be at Anglesey Abbey from Friday 4 July to Sunday 6 July in the gardens, and The Lord Chamberlain's Men will be performing Shakespeare's **Twelfth Night** in the open air on Saturday 16 August. To find out more and to book tickets, head to the Anglesey Abbey website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey

Issy Vetoshkina

Crossword Number 227

Compiled by **CALVIN**

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

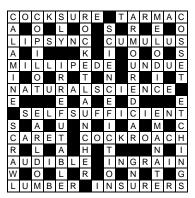
Across

- 6 Goodbye to extremist Cleese, holding high explosive and proceeding to city (7)
- 7 Will verification result from investigation that engulfs a model? (7)
- 9 Submitting paperwork, setter is missing Scottish dance (5)
- 10 Film this is a parody, Palin spat (6,3)
- 11 In greater health due to medical dispenser (7)
- 13 Dash with vigour, in hearing for developing child (6)
- 15 It's not really possible I'm editing Cabaret clip (13)
- 19 I salt one electrical component, with hole advancing (6)
- 20 Blimey! Jones, shaved front and back, texted our medical examiner (7)
- 23 Return to working condition after brushfire damage (9)
- 24 X site is updated when Musk's capital is involved (5)
- 26 Low note, heard in the Mariana Trench perhaps? (4-3)
- 27 Skating location is central to offensive gadget (7)

Down

- 1 Idle arrangement of eatery (4)
- 2 Cheap to steal halves from Ugly Alan (6)
- 3 Squeeze prisoners fooled in audition (9)
- 4 Blood poisoning axiom: eat haphazardly (8)
- 5 Degree to which Chapman's heart is set on network - his grand strategy (6,4)

- 6 Ultimate destination found in pic of Fingal's Cave (6)
- 7 Clasp, after sides trade for person acting superior (4)
- 8 Play trick after setter recoils (6)
- 12 "Hi, I'm Fred" I rambled, with posh device producing moisture (10)
- 14 Last letter in church contains hint of paint (4,5)
- 16 International organisation that's doubly angry (3,5)
- 17 Layered neckwear choice for Labour? (6)
- Puerto Rican leaders join drug group by default (6)
- 21 Take classes again, but heart's not in it to engage (6)
- 22 Flatbread is a mess when rising (4)
- 25 Create for Gilliam a keepsake to hold (4)



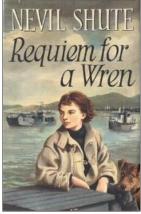
Solution to crossword no. 226

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

The Reading Group Reads... Requiem for a Wren By Nevil Shute

This was a very woeful book about how World War II affected the lives of the young people who fought in it long after it was over.

It centred around Leading Wren Janet Prentice, who has just committed suicide as the book opens (good start then) and her story unfolds through the memories of her wartime fiancé's brother. As the D-Day fleet preparations advanced, she was a local celebrity as a crack shot and also for her ability to spot an improperly maintained gun at ten paces. But when she shoots down an enemy plane



with its wheels down (she didn't know that meant it was surrendering because she was a Wren, and not *properly trained*), her fiancé is killed in action and his dog (which she is looking after) is accidentally killed she goes to pieces. Having met just once, the fiancé's brother becomes obsessed with her memory and spends many years after the war trying to find her while she too becomes fixated on him but is afraid she will be seen as an opportunist gold-digger, (the brothers come from a wealthy family in Australia). Finally, she gets a job incognito as a much loved housekeeper at the family's prosperous sheep station and is happy again at last — until the brother decides to come home at which point she quickly kills herself just hours before he arrives — yes, well don't ask...

But some of us really enjoyed it, although probably most not, and I think that although Shute has written many good books (*A Town like Alice, No Highway, On the Beach* etc), this was not one of them!

Future reading:

May	Someone Else's Shoes - Jo Jo Moyes
June	Orbital - Samantha Harvey
July	Wish you were here - Jodi Picoult
Next Bo	ok club, 6pm, 5 Lower End. All welcome.

