



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIX Number 10

October 2025



Editorial

What GLORIOUS weather we have been having during our Indian Summer — the Fen is so very beautiful this time of year, and the occasional shower (preferably when we're not there) makes it even more so. No showers on the Autumn Show though, which went off splendidly, and we have a centre-spread of glorious pics in case you missed it. Many congratulations to the organisers, the winners and everybody who took part to make it such a fine day. And what about that stunning fancy dress duo then? See the pics!

The Caddenhams Solar Farm (see our bumper PC report from Jude) seems to be the top of everybody's agenda at the moment. We explored the Plans and did find a map of where the cables are (right up to Swaffham Prior— Pulpit Corner actually—that's the junction of the B1102 and Cage Hill, so called because visiting preachers set up shop there) but is it to be Pylons or buried? Could make a slight difference to our thoughts! But the long barrow archaological stuff sounds fascinating (see p 38). Will they do a dig? We do hope so.

Meanwhile, the playground trees have all been decapitated again — do they have to be quite so *butchered*? There's going to be no shade in the playground next summer at all. We hear that the Council send over a drone

and from visual inspection of the images the Tree Experts decide on precisely where every cut should go. But since all they ever seem to do in chop all of the branches completely off, why bother is what we would like to know!

AND it's nearly Halloween. We get in the sweets but these days no -one visits, they just pass us by.. oh no! We won't have a pumpkin, but there'll be treats (in exchange for good tricks mind). We'll light a candle in the window— just knock!

Caroline Matheson



Fen Puddle Duck

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Cover Picture: The Space Between, embroidery on needle felt by Lindy Jane Rainbow



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Heating

We must all be grateful to James Matheson throwing some light onto the costs of the Swaffham Prior Heating Scheme (SPHS).

Even so perhaps it would be more helpful if our bills showed the actual “Unit Price” cost/costs, and also the individual Standing Charge (SC) cost, and also the Heating Delivered (HD) cost.

At present it seems one needs a calculator and pencil stub.

As for James’ interesting question surely one needs more than a single piece of data to produce even a “suggested” possible conclusion. 20% at least I would have thought.

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editors,

Broadband

I gave up on Voneus (formerly the home-grown RASP system) some years ago because of regular outages which could last several days, and also from attending to their staff trying to fix things on the top of St Cyriac’s tower where some of the infrastructure was legacy stuff that I helped to install back in the old days. I wasn’t impressed.

So I moved on to a DSL service on my old-fashioned phone line, which worked much of the time and provided better than 30 Mb, enough for our needs, but simply not reliable enough for daily business use, dropping out at random for periods between several seconds and a couple of hours. I believe that the main problem is the ancient phone line network in the village rather than any fault with the service provider.

A while ago I registered an interest with Gigaclear who were promoting their fibre system and who now informed me that it was available – I had seen activity up and down the poles nearby but was not confident that it was actually working. I spoke to them, signed up, and within three weeks have a high-speed system at a significantly lower cost than my DSL. Today I watched with interest a team of engineers having fun trying to run what I can only assume to be fibre cables through the trees between the poles on the other side of the street – could it be BT trying to catch up? Anyway, the technology has arrived.

PS – just as I finished writing this my DSL service went down for a few minutes just as we had seen engineers working at the top of poles across the street – I think the phones lines are on their last legs.

John Chalmers

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!



**It's all to play for as the Harvest Show
gets onto gear. See our centre pages.**

This Month's Cover Picture

I have embroidered for as long as I can remember and several years ago I discovered needle felting, which I feel acts as a good background for embroidery (*both machine and hand embroidery are worked into the felt in our cover picture*). My work is generally inspired by nature / creation and I wanted 'The Space Between' to convey a sense of peace and tranquillity, a time to pause

Lindy
lindyjane@live.co.uk

Lindy lives in Wicken and regularly exhibits her embroidery locally, including with the annual Cambridge Open Studios during July.

From our Reporter

It was a hot evening and the side door into the meeting room was propped open in an unorthodox manner to welcome us. Pre-meeting chat covered the important village issues of broadband (Voneus / Gigaclear) and what beers were available at the pub. Down to business, things moved almost directly to approval of the previous minutes, bypassing Council Reps' reports because there weren't any – or Councillors to deliver them. The only matter arising from the minutes was the continuing lack of progress in discussions with ECDC about the Horse Field development proposal.



Then, the big issue of the proposed Solar Farm at the end of Heath Road, with confusion sowed by a new application for an area behind a farm listed as being on Bulbeck Heath Road... It was eventually decided that despite the new address this was the same proposition as the existing one, and the application simply a rehash of the previous one(s). Despite a favourable report from Mike Barker on the biodiversity issue, the PC had some definite views about construction traffic on Heath Road and the awful possibility of digging for an underground cable. Someone (the proposer?) had without informing either Highways or the PC carried out a traffic survey at the height of the quiet summer holiday period. In short, the new application should be rejected as before, with the additional reason that it wrongly identifies the site location.

The Village Photo Album is nearly complete and includes pictures taken by Thomas Cooper from the earliest days of photography

Other planning applications were approved, including (retrospectively?) the wholesale scalping of trees in the playground, and reduction and tidying of various trees at Stocks Farmhouse. There was no mention of the hedge which occupies most of the pavement around the house... Then on to The Accounts for Payment, all of which were approved, including one for materials used by Meads on the Scout Hut, and those for grass cutting, which had been a subject of debate at previous meetings and could now thankfully be consigned to the bin. Another was for a new battery for the Defib in the phone box; there was uncertainty about whose responsibility it is to monitor the battery condition.

Celia Tyler brought us up to date on progress with The Village Photo Album, now nearly complete as a photographic record of the village, including pictures taken by Thomas Cooper from the earliest days of photography and preserved with the help of the Clarke family. A draft has been circulated for comment to lifetime-established villagers including Ruth Stinton, Julie Nunn, Sarah Cooper and John(s) Clarke. The costs of the project, mainly for scanning, have so far come in under estimate but more funds will be needed when it comes to printing and binding. It is planned to have at least four copies, one each for the Cambridgeshire Collection, the Village Hall, the school and the pub. They can't print lots because of copyright issues. Julian Luttrell has agreed

to help with the final layout, and Fleur with proofreading. The PC unanimously approved the provision of additional funds.

The Press and Public (three of us) then had to leave the room for another discussion of a pre-planning advice request. I'm still not sure why it's all confidential at this point, then public when an application is actually submitted, but that's how it is. Then back inside to find out which parts, if any, of an old bench at the Cemetery should be preserved. Turns out that it is not after all a historic relic from the railway station but they will probably keep the cast iron end bits anyway. Then moving a few yards further up we come to the Allotments, of which someone from Burwell has asked for two. The rules indicate that it should be only one per and it revealed an interesting division in the committee with some not seeing any problem and another adamant that a rule is a rule (particularly for a foreigner). To complete the visit to the rear of St Cyriac's we learned of a proposal to expand the cemetery which led to another division in the ranks.

Should the PC pay for the cutting back of the village hall drive trees? This morphed into a discussion about the next-but-one agenda issue – should we employ a contractor to clear vegetation from the village footpaths? Some residents of properties bordering on the central park have shown no willingness (or possibly ability) to keep their bit under control, and it transpires that only ECDC, not the PC, can force them to do it. It isn't realistic to go that route, and some are simply not bothered by local requests. There was a strong opinion that the PC should not be paying for this, and there should be a more rigorous approach, together with a suggested schedule of works, to the paths' neighbours.

A grant application has been received from A-B1102, the local organisation which has been working (successfully) with the local authorities to rationalise bus and cycling routes and provide a service to Bottisham and Addenbrooke's. This touched a nerve with one councillor who somehow doesn't seem to have got the concept of what a rural bus service is for and reckons that two at the beginning and two at the end of the working day is all that's needed because the ones in the middle have few passengers. I think the request from A-B1102 got lost somewhere in the discussion.

