



The Swaffham Crier

Volume L Number 6

June 2026



Editorial

Well, momentous news this month—our WI has seceded from the National body on a matter of principal (see p.8 and last month’s editorial) and has now become Swaffhams Women’s Independent Group, with the delightful acronym SWIG. This village owes such a lot to the WI (see the village website for their historical records of this village, and p.12 for one such), not to mention the founding of the Gay Bulleid Award which was won this year by Charlotte Green (many congratulations Charlotte!).

The Feast was a truly mighty success, stunning in fact, Watch out Reach Fair, here is some substantial competition! Many congratulations to the organisers and most especially maestress Jenny Brand and next year, could we have some programs please? So many events and we absolutely loved it, especially the Jive lessons!

In this month’s issue, Steve Kent Phillips explains all about the history of our Parochial Charities which Pam Waters always advertises at Christmas time in the Crier. But in fact they can and will help you, or someone you know, at any time — please think seriously about this (see p. 12).

We also hear from Graham Jackson, whose magnificent repairs to the Church Wall we are all admiring, and where you can read all about that spanner that is now back in a newly refurbished time-capsule....

Meanwhile, were delighted to receive so many responses to Ivan Bertulesi’s plea for information about Colin Henderson and the search goes on! See letters, can you help?

Contrary to usual habit we are making our combined issue JULY/AUGUST this year, so don’t forget to get any August copy in early!

And it’s a dog’s life in Swaffham Prior. Just when a chap’s taking a stroll in search of his Lady-love without his pesky collar, he is clocked by Aaron (who apparently knows the names and faces of every dog in the village) who tracks him on his bike, the Village Facebook springs into action, and...and ...drat! Foiled again. All best wishes to Jack, a really lovely boy and who was a guest at Swaffham Prior Hall.

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Warmth of the Yellow Fields* digital painting by **Harry Doe**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Colin and Dorothy Henderson

The Hendersons moved to No 2 Green Head Road when they came back to Swaffham Prior and after Dorothy died Colin moved to the Beeches. His garden at Green Head Road was full of delphiniums.

I got to know Colin more when I was Clerk to the Parish Council. He was an 'early to bed and early to rise' sort of person who loved his very early daily walks with his labrador Blue until the dog died. He would tidy up various parts of the village on these walks, one of them being the poet Edwin Muir's grave in the cemetery. He usually called on us at about 7 am on his way home to tell us he had done it. He cycled to Newmarket to buy plants for it at his own expense.



He cycled everywhere including his work at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Once on riding to the surgery at Burwell phe was told he had to go straight to hospital. He rang me and asked if our son would bring the bike home for him. Our son, who was a young teenager thought it would be an up market bike but no it was a standard type with a large basket. We sometimes had phone calls asking us to take a message to them and they weren't always received with much enthusiasm.

He was also one of the first people to rent a garden plot (not allotment) behind the cemetery. Any notes were put in an envelope and sealed with his red seal.

In later years when he had health problems he would call at ours for a rest and we would usually drive him home.

His dignified funeral was conducted by a village resident who with other local people helped him in his latter days. I sat next to a lady who said she had worked at Bottisham Post Office where he did his business. She had moved to the other side of Cambridge but felt she had to pay her respects.

Dorothy was sister to Bob Smiths wife Emily. She belonged to the W. I. for many years and also delivered the Swaffham Crier each month.

Ruth Stinton

Dear Editors,

As a child I remember Colin Henderson and his wife Dorothy who were a lovely couple who rented the Nook, 15 High Street, Swaffham Prior from my grandfather Eric Day.

Colin was interested in history, steam trains, the Fitzwilliam museum etc. He had a steam train nameplate over the fireplace, I can remember. He always travelled on the busses and did not have a car.

Dorothy helped clean at Manor Farm sometimes and had a sister, Emily in

Reach who was a dressmaker I think, and came from Tooting in London. Her husband Bob Smith worked on the farm Reach (Manor Farm) for my grandfather A J Housden. And they had a daughter who is still in the area. Dorothy used to go to Reach on the bus to visit Emily who lived at Northfields (? Perhaps Highfields?) When the Beeches was built in Swaffham Prior Colin and Dorothy moved down there, these being on the ground floor and more modern to heat etc.

My mother Jean Day once went to Tooting to visit Dorothy and her sister, It was quite an adventure for Mum to go to London.

That's all I can remember I'm afraid Colin was a clever man I think and yes interested in history.

The photo looks to me as though it was taken from the top of the Nook garden.