Caroline Matheson



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At the April meeting of the Village Gardeners, Gwenda Kyd gave a talk on 'Tremendous Trees'. Whilst other plants come and go through the seasons, trees are often a constant, year-round presence in our lives, existing alongside and often outliving us. For this reason they have a special place in folklore, and knowledge of their

uses has been shared down through generations. As a chemist, Gwenda has a particular interest in compounds from trees that can used for medicinal purposes. For

example, an extract from yew needles, produced by the tree as an anti-fungal, was found to be a potent drug for the treatment of some cancers. Quinine, which is isolated from the bark of cinchona trees which produce it to deter predators from eating the bark, was the first choice treatment for many years for malaria. Some trees such as pine, oak and cypress are well known for their applications in building and craftwork, from ships and telegraph poles, to violins and paper. Others have more unique properties, such as the Australian eucalyptus tree with extremely deep

Medicinal Trees— Yew (cancer), Cinchona (malaria), Citrus (eliminating radioactive contamination)

roots which can draw up gold micro particles from far underground. The gold can be detected in the trees leaves, and so can guide prospectors to the best mining locations without first destroying the landscape. Then there is pectin, extracted from citrus tree fruits and well known for its use as a jam thickener, but less well known was its use in treating children of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, by binding to caesium and eliminating it from their bodies; or its use in mixing with ink to prevent ink from washing off silk cloth, and so used to produce silk escape maps for the airmen of WWII.

The Village Gardeners will be taking a break from indoor meetings during the summer months, and will be visiting Kew Gardens with Burwell & District Horticultural Society (10th May), the carnivorous plants in Shadworth House garden (17th June) and the Prospects Trust at Snakehall Farm (15th July), before we meet again at the Swaffham Prior Village Hall for a talk on 'Going Wild in the Garden' by Linda Gascoigne on 16th September.



Mothers' Union

We were joined on Thursday 20th March by members from the Burwell MU. We shared a special service to celebrate Lady Day which was on 25th March; this day in the Church Calendar remembers the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel told Mary she would bear Jesus, the Son of God. This was followed by a

craft activity where members took the opportunity to make Easter or Spring cards to give to family or friends. We also held our Spring Bring and Buy sale which raised welcome funds to support the hire of the Fassage Hall each month.

The afternoon finished with tea/coffee and biscuits. We all very much enjoyed our time together, and it is hoped we may be able to repeat a shared meeting later in the year.

The meeting in May will take place on Thursday 15th at 2.30pm in the Fassage Hall where Rev'd Rhona McEune, the Anglesey Benefice Curate will speak to us, followed by refreshments.

All are welcome to join us.

Alison Martin

Fiona Geraghty

Notes from the Parish Council April Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on Thursday 10th April, chaired by Cllr John Covill and attended by 7 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the public.

Public participation for items on the agenda

A member of the public spoke on the subject of planning applications and complications encountered in the process.

A second member of the public asked if the cemetery benches could be repaired more cheaply than replaced.

Reports

East Cambs District Council.

Cllr Trapp explained that the choice of which councils formed a unitary authority was decided by locality and numbers. A joint proposal of the councils would be made by November 2025, a decision made in January 2026 and the change implemented in 2028. The Combined Authorities will still exist, with the Mayor overlooking 2 unitary authorities.

Cllr Trapp also noted that the Sanctuary Housing counter at the Grange had been removed and that he intended to get information on the number of empty Sanctuary houses in Swaffham Prior at a meeting on Monday.

Correspondence.

An email response was received from Midlands Rural Housing to the PCs email regarding the housing survey. A meeting is to be arranged between Cllr Greenfield, Cllr John Trapp and the ECDC Planning Department manager in order for the PC to understand fully where it stands in relation to this proposal.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted the survey would be invalid due to 1) the reference to the wrong site affected the results obtained, as was made clear by postings on the village Facebook page stating that a different response would have been submitted if the correct site had been identified and 2) the survey did not give an option of 'no housing wanted'.

Planning applications.

25/00234/TRE T1 Cypress – fell to near ground level and grind stump. 7 High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge CB25 0LD. Approved by the ECDC planning department.

Applications for grants.

The PC refused the application for a grant from Ely Food Bank as they considered that the food bank did not cover Swaffham Prior.

The application for the Scout Hut to be discussed in May when further detail will be available.

Cemetery benches.