At last to Councillors' Reports, dominated by the Heating Scheme (no longer to have its own place in the PC agenda). There was no discussion of prices, performance or customer service, just a report that a very loud alarm had been triggered by a supposed ammonia leak, which the fire service crew who attended were not trained or equipped to deal with, so it all went on for some time until techs from the heating system arrived to establish that there was no leak, just a faulty sensor. Meanwhile local residents with no information or instructions had to decide if they were supposed to pack the kids into the car and make for the hills. This is unacceptable: any alarm must have a specific purpose, hearers must be able to recognise what it is telling them and have published instruction of how to react.

Finally, yellow lines (still a shambles) and no, the school will not be taking the village heating system (sorry, Kate..). Then off to the pub to review the first discussion of the evening.

John Chalmers

Swaffham Prior Bell Ringers

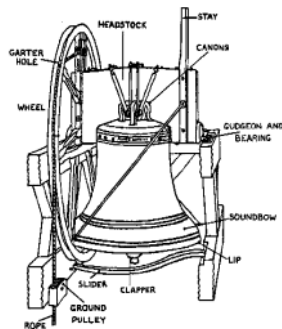
August and September were not as busy with regards to practise sessions at Swaffham Prior, with ringers away on holiday and committed to family activities, but we were no less enthusiastic on our Tuesday evenings!

On 30th August the bells could be heard mid morning for a solid hour as part of the Ely District Open Tower Event. During the time the bells were available to them at St Cyriac's, 56 ringers from all over the country took the opportunity to ring at Swaffham Prior (before dashing off to another tower, some hoping to ring at no less than 21 in the one day!!) as part of the open day organised to raise money for the Stretham bellringing training centre. Cambridgeshire ringers were joined by fellow enthusiasts from sixteen other counties, as far afield as Devon, Monmouthshire and Yorkshire. Impressively, more than £2,000 was raised for the improvements to Stretham tower.



Simon in action—pint-pulling practice?

We are always happy to arrange tower tours. If you would like to see what we get up to just drop us an email. We may also shortly have space to take on one new beginner. So, if you fancy finding out if it might be for you, again just drop us an email.



Pub landlords have always played an important part in bellringing. In the eighteenth century they would often organise bellringing competitions as a way of attracting custom to their establishments. They would lay on dinners for the competitors and spectators and present prizes to the winners - commonly hats or gloves. We were, therefore, very pleased to welcome Simon, the new landlord of the Red Lion, for a tour of the tower and to have a go at ringing himself - he was a natural! and of course, we reciprocated - as we do every week - by later visiting him at the pub.

Janet Willmott

email swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com

RECEPTION OPEN EVENT

Swaffham Prior Primary School

Is your child starting school in
September 2026?

Join us for a tour
of our school and meet our
teachers

Tuesday 21st October 10am
Thursday 6th November 2pm



01638 741529
office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 18 October

Tickets £7 each. To book a table, contact

Jenny Brand
(01638) 742161

or
Lynne Rand
(01638) 741960



Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses !!

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

CEILIDH

SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL



6.30PM



TICKETS £10 ADULT - £5.00 CHILDREN

INCLUDES A BAKED POTATO SUPPER

BAR



To book tickets contact: jenny.brand26@gmail.com
karenlynn580@gmail.com

Julie's recipes for October

Slow cooker witches brew stew

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 small pumpkin, peeled and diced | 4 cups of vegetable stock or broth |
| 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and diced | 1 tsp cinnamon |
| 1 can of black beans, drained and rinsed | 1 tsp cumin |
| 1 onion diced | ½ tsp paprika |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced | Salt to taste |

1. In a slow cooker, combine pumpkin, sweet potatoes, black beans, onions, garlic and vegetable stock.
2. Add the spices, cinnamon, cumin, paprika and salt.
3. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 3-4 hours until vegetables are tender.
4. Serve with a dollop of sour cream and chopped parsley for added flavour.

Serves 10

Thai Pumpkin soup

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1.5 kg Pumpkin or squash roughly chopped | 3-4 tbsp red curry paste |
| 4 tsp sunflower oil | 400ml coconut milk |
| 1 onion, sliced | 850g vegetable stock |
| 1 tbsp grated ginger | Lime juice and sugar for seasoning |
| 1 lemon grass, bashed a bit | 1 red chopped chilli, optional |

1. Heat oven to 200C. Toss the pumpkin or squash in a roasting tin with half the oil and seasoning, then roast for 30 minutes until golden and tender.
2. Meanwhile put the remaining oil in a pan with the onion, ginger and lemongrass. Gently cook for 8-10 minutes until softened. Stir in the curry paste for 1 minute, then add the roasted pumpkin or squash., coconut milk and the stock. Simmer and cook for 5 minutes, fish out the lemon grass, cool for a few mins, then whizz until smooth with a blender. Return to the pan to heat through. Season with a splash of lime juice, salt, pepper and a little sugar if it needs it.

When ready to serve scatter red chilli on top if desired.

Serves 6

BOTH RECIPES PERFECT FOR A HALLOWEEN GET TOGETHER SERVED
WITH CRUSTY BREAD

POEM OF THE MONTH

ALL THAT'S PAST

Walter de la Mare

Very old are the woods;
And the buds that break
Out of the brier's boughs
When March winds wake,
So old with their beauty are -
Oh, no man knows
Through what wild centuries
Roves back the rose.

Very old are the brooks;
And the rills that rise
Where snow sleeps cold beneath
The azure skies
Sing such a history
Of come and gone,
Their every drop is as wise
As Solomon.

Very old are we men;
Our dreams are tales
Told in dim Eden
By Eve's nightingales;
We wake and whisper awhile,
But, the day gone by,
Silence and sleep like fields
Of amaranth lie.

I recalled a line of this poem on a recent early autumn walk at Anglesey Abbey and went back to look it up. Probably no further comment needed.

Andrew Grant

Swaffham Prior Heat Network – October 2025

Connection & Construction

We've now reached 103 homes connected to the Swaffham Prior Heat Network. Thank you to everyone who's joined so far. Work is ongoing to connect remaining properties on High Street in the current batch. We've received more signed Heat Supply Agreements and we're planning the next batch of connections. If you'd like to be included in the upcoming batch, please get in touch with the team as soon as possible. Once the batch closes, we will continue to welcome applications, and these will be considered for our next batch later in 2026.



SPHN Team at the Village

Swaffham Prior residents with the Heat Network team (Cambridgeshire County Council) and Equans at the Village Harvest Festival.

It was great to see many of you at the Village Harvest Festival. We were there to mark the 100-connection milestone and to say thank you for the support. We had some lovely conversations and appreciated the feedback from customers already on the network.

Heat Trust

Swaffham Prior's Heat Network is registered with the Heat Trust, the independent, not-for-profit consumer champion for heat networks. Heat Trust sets service standards and holds suppliers to account, so customers know what to expect and how issues are handled. You can find out more on the Heat Trust website <https://>

www.heattrust.org/

Winter system check

If you haven't already, it's a good idea to turn your heating on for 15–20 minutes to confirm everything's working and that all radiators are warming up. If a radiator is warm at the bottom but cool at the top it may need bleeding. If you notice unusual noises, or persistent temperature issues, our customers should contact the SPHN helpline **01782 390777** or email for the support.

Interested in seeing our heating system and talk to our customers?

Join our Open House events to visit a connected home, learn about the installation setup, and have your questions answered by our team and residents. To sign up, simply email us your interest.

Meet the Team

Want to discuss the benefits of connecting your home to the heat network? Our team is available for meetings at the Village Hall, your home, or via video call. To arrange a conversation with our business or technical specialists, please do get in touch using the below contact details.

Get in Touch or Register Your Interest

To register for future connections, please complete the **Expression of Interest form** here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/8mg3xtEpnv>

Contact Details:

Email: heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Customer Service: 0345 0455210, **24/7 Helpline:** 01782 390777

Thank you again for your continued support!

New Verger needed for St Mary 's

With the retirement of our long-serving Verger, we are looking to recruit someone to help with maintaining the Church and, in particular, to set up for twice monthly Sunday and special services.