Hilary Marsh,

2A High Street, Burwell

PS. Since writing to you I have remembered that Dorothy's niece is Judith Smith, daughter of Emily and Bob Smith. Judith is a very nice girl and I am fairly certain is still living in the area. —I have seen her in recent times in Burwell Co-op.

Dear Editors,

This is really good news, I didn't expect to find a relative, since from what we knew they didn't have any (although as I said, our information is very little and we are relying on second hand tales).

I can't express the gratitude and the surprise to find such a lovely helpfulness by all the people who have been in touch.

Maybe this niece has some interesting memory, or some old photograph of my grandfather and Colin. I'm sure he left in England some objects. He used to sell handmade crosses inside glass bottles to buy cigarettes and paper for letters....

Thank you again for your researches,

Ivan Bertulessi

Jonathan Cook also contacted the Crier about Colin and we put him in touch with Ivan. When Colin was in the Beeches, he and Clare Farrah helped look after him.

Both Ruth and Hilary agree about Emily living in Reach, but Ruth thinks she lived down by the lode. Ruth also tells of Colin's daily morning walks which began at 5.30am and during which he did much useful communal tidying, such as in the church yard and the Cage. When the BBC came to do a program on our poet Edmund Muir, they asked Colin if he could tidy up his grave, to which Colin readily agreed. But then they gave him money, for which Colin was extremely startled. What, all that?! And what we he supposed to do with it!

And Ruth also confirms his niece's name as Emily and also that she is married to Martin and does indeed live in Burwell. So the search goes on — can anyone help on this one?

THIS MONTH'S COVER PICTURE

Harry has created this digital image for The Crier using Adobe Photoshop. In his own words:

I personally enjoy capturing the essence of traditional media within my digital paintings. The inspiration for this painting was simply the beauty of the Fenlands that I am extremely privileged to call home. I am often captivated by the unrivalled dynamism and grandeur of the clouds, coupled with the calm and gentle flow of the local flora.

My (foremost) discipline and degree pertains to Concept Art, which is more design-centric in purpose and application, however, I still try to find the time to capture a moment solely because it resonates with me.

Harry takes commissions for artwork and also offers Art tutoring.

Contact: harry.r.t.doe@gmail.com You can see more of his work on social media: Instagram @doe_balls_creations

From our Reporter ...

Is there one of those laws arising from practical observation that says that the longer the agenda for a meeting, the shorter the meeting? There needed to be this month with the PC's AGM and the Annual Village Assembly to add to the normal monthly PC meeting, and with each having a longish agenda. Fortunately it appears that there is!!



... at The Parish Council Annual General Meeting

This is a largely routine meeting to go through a prescribed set of items and was scheduled to take about 15 mins before the PC Meeting. I'm not sure whether I was meant to have attended but because it wasn't clear what started when, I turned up at the advertised 7pm start time and was allowed to stay. The business including re-election of the Chair and Vice-Chair, approving last year's meeting's minutes, approving various Councillors as reps on other committees and to roles such as Lamppost Warden – all were duly re-elected/approved unopposed, none of the infighting of national government here.

There were then a pair of linked items on the PC's asset register and Insurance Risks. These took a little longer. The total assets come to £535k of which £500k are the Village Hall but the Village Hall is insured by the Village Hall Management Committee and there are further complications like who is responsible for the oil tank and the playground equipment (the concrete table tennis table belongs to the Parochial Charities ...). Concerns were also expressed that the Village Hall may not be sufficiently insured. This will all be sorted out in time for next year.

Then back to what turned out to be relatively straightforward: various charges for

the cemetery and the allotments, which remained largely unchanged.

We as members of the public were then asked to leave while some confidential business was carried out.

... and at The May Parish Council Meeting

The first non-routine item was a request under “Public participation for items on the agenda” asking for more details to be recorded in the minutes so that they would make sense to people who weren’t at the meeting. There was I thought only slightly grudging acceptance that this needed action. Aware of this kind of problem and that we are primarily writing for people who weren’t at the meeting, the Crier’s Reporters do generally try to include more contextual information than official minutes typically would for those items of obvious general interest. The items on this occasion were: temporary signage promoting the County Council’s Close Pass Campaign (drivers giving cyclists sufficient space when overtaking) – unanimously felt by the PC not to be appropriate in the Village; and report of the letter of support for the Catchment Plan having been sent (this being the water catchment area discussed in the previous meeting and reported in the Crier rather than say a school catchment area).