The Pc agreed to order a replacement bench from Scotsdales at a cost of $\pounds 299.99$, and to obtain quotes for the repair of the bench with cast iron ends.

The Clerk noted that according to information received from a parishioner, there

are no descendants of the Reeves to contact regarding their bench.

Responses to 2 planning pre applications

The PC had no objections to the first pre-application and requested that the Planning department ensure that the appearance is sympathetic to the surrounding for the second pre-application.

PC website and emails

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the current PC website hosting agreement expires in June and that in order to pass the audit in 2026-7, the PC website and clerk email must be either 'gov.uk' or 'org.uk'. Cllr Kent-Phillips had found a local firm, Mythic Beasts, willing to provide a website, domain name (swaffhamprior-pc.gov.uk), 5 emails and cloud storage for 10 years of £442.00 plus VAT, a much lower price than when the matter was previously discussed (September and October 2024). The PC agreed to accept the Mythic Beasts quote.

Allotments.

The PC agreed that an applicant can rent two plots for the 2025-26 year. The Clerk will revise the allotment tenancy agreement for 2026-27.

Heating Scheme

Cllr Greenfield is awaiting feedback on landscaping as planting is due now.

The ongoing noise issues are being addressed. Much mitigation work is being undertaken.

Clerk's Report

The tap in the cemetery has been fixed at no cost.

The date of the Annual Village meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 28th May

A report has been received of children climbing on the bus stop roof and over onto the private property behind. The Clerk will make a sign warning of the dangers for the bus stop notoceboard.

The Clerk requested a replacement laptop as the current one is struggling with the amount of photographs needing storing and cannot be updated to Windows 11. The PC agreed that the Clerk can obtain quote from World of Computers for a replacement laptop and transfer of all data – to be discussed at the May meeting.

The Clerk reported finishing and passing the CiLCA qualification; the PC offered congratulations.

Parish Councillors' Reports

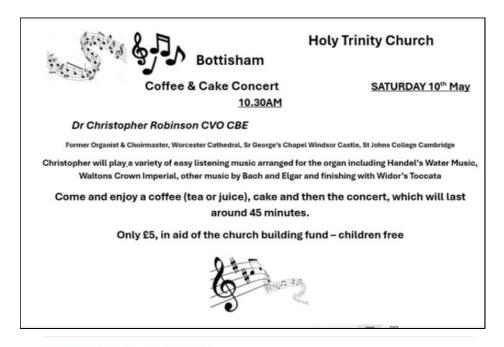
Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the year end is to be completed in time for the May meeting agenda.

Cllr Greenfield reported on a meeting about the Kingsway solar farm proposal, with representatives of all affected PCs. Cllr Greenfield is not confident that the outcome of the consultation can be influenced by the PCs, but that it is very early in the process. Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that English Heritage had refused permission for pylons passing over Devil's Dyke but that they could be overruled by the Secretary of State.

Cllr Covil noted that two major potholes on the fen roads had been repaired and that a resident had been given a timetable of works for the fen roads and droveways, which if isn't completed in the next 12 months, could result in the Highways Agency being taken to the Magistrates Courts.

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, 8th May 2025 starting at **7pm** at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.





PEACEFUL & PRAYERFUL ART GROUP FOR ADULTS

Thursdays May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd 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

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group.

Our AGM was held on 3^{rd} April. There were no changes in committee members. Funds stand at £324.59 and we have not had any expense this year. Donations in the Red Bucket are welcomed so that we can purchase equipment that the GPs request for the Practice. Suggestions were made for subjects to be presented at future meetings and these will be advertised in the usual way.

From the Practice: Dr Shackleton talked to the meeting.

Experienced nurse Isabel Gomes is joining the practice.

They are recruiting a new paramedic.

They have a new device for diagnosing asthma in the surgery.

The practice will no longer be prescribing drugs such as Diazepam for phobias such as flying, or medical procedures which patients will need to discuss with the hospital doing the investigation.

Drug shortages continue to be an issue and the practice works hard to find alternatives.

New dispenser starting soon.

Lighting in the car park has been improved and a gardener appointed.

Next Meeting Details: In July the date and subject to be announced. If you wish to join our meetings or consider joining the committee please email our chairman <u>s.j.gilson@btinternet.com</u>. Or speak to reception.