You will not be alone! You will join a team of volunteers, and training will be given. Payment is provided for help at weddings and funerals.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Revd Max on max9@btinternet.com or come along to a service to see what is involved.





St Mary's Church Swaffham Prior

is looking for more volunteers
male or female

to join the
Weekly Church Cleaning Rota

If you have an hour to spare
once every couple of months
you are just who we are looking for 😊

No heavy lifting involved,
all materials provided

To sign up, or for more information,
contact Janet Willmott 07833 960678

Your help would be
very much appreciated



Newmarket Cinema

Here our film shows for October - December 2025 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.

October 20th - Official Secrets (15)

November 17th - My Old Lady (12)

December 15th - The Penguin Lessons (12)

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

The View from Lower End

It was such a relief to have got June, July and August out of the way. Criticise the Israeli government and you are called Antisemitic. Support the Palestinians against deliberate starvation and you face 14 years imprisonment. Of course it is an extremely complicated situation but these are just a couple of simple facts. And the bad news keeps coming.

To remind myself of the bigger picture I watched ABS America which gives such a good coverage of the twentieth century. There is so much I did not know, but it showed how nasty mankind can be, always has been, and always will be. It was a shock. I suppose it is just part of our nature, mixed with all our good points. My only regret is that I have never learned how to dance the Charleston. If anyone knows how, they could give lessons in the Village Hall. Spectators to pay but Participants free So I looked for something to raise my spirits and what better than to find the irresistible and unmistakable sound of the bagpipes.



The World Pipe Band Championship was being held in Glasgow, followed by the Scottish Games, and the Edinburgh Tattoo. This extraordinary instrument has a long history with Scots and Irish pipes going back to about 1400 or so. Pipe traditions throughout Europe go back centuries ranging from Portugal to Russia. But almost all had gone into decline by the late nineteenth century.

The Scots however were saved by having shown the English what good stubborn fighters they could be. Anyone brought up playing shinty as a sport is bound to be. After the Acts of Union in 1800 they became established into the British military where the pipe band achieved the prominence it enjoys today. Sky Arts gave the competition good coverage and this included some wonderful displays of Scottish Dancing. These two activities explain why all Scottish lads and lasses are so fit and stand out in the crowd, and any identity parade.

Literature has also favoured the image of the Scots. Sir Walter Scott for many years anonymously published his Waverley Novels. His writings and poems publicised and romanticised Scottish history and culture. It became the land of “sublime scenery and heroic chivalry”. Absolute magic. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert felt this on their first visit in 1842 and thereafter treated it as their favourite place of retreat. As has the Royal Family ever since. Some Scot reading this may have some questions and say “Yer bum’s oot the windae”. But they will need to be careful.

After Trump and his wife have been entertained by the King and Queen at Windsor Castle, with the King already wearing his kilt, it is probable that Trump will pay a visit to Tongon on the Isle of Lewis. This was the the birthplace of Trump’s mother Mary Anne Macleod from whence she emigrated to America in 1930 seeking work. She married a successful German immigrant and did well. Perhaps we’ll be seeing Donald wearing the MacLeod kilt.

With perfect timing Nicola Sturgeon’s Frankly has just been published. This a

most unusual political memoir. I have not read it but have used as a source a well researched review by a revered Scot. No doubt all other Scots with a concern for their country will have bought a copy. It is strangely honest and revealing. When Sturgeon took over the SNP leadership support for the SNP surged. Yet, amongst her many interesting statements she laments that the Scots “are full of bravado but, when push comes to shove lack the gumption of follow through.” Teatime talk for Donald and Charles? Or maybe Melania and Camilla?

But this this is in the future because I ended this report on the morning of Sunday 6th September. This was the very moment the fun of the Great North Run began. Every day from then on the news is going to pile in, and has. Gaza, Russia, Ukraine, the King, Trump and the British public, Farage, Harry, Palestine, Meghan, Party Conferences, the Good, and the Bad and the Ugly, and so one, and so on.

I will end remembering the sound of skirling bagpipes and another piece of Scottish wisdom “Whit’s fur ye’ll no go past ye.”

This does not mean that my interest in the news has diminished. It means there is only a certain amount one can emotionally absorb. Episodes like Angela Raynor will continue to arise; there is a local bet that Angela will become a Corbynista within six months. So lets take a rest for the next eight weeks trying to sort out our own domestic politics and disorder by watching and enjoying France and Germany trying to fix theirs. Ho.Ho.Ho. Will we enjoy that!

Alastair Everitt

If your landline is your lifeline...

By 31 January 2027* traditional phone lines will be upgraded with digital technology. It's time to get ready, go digital and stay connected.

* Deadline confirmed by Openreach at time of printing.

Prepare for the Digital Switchover in 3 easy steps

Get ready... **GO DIGITAL**... Stay connected.

Then Read This →

If your Landline is your Lifeline....

Landlines are changing. By January 2027*, traditional landlines will be upgraded with digital technology. [This national upgrade is known as the Digital Switchover and will mean that landline calls will be made over the internet instead of the old telephone network. Telephone providers are responsible for switching customers to the upgraded service, but everyone is encouraged to check if and how the change will affect them.](#)



Do you rely on a personal alarm or telecare device?

It's important to check how the Digital Switchover will affect you, especially if you also rely on personal alarms or telecare devices (like fall detectors or lifelines), which may stop working. For many, the change will be simple. All you will have to do is plug your landline phone into a broadband router instead of a traditional phone socket. But if you don't have an internet connection at home, or if you rely on your landline every day, this change might affect you more.

3 things you can do now to prepare for the Digital Switchover

Call your phone company – Ask if the change affects your phone line or any connected devices. Ask to speak to customer services and use the number on your most recent bill.

Ask for help if you need it – A trusted friend, family member or neighbour can help you make the call to your phone provider or speak to your provider on your behalf.

Watch out for scams – Your phone provider will *not* ask for money upfront. If something doesn't feel right, hang up and call the official number.

The good news is landlines are not going away, you can usually keep your existing phone and number, and it's the responsibility of your phone company to guide you through the process.

We know that for many people, the landline is more than just a phone - it's a lifeline. That's why **Connecting Cambridgeshire** is here to help make sure no one is left behind.

Don't wait - call your phone provider today.

Local libraries and community champions providing information hubs for vulnerable residents

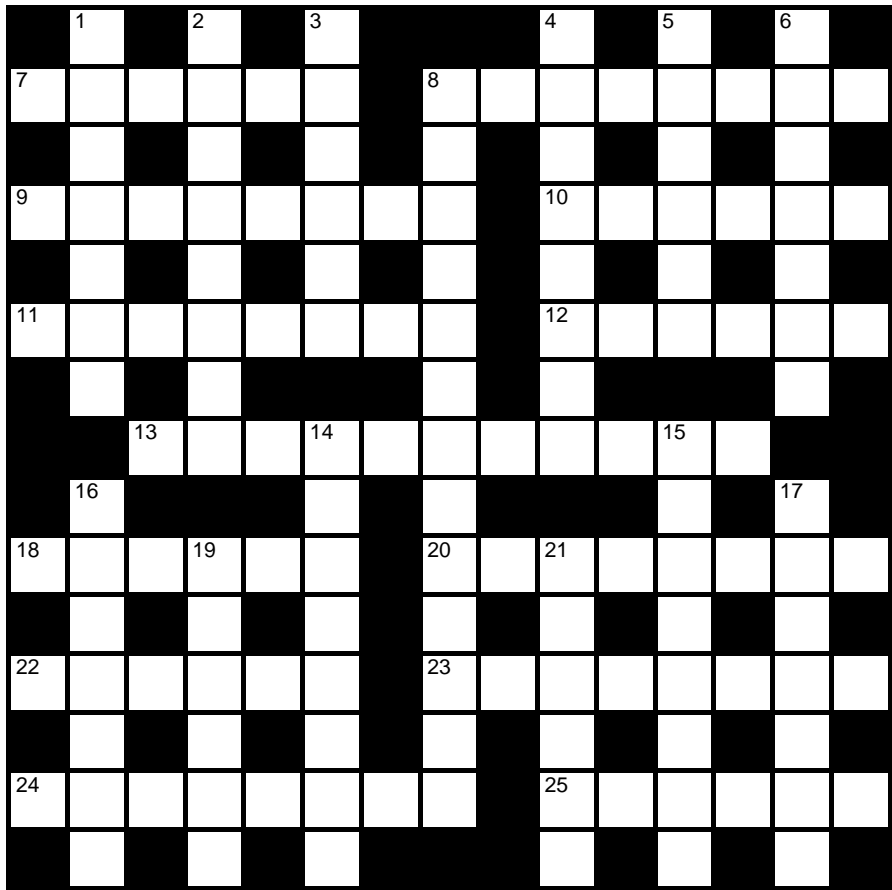
Recognising that older and more vulnerable residents are best supported in trusted, community locations, libraries are acting as information hubs for the campaign. Every library, including community and mobile libraries in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have free printed information available about the Digital Switchover. Particularly vulnerable residents, for whom their landline is a lifeline, should ask for a copy of the leaflet "Prepare for the Digital Switchover in 3 easy steps".