Local Councillors Yannifer Malinowski (County) and John Trapp (District) were both there to present their reports. High on Yannifer’s agenda were matters concerning the state of the highways and two local cases were raised: the missing double yellow lines outside Anglesey House, which she would photograph on her way home, and the badly cracked surface on the track down on the fen past Slades Farm which is part of the Wicken Vision Cycleway – both will be dealt with.

John Trapp reported that it had been a relatively quiet period report-wise on the District Council but a question was asked about the collection rota for the new bins where some incorrectly delivered leaflets had caused great confusion by making it appear that the first collection on the new rota would be green bins directly following the green bin collection on the old rota the previous week. This is NOT the case: the first collection for us under the new rota (Wed June 3) is a Blue week. Distributing the new black bins and food caddies and all the versions of the leaflets for the whole of East Cambs District had been a major task. Fortunately it doesn’t happen very often! Everyone should have their new bins by 2 June and John will help if anyone doesn’t.

For the first time that I can remember in a PC meeting that I have been at, one of the Members, Kate Musgrove, had declared an interest so she left while her planning application was discussed. Whilst this was a relatively simple case with the proposed work installing solar panels being on a detached garage rather than the listed building itself, it is good to see the declaration of interests being taken this seriously.

There was then a chunk of fairly routine business relating back annual actions identified at the AGM and maintenance of paths, trees and lighting. Balfour Beatty, who maintain the street lights that the PC own, apparently provide an exemplary service, sometimes appearing to fix a fault almost before it has been reported.

**Speeding in
Greenhead
Road is
thought to be
mostly due to
one individual
who ignores
the 30mph
restriction let
alone a 20mph
one.....**

And so to a request from a parishioner that the speed limit on Greenhead Road be reduced to 20MPH. The PC were opposed on the basis that it is thought that a significant factor here is the behaviour of one individual who ignores the current 30MPH limit and whose behaviour is unlikely to be changed by a reduction in the limit. This is in line with their response to previous similar suggestions including the County Council's invitation to villages to request 20MPH limits; here their view has been that 20 vs 30MPH would make little practical difference other than making it more difficult for cars to pass cyclists safely. I have heard rumours elsewhere that the County Council are contemplating making the speed limit at most 40MPH all the way between here and Quy because of the poor separation of the road and the cycle lane for part of the way; for this, it seems to me that there may actually be more force to the argument about higher speed allowing safer overtaking if done properly. And while we're thinking about this kind of thing, should Mill Hill be 30 rather than 40MPH?

... and at The Annual Village Assembly

The Annual Village Assembly made a welcome return this year having had an accidentally fallow year last year (see "From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting" in the July 2025 Crier). That said, there were only about 20 of us there so it was a bit of a muted welcome back and not even all 17 listed to speak on behalf of the various village institutions were amongst the 20. Of the PC, only the Vice-Chair (in the absence of the Chair who was unable to attend) and the Clerk were present.

The Clerk to the PC plans to produce a full set of reports and many of those involved already produce monthly reports for the Crier so there is little to add here at the moment. The one exception is the well-deserved award of the Gay Bulleid Prize to Charlotte Green, both in itself, but also because it illustrates the value of the Village Assembly in introducing people and providing an opportunity for such events. Charlotte is relatively new to the village but has already made her mark, particularly by founding the Little Library, and we hope that she may contribute to the Crier in future.

It would be good to see a larger turnout in future years and there was some informal discussion after the meeting about how this might be achieved. One possibility might be to have an annual topic of interest or concern to the village for discussion but can such a thing can be found on a regular basis? Back when Dencora were planning to develop the whole of the field to the west side of Rogers Road there was a good turnout but this was a one-off. Another option may be to change the timing so that it doesn't add to the May cluster with the Village Feast and PC's AGM. Suggestions welcome, including for publication in the Crier.

James Matheson

Church Wall on the Drift Repair

Many may have noticed that two magnificently skilled craftsmen have been repairing the crumbling wall separating St Cyriacs churchyard and the Drift.

During gathering the crumbling remains, an old wagon spanner appeared clearly having been embedded in its previous repair or original construction.

Spotting this spanner the craftsmen responded they have previously found such items including animal bones when rebuilding such flint walls. They asked if I wanted it and responded it needs a good clean up to see if it has a makers name to try and date it.

Three days later, in the reverse electrolisis bath, most of the corrosion dissolved exposing a very tired piece. Clearly it a been retired from daily graft showing signs of split jaws and the occasional convenient hammer use! We decided it's home was back where found with an appropriate

note in s glass jar for a find in the not so near future.