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 14^{th} 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:

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

Wants:

Railway sleepers for path/lawn edging. Fay Everett 07985 722556



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	3 rd Monday of each	Contact Kate at kate-
0	month 19:30 – 21:30	muscroft@gmail.com
Village Garden-	3 rd Tuesday of each	Contact Fiona on
ers	month 19:45 – 21:30	01638741712
Bottisham &	Each Tuesday of each	Contact Daphne at han-
Burwell Photo-	month (not 3 rd)	son16@virginmedia.com
graphic Society		
SF-Fit Pilates	Each Tuesday 17:30 –	Contact Sarah on
	19:00	075999072008
SF-Fit Pilates	Each Wednesday 10:30 -	Contact Sarah on
	11:30 & 19:00 - 20:00	075999072008
PhysiOptima	Each Wednesday 09:00 -	Contact Kristin on
Pilates	09:50	07799323867
Quilters sewing	Each Thursday 10:00 –	Contact Ruth on
group	12:30	01638743720
Slimming World	Each Thursday 17:30 –	Contact Sharon on
0	19:00 & 19:00 - 20:00	077601925638
Tai Chi Life	Each Friday 10:00 –	Contact Sharyn on
Academy	12:00	0774017917
Lok Hup	Each Friday 12:00- 13:00	Contact Sharyn on
-	-	0774017917
SF-Fit Yoga	Each Friday 17:00 –	Contact Sarah on
ũ	18:00	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

Services in May 2025

Sunday 4 May – third Sunday after Easter

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

Wednesday 7 May

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 11 May – fourth Sunday after Easter

9am	Online service on Zoom
	Holy Communion, Quy
10.30am	VE Day 80 th Anniversary Service, Swaffham Prior; tea and
cakes for RBL	

Sunday 18 May - fifth Sunday after Easter

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

Sunday 25 May – sixth Sunday after Easter

<u>9am</u>	Online service on Zoom
	Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Bulbeck
10.30am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Thursday 29 May – Ascension Day

10.30am	Holy Communion, Lode
7pm	Ascension Day Service, with Cambridge
Voices, St Cyri	ac's Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Revd Max Osborne: max9@btinternet.com; 01223 481187 (Rest day: Tuesday)
Assistant Curate: Rev'd Rhona McEune: rihm67h@gmail.com
Churchwardens: Bottisham: bottisham@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 604019
Lode: lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 811222
Quy: quy@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 812652
Swaffham Bulbeck: bulbeck@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 812525; 01223 811501
Swaffham Prior: prior@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01638 743937
For general enquiries: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; churchwar-
dens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/angleseychurches;
A Church Near You: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7380/benefice

Dates for Your Diary May 2025

Thu	1	Peaceful & Prayerful Art Group, 10.30am-12.30, and 8th, 15th and 22nd.				
Mon	5	Reach Fair [6]				
Wed	7	Book Club, 5, Lower End, 6pm [20]				
Thu	8	PC Meeting, 7pm, VH				
Fri	9	Heating Scheme Filming [3]				
Sat	10	Cello Recital, 4pm, VH [5] Villlage Gardeners Kew Gardens Visit [21] Coffee & Cake Concert, Bott Chruch, 10.30am [24]				
Sun	11	VE Day 80th Anniversary Service, St Mary's 10.30am [27]				
Thu	15	Mothers' Union, 2.30 pm Fassage Hall [21]				
Mon	19	Newmarket Cinema, 6.45pm [7]				
Thu	22	Crier Copy Deadline				
Sat	24	VILLAGE FEAST, 12.30-4.30pm, VH, School [5,7,8] Heating Scheme Filming [3]				
Sun	25	Heating Scheme Filming [3]				
Wed	28	Annual Village Assembly, 7.30pm, VH [3]				

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

Club	Contact	Tel/Email	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Becky Wilkes	07827	2 nd Mon of	8pm	Village
		318351	Term		School
Beavers,		gsl@1st	Wed	5:15-6:30pm	
Cubs	Tim Doe	swaffhamprior	(Term)	6:30-8.00pm	Scout Hut
and Scouts		scouts.org.uk	Mon	7.00-8.30pm	
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