📍 For more information, visit: www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/digitalswitchover or scan the QR code above.

Crossword Number 231

Compiled by CALVIN

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th October 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.

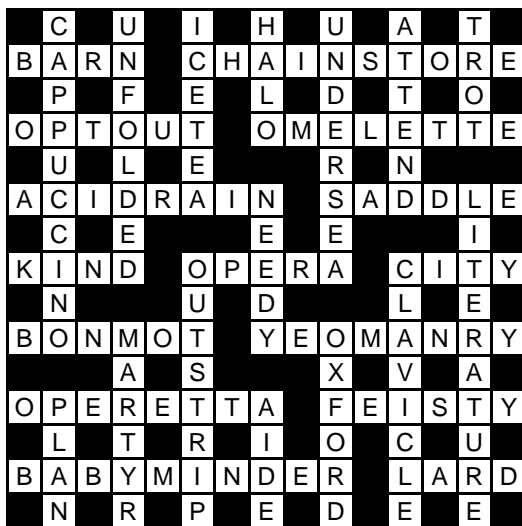


Name:.....
Address:.....
.....Tel:.....

Across

- 7 I'm after a thin blend of sesame paste (6)
- 8 Half of rock band eject one
Conservative - on guitar, perhaps? (8)
- 9 The moment at which turkey will explode? (4,4)
- 10 Heart is stolen, rekindled by reversed embraces (6)
- 11 After comb, receive holiday missive (8)
- 12 Get permanent mark on cooker after removing lids (6)
- 13 News source heard substitute partner, at a guess (11)
- 18 Is captivated by gold, on contemplation of the divine (6)
- 20 Spooner's club looks at it sideways (8)
- 22 Sender is certain in audition (6)
- 23 Coin is in disarray, leading to cut (8)
- 24 Girl's address found in organ by unknown delegate (8)
- 25 No gear in Genesis (6)
- 6 Copying silent performer's uncontrolled movement (7)
- 8 Even-handedness means I may text bride when flustered (13)
- 14 Band on the way to M25? (4,4)
- 15 Soweto assembling HMS Reading, perhaps? (8)
- 16 Annoying massage leaves Kim sore? (7)
- 17 Passive learning in Cosmo's island (7)
- 19 "Vegetable" is second put-down (6)
- 21 Heard reverberating sounds after a thousand lizards! (6)

Solution to crossword no. 230



Down

- 1 Sidecar I bought to house reindeer (7)
- 2 Avoid team with pace! (8)
- 3 Flower found initially mostly in Mexico, or South America (6)
- 4 One who devours from cover to cover? (8)
- 5 Small tripe can be used for morale (6)

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

Autumn Show 2025

Again the weather has been kind to us. Thanks to all who entered, supported, helped on the day and came along to enjoy the Cream Teas and Auction.



Prize winners this year. **Julian Luttrell Best in Show.**
Narrowly beating **Judy Thompson.**

<i>Class</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>
French beans	Rachel Thompson		
Runner beans	Rachel Thompson	Judy Thompson	Emily Thomas
Beetroot	Judy Thompson		
Carrots	Helen Soares		
Potatoes	Julian Luttrell	Emily Thomas	
Cherry			
Tomatoes	Emily Thomas	Julian Luttrell	Helen Soares
Tomatoes	Linda Kirby	Julian Luttrell	Kates Muscroft
Courgettes	Karen King		
Marrow	Judy Thompson	Ryan Noyes	
Cucumber	Judy Thompson	Julian Luttrell	Emily Thomas
Other Veg	Linda Kirby	Julian Luttrell	
Mixed herbs	Kate Muscroft	Karen King	
Trug	Kate Muscroft		
Desert Apples	Emily Thomas	Julian Luttrell	Leonine Smith
Cooking apples	Anne Clayton	Emily Thomas	Leonine Smith
Pears	Leonine Smith	Julian Luttrell	
Plums	Anne Clayton		
Soft fruit	Emily Thomas		
Other fruit	Leonine Smith		
Roses	Margaret Joyce	Lynne Rand	Uschi Hodel
Other flowers	Kate Muscroft	Andrew Noyes	Judy Thompson
Mixed flowers	Jenny Brand	Emily Thomas	
Sunflower	Judy Thompson	Emily Thomas	
Dahlias	Emily Thomas	Andrew Noyes	Jane Blackburn
Flower arr.	Bianca Bagatourian	Uschi Hodel	
Mini arr.	Sophie Soares		
Pot plant	Karen King	Dan Spencer	Jenny Brand
Jam	Kate Muscroft	Leonine Smith	Bianca Bagatourian



Continued on page 20 →

Spuds in Buckets 2025

The grand weigh in for the Spuds in Buckets competition 2025 took place just before the Harvest Show Auction on Saturday 6 September; 26 growers had taken delivery of their seed potatoes back in April and the results of their labours over the summer were revealed as the contents of each bucket were tipped out with the hope that there might be a potato or two inside. For a while it looked as though Lesley Boyle's 1.66 kg was the weight to beat until the last few buckets remained. This target was then hugely exceeded by the winning weight of 4.04 kg! Congratulations to Andy Pumfrey, what is the secret?! Many congratulations also to the winner of the children's competition Mariana Soares whose winning weight of 630 g was just 20 g more than her sister Sophie – so close! Thank you to all who took part to raise funds for St Mary's and thank you to Phil Kingsmill for spending an afternoon tipping and weighing buckets of potatoes.



The Leader Board...

Mandy Kingsmill



The Judge...



And the Spuds!



**AUTUMN
SHOW
2025**



Pickle	Karen King	Jane Blackburn	Linda Kirby
Marmalade	Kate Muscroft	Judy Thompson	Margaret Joyce
Other preserve	Margaret Joyce	Jane Blackburn	
Wine	Linda Kirby	Julian Luttrell	
Eggs	Connie Greaves		
Victoria Sponge	Jane Blackburn		
Fruit cake	Linda Kirby	Uschi Hodel	
Any other cake	Uschi Hodel	Jane Blackburn	Kate Muscroft
Bread	Julian Luttrell	Keith Carter	Uschi Hodel
Veg animal	Mary Greaves	Connie Greaves	
Cupcakes	Alice Dickson	Joint second Joseph and Mariana Dickson	
Sunrise	Ryan Noyes	Julian Luttrell	Peter Rand

Thanks to all

Swaffham Prior Dog Show

It was lovely to see so many dogs and their owners entering the dog show this year.