It would be interesting if any knowledge of when the wall was first built or repaired?

Graham Jackson

Above right, the mislaid spanners first discovery and re-interment, and left, the message in a bottle for a future generation.



The Swaffhams' Women's Independent Group (SWIG) – May 2026

MAY 2026 SAW THE EXCITING LAUNCH OF THE SWAFFHAMS' WOMEN'S INDEPENDENT GROUP.

Our inaugural talk was led by Sarah Dickinson from The Edge Café in Cambridge and what a powerful woman she is! Ten years ago, with the help of a government grant, Sarah and her business partner, Gail, created The Edge Café to give people with addictions a safe place to go to to help with their recovery. Their vision was to create a 'yes' space – open and welcome to all. This quickly developed into a space not just for people with addictions but for people with mental health concerns, loneliness or anyone simply struggling with life. Over the last 10 years the café has continued to thrive and is now also a venue for a huge variety of workshops and group meetings, plus so much more.



As far as the café is concerned Sarah, with her catering background, was determined that it had a clear identity and therefore everything they serve, including the jams and chutneys, is prepared, cooked and baked on site. Volunteers work in a number of areas within The Edge Café including the kitchen, where the emphasis is not only on delivering food of a very high standard but also on developing an excellent work ethic. FareShare and Neighbourly work with Sarah to help provide a food hub where food from supermarkets, which would otherwise be classed as wastage, is made available on a daily basis.

There is so much more to say about The Edge Café; the Peer Mentor scheme 'Let's Talk', the Freedom Programme (a 12-week course to help women struggling with relationships with men), the outside catering they offer, the volunteering and work experience opportunities and, of course, a vibrant café for all the community. Do please have a look at their website <https://www.theedgecafecambridge.com> or simply call in for delicious food and coffee. November 2026 is the start of their 10-year birthday celebrations. Why not be part of this amazing space we are so lucky to have on our doorstep? Powerful women make powerful changes.

So, what is the Swaffhams' Women's Independent Group (SWIG)? We are a group of women from Swaffham Prior and the surrounding villages, meeting once a month for a talk on a huge variety of topics. And naturally there is also time set aside in each meeting for home baked cakes and tea or coffee. Our aim is to enable

stimulating and thought-provoking talks and discussions whilst at the same time bringing friendship and fun to our members. There is a subscription required of £30 a year and members are welcome to bring along visitors at £5 a visit.

If you are interested in joining our group or would like to come along for a visit, please get in touch with Kaye by email (kayejanelew@gmail.com) or Kate on 07752011308. We meet in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 7:30pm on the third Monday of the month. Our next meeting in June is our Garden Party and then in August Alastair Cairns will be talking about his Traveller's Tales. It would be lovely to see you there.

Kate Muscroft, Committee Chair
katemuscroft@gmail.com

The Swaffhams' Women's Independent Group

SWIG

Be inspired, hear interesting speakers, widen your circle of friends... and there's cake and coffee!

Every third Monday of the month in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 7:30pm

We are a new group. Come and join us.

For more information please contact:
kayejanelew@gmail.com or
Kate on 07752 011308



Join POP
(Proud of Prior)



COMMUNITY LITTER PICK
FRIDAY TIDY

**Meet at the sheds by the play park
on the High Street**

Friday 26th June
10.00am

Adult Hi Vis Jackets provided
You participate at your own risk
Your Safety is YOUR responsibility

Please bring your own gloves
All other equipment provided

**Come and join friends and
neighbours on this tidy up**

**Look forward to seeing
the results!**



Prickwillow Engine Museum
**Free Science Day for all the
family**
Sunday 28th June 2026

Exciting family day of science based activities suitable for 5 - 11 year olds including making a windmill, simple experiments and quizzes.



Learn all about the history of the unique landscape of the fens and its drainage

Museum and Cafe open 12 - 4pm

POEM OF THE MONTH

From *A Shropshire Lad* by A E Housman

II

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.

Like much of A Shropshire Lad this much-loved and much-anthologised poem is bittersweet: a celebration of youth and beauty whilst simultaneously lamenting their transience. The musical setting of the poem by George Butterworth is as well-known and loved as the poem and there is poignant irony in the brilliant young composer winning an MC, 110 years ago next month, in the Battle of the Somme - a medal which he did not survive to collect.