Six classes were on offer with rosettes for the winner of each class. The first class was the agility course against the clock - many found the tunnel an awkward obstacle but Loki the husky whizzed round without hesitation. At the other end of the size scale, Peg the terrier definitely had the waggiest tail, and I see she had the waggiest tail in 2024 too! The Most Obedient dog for 2025 was Rufus the labradoodle whose Sit, Down and Heel was faultless. The Treat Run is always very entertaining, the dogs have to run through an avenue of tasty treats without stopping for a snack – this proved too much for most of the dogs this year, lots of sausages and cheese were consumed – but Tilly the spaniel showed the greedier competitors how the event should be run. Peg, with the waggiest tail, then returned in a superman costume to win the fancy dress class as well. Thank you to all who entered and supported the dog show. Thanks to judges Anne Clayton and Annette Goodfellow for doing a very difficult job. We are also very grateful to Scampers Pet Store in Soham who provided some very generous prizes and vouchers.



Congratulations to all the dogs and owners, it was a very enjoyable event and attracted an enthusiastic crowd. We hope to see you again next year!

Janet Willmott and Mandy Kingsmill

← See centrepages

Coming up at Anglesey Abbey

Earth Photo 2025 exhibition

Come and see a bold photography exhibition of shortlisted works from the international Earth Photo competition, displayed in The Orchard at Anglesey Abbey from 11 October to 23 November. Developed by Forestry England, the Royal Geographical Society and



Parker Harris, the Earth Photo 2025 exhibition not only aims to stimulate conversations about our environment and the impact of climate change but is also a wonderful opportunity to engage with art and photography outside in nature.

Anglesey Abbey Halloween Trail returns
The Anglesey Abbey family-friendly Halloween trail is back again this year, with even more riddles and clues to solve. Come along for an immersive half-term adventure from 25 October to 2 November with plenty of spooky challenges along the way.

Trails are £6 per child, which includes a prize at the end of the trail. Booking in advance is advised to avoid disappointment.

The Snowman™ trail

We're really excited to announce another fabulous Wild in Art sculpture trail coming to Anglesey Abbey this autumn and winter! Join us for an adventure with The Snowman™ trail from 8 November 2025 to 4 January 2026, inspired by Raymond Briggs' heart-warming picture book, *The Snowman*. Enjoy a magical day out with the whole family in search of the twelve giant sculptures, each painted with designs inspired by the English carol, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. The trail is free (normal admission to Anglesey Abbey applies).

Did someone say Christmas?

Father Christmas tickets are now live on our website – this year Santa will be making himself at home in the Lower Gallery inside the Anglesey Abbey house, surrounded by paintings and statues all festively decorated for Christmas. The decorated house will be open from 17 November (closed 1 to 16 November) and children can enjoy listening to the story of The Snowman™ read in the Library every Thursday morning from 20 November to 18 December at 10am before the house opens to visitors. Head to our website to find out more and plan your visit! nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey

THE SNOWMAN™ © Snowman Enterprises Limited 2025

Issy Vetoshkina

Newmarket Road travel hub consultation now open

Monday 8 September - Monday 3 November 2025

Today we are launching the Newmarket Road travel hub consultation, and we want your views to shape the design of the new travel hub.

As part of the wider Cambridge Eastern Access programme, the proposed travel hub would replace the existing Newmarket Road Park and Ride site. It would support more sustainable travel options, ease congestion, and provide vital connections for communities travelling into the city.

Information about the scheme, including detailed maps, frequently asked questions, dates of public meetings and ways you can share your thoughts can be found here: www.greatercambridge.org.uk/cea-travelhub

We will be holding two events during the consultation period.

Online Teams meeting: Thursday 9 October, 5:30pm - 7:30pm Please register [here](#)

In-person drop in session: Tuesday 14 October, 3pm - 8pm, at Newmarket Road Park and Ride, CB5 8AA

Our email address, should you wish to contact us or provide further feedback, is hello@greatercambridge.org.uk



BON MOT NUMBER 163

“A woman artist is not deprived by cooking, having children, nor by nursing children with measles. They are in fact nourished by this rich life, provided one always does some work each day.”

Barbara Hepworth (1903 - 1975)

Red2Green

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

What have we been up to?

Our Autumn term has got off to a lively start, full of visits, volunteering days, and plenty of our regular activities.

At the beginning of the month, our Aspirations Learners returned from their summer break, ready to dive back in. Later, we joined in the national celebration of Arts in Care Homes Day, collaborating with residents at Barchester Oaklands Care Home in Bottisham and Hamberley Grove Care Home in Fulbourn. Learners from our Aspirations service and Clients from our Options service teamed up for creative arts and crafts, decorating our value icons with recycled materials in line with this year's theme: Going Green!

We were also delighted to welcome volunteers from AstraZeneca to our Community Garden in Bottisham. Together, we planted a new hedge, brightened up our tool sheds with fresh paint, and made a range of seasonal candles. (If you'd like to buy some of these hand-crafted candles, they're available through Red2Green or directly from our Community Garden site, Monday–Friday, 9:30–4.)

On top of all this, Red2Green received a special mention in Westminster! Local MP Charlotte Cane highlighted our work during a debate on supporting neurodiverse people in employment at Westminster Hall, which was broadcast on Parliament TV. You can catch up on the debate via the Parliament TV website.

Ways you can get involved:

There are lots of ways you can help support Red2Green:

Volunteering opportunities

Start a fundraiser in aid of Red2Green

Visit our Community Garden in Bottisham and buy some plants

(Mon-Fri, 9:30-4)

One-off or monthly donations

Sign up to our monthly newsletter

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

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



Mothers' Union

Our August meeting was our Summer afternoon tea event, kindly hosted by Julie Sale at Station Farm, Lode. The weather being rather windy and changeable, we set up in one of the old farm buildings, which was cosy and very atmospheric (complete with manger fittings!)

We enjoyed tea, finger sandwiches, small cakes and strawberries – as well as the usual excellent company. Our collection also raised £100 for the Summer of Hope campaign, which is bringing hope to families in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where conflict continues to uproot families and devastate communities.

One of our members was also pleased to report that our donations of sewing machines and fabric to the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign had been gratefully received by the refugee women who will use them for making their family's clothes.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th October at 2.30pm at the Passage Hall, Lode. This will be our Autumn Social and Bring and Buy Sale.

All are welcome to join us.

Alison Martin



VILLAGE GARDENERS

After a hot summer spent trying to keep the plants alive in our parched gardens, the Village Gardeners met in the Village Hall for the first of our autumn meetings. Linda Gascoigne gave a talk on 'Going Wild in the Garden'. Over the last twenty years, Linda and her husband have developed a wildlife friendly garden near to Mildenhall. Using artwork, photographs and actual plant samples, they gave us a flavour of what it takes to create a haven for a wide variety of creatures. Having plenty of open space was a bonus for them, and allowed them to dig a 16 foot pond to make a permanent home for frogs, toads and newts. The pond is also a vital habitat for dragonflies and damselflies, and acts as a nursery for their larvae which climb out of the pond via emerging plant shoots. But in a garden of any size, a small amount of drinking and bathing water in shallow bowls or saucers is essential for hedgehogs, birds and bees. Nectar rich plants of all sizes, from large shrubs such as buddleia to small herbs like marjoram, will provide food for bees, butterflies and lacewings. And if the insects are present, the birds and bats will come into the garden to feed too. Some good news; a tidy, weed free garden is not always the best for wildlife. Weeds such as nettles will provide food for some moth and butterfly caterpillars, and common dandelions are a bright, yellow beacon attracting bees to their nectar. Areas of rotting wood or decaying plant stems will provide home and food for insects, and in different seasons of the year ivy will variously provide birds with nectar or berries, and shelter for nesting or hibernation.

The next meeting of the Village Gardeners will be held on Tuesday 21st October at 8pm (doors 7.45pm) in Swaffham Prior Village Hall, when local bird expert Gerry Daish will continue our wildlife theme by giving a talk on 'Garden Birds'. A short

AGM will be held on the same evening. Everyone is welcome at the Village Gardeners meetings; attendance is free for annual members or £4 for visitors, and tea and homemade cakes are on sale after the talks. We hope to see you soon.

Fiona Geraghty



The Swaffhams' WI

For those of us lucky enough to have got away for a few days this summer just think about how much preparation this took: booking the tickets and the place to stay, packing while making sure that the case is not overweight, organising the cat, making sure the fridge is emptied out, packing for the children etc etc. Now spare a thought for those courageous people who took up the challenge to travel 2000 miles from the east coast of America over to the relatively uninhabited west coast in the mid-1800s. Between 1843 and 1860 starting in April and arriving in October thousands of families crossed America in wagons to start a new life. Kevin Boardman, in full Oregon trail regalia, brought to life at our August WI meeting just how dangerous and difficult this challenge was.



In the mid-1800s America was very much settled in the east but the middle and the west were relatively uninhabited. The American Government bought the middle section off the French for a pittance and then started planning how to coax people to move to the west. The plan was to encourage married couples to make the 2000-mile trek. To enable this married couples were allowed to claim up to 640 acres at no cost and in addition to this half of the land would be in the husband's name and half in the wife's – very unusual for the time.

Each family took two wagons which contained everything they needed for the 6-month journey: enough food supplies for 6 months, tools, weapons, spare parts etc. The wagons were 12ft long and 3.6ft wide and were pulled by oxen or mules. The families walked by the side of the wagon (2000 miles!) with just the driver sitting up top. These families on the Oregon Trail were not cowboys but were doctors, farmers, midwives, carpenters, blacksmiths etc. and more than 20,000 people died on the trail. The biggest dangers were from drowning, crush injuries, disease (cholera and dysentery), firearm accidents, adverse weather and snakebites. In opposition to the Hollywood portrayal, very few of these travellers were killed by the native Indians.

The trail began relatively flat but the last stage was over the Rockies and the Blue Mountains. Kevin stressed that there was more chance of dying in the last 2 days, where the wagons had to be put on a raft and sailed down the rapids, than in the previous 182 days. On arriving in Oregon life was still hard: you would stake your claim, build a log cabin, clear your land and try and survive for the first year until the crops could bring food and money.

Over 20 plus years thousands of people made this journey leaving loved ones and possessions behind, knowing that they would never be reunited. Could you have been one of the trail blazers preparing the way for future generations? Would you have had it in you to survive?

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9th September. This is our annual outing and this year we are visiting the Cambridge Mosque. Our October meeting will be on Monday 20th October and our speaker is Gareth Davies who will be talking on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire Bellringer'. Gareth is a highly entertaining and knowledgeable speaker and it is set to be a fun and inspirational evening. Do please come along and join our thriving and friendly group. We have members from Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior. We hope to see you in October!

Kate Muscroft



**20,000
people died
on the
Oregon trail**

The Reading Group Reads....

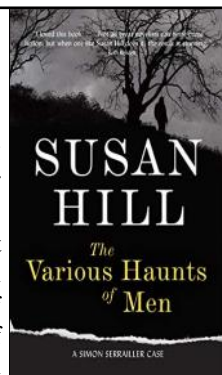
The Various Haunts of Men, by Susan Hill

Susan Hill is perhaps best known for her 1983 haunting novel *The Woman in Black* and the book we chose to read for our September book is not dissimilar.

The Various Haunts of Men is a psychological mystery that introduces us to Detective Chief Inspector Simon Serrailer and his subordinate Freya Graffham as they investigate a series of suspicious disappearances in the small, cathedral town of Lafferton. The case begins with the vanishing of a woman and escalates to include other missing people, including a young girl, an old man, and even a dog. The story unfolds as an atmospheric, character-driven mystery, where the killer's identity is slowly released through the book, and the suspense builds through the characters' perspectives and the chilling atmosphere of the setting.

The novel received mixed reviews from the Book Group and without giving anything away much was discussed over the "ending" of the book – a case for reading it perhaps! If you enjoy detective novels you will no doubt enjoy this book being the first in a series featuring Detective Chief Inspector Simon Serrailer.

Zelda Stuck



Forthcoming: Long Island by Colm Tobin, November 5th, 6pm , 5 Lower End

Wicken Fen, October-November 2025

Autumn on Wicken Fen is a season of misty mornings and glowing leaves. Out on the nature reserve you might hear the chatter of fieldfares, the whistle of wigeon or the honk of skeins of geese passing overhead – a wonderful soundtrack to your walk through the Fen. Afterwards, warm up in the Docky Hut Café with a hot drink and a tasty treat.

Cycle hire and boat trips continue until 2 November (weather permitting). On those crisp, sunny October days it's the perfect chance to take to the water for a relaxing boat trip or hop on a bike to explore the wider Fen, soaking up the autumn colours and spotting seasonal wildlife along the way.

Families will find plenty to enjoy this autumn. From 18 October to 9 November, follow our *Fairy Doors and Folklore Family Trail* around the Woodland Walk and see how many magical doors you can spot.

On **26 October**, we're delighted to welcome award-winning children's author Dara McNulty for a special event, introducing his new book *A Wild Child's Guide to Nature at Night*.

There's more to discover with our new *Family Fungi Walk* on **28 October**, where one of our Rangers will help you hunt for the fabulous fungi popping up across the reserve.

If you're feeling creative, join one of our autumn craft sessions:

Make a Fairy House to Take Home (**28 October**, age 4+) – all materials and inspiration provided.

Mushroom Printing (**31 October**) – design and print striking patterns using natural fungi, with step-by-step guidance.

Looking ahead... **Father Christmas at the Fen** bookings are now open! Step into a festive wonderland in the charming Fen Cottage, where children can join the Elves for a Christmas craft, then meet Father Christmas himself and receive a gift. New for 2025, drop into our Family Games Station to play a festive board game and transform into an Elf for a fantastic photo opportunity. This popular event sells out

quickly, so early booking is recommended. Tickets are £14.50 per child.

For the latest reserve news, visit:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Events:

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



BURWELL SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) – HAVE YOUR SAY!

The PPG is a group of patients and GP practice staff who meet for 90 minutes, four times a year, to discuss practice issues and patient experience to help improve the service. We also act as a consultative group for any changes at the practice.

Our next meeting will be at 6.30-8pm on Tuesday 14th October at the Burwell Day Centre with an option to join online via Teams.

ALL WELCOME! If you would like to be part of the group please contact the Surgery on 01638 741234 or by email at cpicb.burwellsurgery.admin@nhs.net.

For more information, including a wide range of articles about Surgery services such as weight loss injections, health checks, social prescribing and health and wellbeing coaching, please visit: <https://www.theburwellsurgery.co.uk/patient-group/about-our-ppg/>

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Practice Update

New NHS Ten year Plan and New GP Contract changes:

In July 2025 the government published the “NHS ten-year plan”. At the end of August we were notified of compulsory GP contract changes which are due to come into force in October, these have not yet been finalised and we are only 3 weeks away! (at the time of writing) This is very short notice for us to make substantial changes to the way we work and we are having urgent discussions with how we can make this work for patients and our staff. Changes include online triage and total triage meaning all incoming calls are reviewed and then a clinician decides what appointment is booked, most surgeries do work this way now, we have held off until it has become compulsory. As part of the ten-year plan the government would like all patients to have access to “neighbourhood health care hubs” serving 50,000 - 250,000 patients. We have serious concerns about this and are passionate about maintaining patient continuity and our surgery as we know it. Dr Keith was invited to The Houses of Parliament on 11th September to speak with the All Party Parliamentary Health Group and shared her concerns with MPs of the impact of this new plan on our surgery and all GP surgeries. Please bear with us during these changes, be patient and kind to our receptionists and staff.

Reminder about expectations from patients: We are here to help you. Violence, intimidation and shouting will not be tolerated. Any patient who is aggressive towards any member of staff will be immediately removed from our list.

Nurse Prescribers: We now have multiple nurse prescribers in our team. You may be given an appointment with a nurse prescriber when you hoped for a GP. The nurse prescribers all have access to a GP if they feel one is needed. If reception offer you an appointment with one of our nurses please accept this to save the GPs

for the patients whom the nurses are not able to see. .

PPG meeting: Thursday October 9th: with a talk from Dr Tom Shackleton on cholesterol and statins with an opportunity for questions and answers on this topic

COVID And flu vaccinations: This autumn / winter we are able to offer both .

Influenza vaccines are available free on the NHS if you:

Are 65 years or over (including those who will be 65 by 31st March 2026)

Certain long term health conditions

Pregnant

Live in a care home

Are main carer for older or disabled person

Live with someone with a weakened immune system

You can get the winter COVID-19 vaccine if you:

are aged 75 or over (including those who will be 75 by 31 January 2026)

are aged 6 months to 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment

COVID & Influenza vaccination clinics: SATURDAY 4th October and SATURDAY 11th October 9am – 1pm and throughout the week. Please call to book a slot or respond to the text message you will receive to book a vaccine.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Group



From our District Councillors
Charlotte Cane &
John Trapp

There was very little activity in the Council in August.

The Leader of the Council is still pursuing Option B (with East Cambs joining Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough) for the Local Government Re-organisation. The County Council has organised an online survey so that residents can have their say to their proposal for re-organisation, and this can be found on <https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/your-future-councils/>. The survey closes on 3 October 2025, so do please engage with it as soon as possible.



Surgery

Our next surgery will be on Thursday 30 October at Brinkley Memorial Hall from half past six o'clock and after an hour we propose to go to the Red Lion in the same village.

It is not only at surgeries that you can contact us; residents can always contact us by email, letter or telephone at any time.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP (charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk) and John Trapp (john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk)

Report from Charlotte Cane MP

I've been working hard both in Westminster and across Ely and East Cambridgeshire to champion the issues that matter most to our communities.

One of the biggest concerns I continue to hear about is poor broadband and mobile signal. I raised this directly with Minister Chris Bryant and the Chair of Building Digital UK, sharing your frustrations and concerns about the conduct of contractors working on Project Gigabit. I've secured a commitment from BDUK to investigate, and I'll be following up to ensure your voices are heard.

Transport remains another key issue. I've joined fellow Lib Dem MPs in calling for a freeze on rail fares. With services often delayed or cancelled, it's simply not fair to ask commuters to pay more. A fare freeze would be a step towards a more reliable, affordable rail network.

In Parliament, I've spoken up for families and children in several important debates. I called for better support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and urged the Government to reverse cuts to the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund. These are lifelines for many families in our area, and I'll keep pushing for long-term certainty and fairness.

I also led a debate on supporting neurodivergent people into work ([pictured](#)). I shared inspiring examples from our local schools and businesses that are already making a difference. Everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive, and I've asked the Government to update its guidance so that disclosure and support reflect real-world experiences.

Closer to home, I joined Cambridgeshire's Rural Crime Action Team on shift ([pictured](#)) during Rural Crime Action Week. It was a valuable insight into the challenges they face, and I've called for more funding so they can provide a 24-hour service to keep our rural communities safe.

I've also been advocating for our environment. I visited the dried-up River Snail with Cllr Yannifer Malinowski and raised the issue of chalk stream protection in Parliament. These unique waterways are vital to our biodiversity, and I'll continue pressing for action. I also challenged the Prime Minister to commit to a Land Use Framework—something that would help balance the needs of farming, housing, energy, and nature.

Supporting our local economy is another priority. I visited Cambridge's Biomedical Campus to hear about their expansion plans and the infrastructure improvements needed to support growth. I also visited a local sugar beet farm to discuss the future of British farming, and visited the East Anglian Air Ambulance to learn more about their vital work.

My team and I have now closed over 7,400 cases where constituents have asked me for help, information or advice,



and we're always here if you need support. Constituents are warmly welcomed to book a slot with me at an upcoming surgery, booking online here <https://bit.ly/bookasurgery> or by getting in touch using the details below.

Finally, if you haven't yet taken part in my local health survey, there's still time—your feedback helps shape my work on improving NHS services in our area. It's possible to complete the survey here: eclد.org.uk/healthsurvey

Charlotte
Charlotte Cane, MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire
charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk | 020 7362 1601



PEACEFUL & PRAYERFUL FOR ADULTS art group

St James' Church, Lode

FRIDAYS

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th October

Those of all faiths or none are WELCOME

We are given this day.
In All its Glory
Light
And Love

We are given this time
Of companionship
And Creativity

We are part of this world
With all its difficulties

We Ask for Guidance
Along our Paths. Amen

this is a kind, caring & supportive Group.
If you're Wondering about coming along, please Do

1.30pm - 3.30pm

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

A wide range of art materials supplied

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meetings of 14th August and 11th September

Both meetings were chaired by Cllr Covill and attended by 7 parish councillors and members of the public.

Reports

Cambridgeshire County Council. Cllr Malinowski was ill for the August meeting but did attend in September. Cllr Malinowski:

- urged PCs to respond to the CCC Local Government Reorganisation survey – Cllr Kent-Phillips has for Swaffham Prior PC
- noted the new Highways management system, which so far has been much more responsive, although Highways issues can still be raised through her
- noted that the Fire Authority is not a statutory consultant for solar farms and is awaiting government guidance on fighting battery storage fires
- noted that she has been submitting feedback on the bus routes to the A-B1102 group

Cllr Kent-Phillips asked Cllr Malinowski to follow up the PC's request for Highways to tackle an overhanging hedge.

Cllr Covill noted the obscuring of the derestriction notices towards Burwell by trees and hedges; Cllr Malinowski to raise with Highways

East Cambs District Council. Cllr John Trapp attended in September but noted there was little council activity during August, apart from:

A small rise in taxi fares in Ely

Regarding the Local Government Reorganisation, CCC are submitting a business case for option A, South Cambs are making the business case for option B, the leader of East Cambs prefers to join with Fenland and Peterborough but this has not been ratified by the rest of the council and the voices of the parishes should be considered

Clerk's Report

The Clerk asked for interest from parish councillors in having councillor emails provided, to make clear when they were contacting companies etc as PC representatives. Cllr Kent-Phillips will set up UP emails.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Gynn noted that a bus stopping at 7.30am had caused an obstruction of the road due to parking congestion. Cllr Greenfield had raised this at the last meeting of the A-B1102 Group. The buses have to be at set nodes at set times, one of which is Swaffham Prior and that the bus companies are working to get things right.

Cllr Covill observed that the water leak on the road to Burwell has been reported but not yet fixed.

Cllrs Kent-Phillips and Greenfield reported that GigaClear have had issues connecting household on Tothill Road, Rogers Road and Lower End due to ducting needing replacing and have varied considerably in responsiveness to potential customers.

Correspondence

In response to enquiries, the PC received an email from Mike Barker regarding possible beneficial ecological effects of Long Barrow Solar Farm.

Planning applications.

25/00770/ESF The construction, operation and decommissioning of a ground-mounted solar farm and associated infrastructure, including inverters, customer switchgears, substation compound, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and access, as well as landscape and ecological improvements. Land south of Partridge Hall Farm, Heath Road, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridgeshire.

The PC responded to this application with the following concerns:

The proposed site is on top of a scheduled ancient monument and an unscheduled bronze age circular ditch. This would require extensive archaeological investigation of both the monuments and the area they are set in.

The proposed site is under the flight path to Newmarket racecourse and there is concern that light reflected from the solar panels could dazzle pilots overhead.

The application does not show the line of connection between the Burwell substation and the proposed solar farm, or whether the connections would be underground or overhead - these are important considerations and are missing from the application.

The condition of Heath Road – which is already in need of substantial repair and is not fit for use by the necessary additional heavy construction vehicles that would need access. Are the developers proposing to contribute by funding necessary road repairs and improvements?

Provision at the junction of Heath Road and the B1102 for increased traffic – at present the PC's Speed Indicator Device has recorded 1000 cars per hour in each direction between 8-10am and 4-6pm. This is not easily combined with heavy vehicles leaving and rejoining the B1102. The PC have noticed that a traffic survey has been undertaken (although it is unknown who carried it out or for what reasons); however it was during the summer holidays when schools are out and people are away - to compile an accurate view of the levels of traffic, there would need to be a number of surveys at different times of the year.

The potential for noise pollution for residents from increased traffic noise, potentially outside of normal hours.

Access to the site for fire engines – as noted Heath Road is already in poor condition. Also, the robustness of risk assessments for fire at a solar

The proposed Solar Farm is on top of a scheduled ancient monument and a bronze age circular ditch. This would require extensive archaeological investigation ...



farm, particularly in reference to the battery storage.

The PC refute the description of Heath Road as particularly quiet. There are currently 4 agricultural contractors based along that roadway in addition to a sizable construction company with a fleet of lorries. This has already increased the volume of heavy machinery using the road at all hours.

Parishioners have raised concerns about a devaluing of house prices overlooking the proposed farm.

Concern has been raised around 'scope creep'; that the solar farm, once agreed, could expand considerably in size, as observed at West Wratting, another site in the area.

25/00914/TRE G1 3x Lime – re-pollard. Towers and Hill Charitable Trust, Village Hall, 36 High Street, Swaffham Prior.

The PC agreed to support this application

Allotments

Two upper allotment plots have been rented out by new tenants. Two half plots on the Lower allotment are still available.

Bus stops.

Cllr Greenfield explained that The Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) had funding for 9 Real Time Passenger Information displays for the T4 and T5 routes and in consultation with A-B1102 group, proposed putting on at the bus stop on the High Street. A-B1102 group had also negotiated the purchase of further units from the manufacturer if the combined PCs along the routes were willing to fund them independent of the CPCA and requested that the PC indicate if it is willing to take part in this. The PC agreed with putting one display at the High Street bus shelter, but declined to fund a second unit at present.

Investigations into a second bus shelter on the other side of the road has shown that East Cambs planning department would have to see a proposal for a bus shelter before offering an opinion whether it would be allowed.

Cemetery

The broken cemetery bench has now been dismantled and the cast iron pieces stored in the sexton's shed. Interest has been shown in fixing it since; the PC is awaiting a follow-up email.

A survey of the cemetery trees by ETS showed no problems with them and that they are all in at least reasonable health.

Footpaths

The PC are investigating paying for twice-yearly cutting back of overgrown vegetation on the footpaths. Quotes have been sought and the issue is to be discussed further in October. An alternative suggestion was a regular schedule of reminders to householders bordering footpaths/rights of way.

Cllrs Gynn and Hart noted overgrown vegetation is obstructing footpaths outside 34 Lower End, 2A Green Head Road and 2 Green Head Road.

After several communications between 1 Lower End and the PC, the overhanging hedge at the Cage Hill/High Street/Lower End junction has been reported to Highways.

Grants

The PC awarded a grant of £200.00 to the A-B1102 group to support their work

in developing the T4 and T5 bus routes and continuing work to improve transport along the B1102.

Heating Scheme

23rd July a (false) alarm for an ammonia leak went off at the Heating Centre – very loud and disturbing. The placing of the alarm is being considered, dependant on whether it is aimed at alerting workers on site or residents nearby.

The yellow lines were reported as completed. On inspection they are only partly completed. Cllr Greenfield to follow up.

The school is not taking up the scheme; potentially the Village Hall can be connected in, bypassing the school.

In light of the plentiful information available through the Crier, "Report on Heating Scheme" be removed from the agenda and any information be covered in the Parish Councillors reports.

Kingsway Solar Farm

The PC have accepted the offer of a briefing from Kingsway Solar Farm and offered the dates of the next two PC meetings for it to take place. This will be for parish councillors only, as events for members of the public are to be arranged separately.

The Parish Council have also agreed to join the Kingsway Area Parish Council alliance – a group of parish council representatives that have joined together to give a united response to the Kingsway Solar Farm proposals. Cllr Greenfield will represent Swaffham Prior PC and the next meeting is 23rd September. There is also a meeting on 24th September in the Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell that has been arranged by a resident of Reach to raise public awareness of the issues.

Policies etc.

The Financial Regulations were updated, raising the emergency spending limit of the Clerk to £300.

Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust.

The Clerk read out the following statement provided by email.

"Next March sees ten years from the first occupancy of the CLT homes on Rogers Road. We continue to be in the fortunate position to have eight good tenants all with close links to the village.

For six of the homes, their five year tenancy ends in spring next year. However, having reviewed the position of all the residents via Hundred Houses Housing Association, together with consideration of our terms of reference/letting criteria, we believe it would be disingenuous to advertise the properties for other people at this time as they are unlikely to be successful.

Should any home become available we will advertise in the usual way."

There were no questions.

Village Hall.

A quote to cut back the Village Hall driveway lime trees has been accepted and work will go ahead soon.

Village Photo Album.

Celia Tyler reported the progress made on the project to the meeting. So far it is under budget and should be completed by the end of the year, producing 5 copies of

the book.

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

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9th October 2025 starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Solar Farm Archaeological Findings

The site comprises four arable fields located is 2.4 km south-east of the village of Swaffham Prior, covering an area of 58.5 ha. The geophysical survey was undertaken between 15 and 17 of November 2021.

The gradiometer survey was successful in identifying archaeological features on site. In addition to the known scheduled monument, a second round barrow was confirmed that was suggested from the aerial photographs and a pit alignment.

The scheduled long barrow (NHLE 1020842) was confirmed with the survey. This early to middle Neolithic funerary monument is part of an extensive spread of prehistoric barrows across the chalk uplands of north Hertfordshire and south Cambridgeshire.

To the south of the scheduled monument is a round barrow that relates to later Bronze Age funerary activities. This complements the records of Bronze Age barrows identified in the wider landscape.

Between the two monuments is a long pit alignment that traverses the site from north-east to south-west. This likely forms a land division that could date from the Late Neolithic to Romano-British period. It is not clear from the survey data whether there is any relationship between the pit alignment and either of the barrows.

Two small curvilinear ditches have been identified that could indicate further prehistoric funerary activity within the site. However, they are fragmented, and such interpretation is tentative at best.

Two long parallel ditches have been located to the east of the round barrow. Their origin and function could not be discerned from the geophysical survey.

Two ditches have been located on a north-west to south-east alignment. They are likely related to medieval field boundaries; however, their isolated nature makes more confident interpretation difficult.

The remaining anomalies are thought to be modern or natural in origin. The modern anomalies relate to ploughing, test pits, and water pipes.

Wessex Archaeology, commissioned by Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd

<p>No FREECYCLE this month—back next. Email jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk, phone 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.</p>
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St Mary's Services October 2025

Wednesday 1 October

8pm CbyC on Zoom

Sunday 5 October – sixteenth after Trinity

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

Thursday 9 October

11am Harvest Festival, Lode – followed by lunch

Sunday 12 October – seventeenth after Trinity

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

Sunday 19 October – eighteenth after Trinity

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

Sunday 26 October – Bible Sunday

9am Online service on Zoom
Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Bulbeck
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior
3pm Harvest Festival, Quy

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Revd Max Osborne: max9@btinternet.com; 01223 481187 (Rest day: Tuesday)
Churchwardens: Bottisham: bottisham@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 604019
Lode: lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; 01223 811222
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 October 2025

Wed	1	Bookclub, 6pm, Lower End [28]
Fri	3	Peaceful & Prayerful Art Group, St James', Lode, 1.30-3.30pm [33]
Sat	4	Village Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 6.30pm
Sun	5	Harvest Festival Service, Fen Chapel, 3pm
Thu	9	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm [38]
Tue	14	Burwell Patients, 6.30-8pm, Burwell Surgery [30]
Thu	16	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Fassage Hall, Lode [26]
Sat	18	Quiz Night, VH, 7.30pm {7}
Mon	20	Newmarket Chinema, <i>Official Secrets</i> , 7.30pm [12] WI, VH, 7.30pm [27]
Tue	21	Reception Open Event, SP School, 10am [7] Mobile Library, Outside School 3.00-3.45pm Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm [26]
Wed	22	Crier Copy Deadline
November		
Wed	5	Bookclub, 6pm, Lower End [28]
Thu	6	Reception Open Event, SP School, 2pm [7]
Sat	15	Ceilidh, VH, 6.30pm [7]

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