Andrew Grant

BON MOT NUMBER 170

"Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel"

Samuel Johnson on April 7, 1775



SWAFFHAM PRIOR PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

A POTTED HISTORY

Way back in time, when a local farmer died, he left a small parcel of land “for the cultivation of the poor of the parish” – i.e. allotments – with an-ad-hoc charity to administer them. There is also mention of Charles Allix as being treasurer of the *Swaffham Prior Charity 1753-1761*.

The original document is stamped 20 Nov 1907 and it sets up the Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities (SPPC) as a separate entity, merging the ad-hoc arrangements and three existing named charities (William Thompson, Joseph Haynes and John Newbourne as set up from 1853-1894) into one new one, and it specifically excludes the Swaffham Prior School Foundation Trust (SPSFT), which actually predates the SPPC by three years, being founded in 1904, who are specifically given the rent from one bit of land – “Schoolmaster’s Plot”, which is up the lane past the Smock Tower Mill.

It has one ex-officio member (“The Rector”), who traditionally was the Chairman, but not always and not now as it states the Chairman is “elected annually”; plus up to eight trustees, invited by the board. Originally these were four from Swaffham Prior Parish Council, two from “the board of guardians of Newmarket Union” (the workhouse erected in 1837 on Exning Road), and two from “the rural district of Swaffham Prior” (nowadays, but not much longer, East Cambs DC). These requirements appear to have been ignored from the start, as the very first board consisted of the Reverend Lawrence Fisher (Chairman), William Ambrose esq, Charles Ambrose (farmer), George Asbee (grocer), Frederick Palmby (grocer) – all from Swaffham Prior; the wonderfully named Reverend William Augustus St John Dersley of Reach (Clerk in Holy Orders), Henry Crisp (licenced victualler of Reach) and Charles Allix, esq of Swaffham Prior House (Treasurer). Thomas Foster (miller), joined soon afterwards.

Nowadays, the Vicar is still an ex-officio (“there by right of office”) member, but John Colvill is Chairman, Pam Waters acts as the secretary and there are two members from Prior and two from Reach.

Originally, the charity gave £5 to the school and £30 to the School Foundation Trust annually. Nowadays the SPFT endows the school and the charity gives it the rent from Schoolmaster’s Plot plus a few hundred pounds a year (in lieu of “six tons of coal”), paid for out of the rentals on the plots it owns plus some small investments.

Initially, the charity distributed small amounts of coal at Christmas each year “to the needy of the villages of Swaffham Prior and Reach, plus the hamlet of Lower End”. This has continued to the present day, but has morphed into Winter Fuel Supplements to anyone living in the two parishes, advertised in the Crier annually at Christmas.

There were 11 plots of land identified as belonging to the charity, including “a village children’s recreation ground in Swaffham Prior” and “land on Mill Hill” (tenant: Schoolmaster) (the “Schoolmaster’s Plot”). Amongst the buildings

mentioned are “four cottages with wash houses in the Town Close” (where the Scout Hut is now), four outhouses nearby on Farm Lane (the “paper sheds” in the lane alongside the play area); “five cottages (formerly six) at Blackfriars in Lower End”; “two cottages on the green at Reach”. All have gone bar the Play Area, the ground the Scout Hut sits on, the paper sheds and six small pieces of fenland described in great detail with OS field numbers. The rest were sold off as the buildings fell into disrepair and some land was sold off after WWII to consolidate some fields far out in the fens.

Some of the fields are rented out to a local farmer, but the land is very poor, and some are used as allotments for Reach. The Schoolmasters Plot is now a dog training field, and the paper sheds are let out for newspaper recycling and storage for the church. As a quaint throwback, the rents are due at Michaelmas every year.

Over the past year or so, the SPPC have been actively involved in getting all the bits and bobs registered with the Land Registry as such a thing did not exist back when the charity was set up, and it seems that all these odd parcels of land never had deeds in the first place. This has been a long, expensive and tiresome task which is now nearly at fruition so the charity has something to pass on to future generations.

Anyone from the parishes of Swaffham Prior and Reach can apply at any time for anonymous financial support in times of need; not just at Christmas. To apply in the strictest confidence, simply contact the Clerk to the Trustees, Pam Waters at 31 Tothill Road, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JX.

Steve Kent-Phillips

Swaffham Prior

S is for school where we go with a will
W for windmill which stands on the hill
A for the arms which turn in the breeze
F for the fens without many trees
F for freshwater pumped up from the tower
H for the horses which pull with great power
A is for apples whose trees top the wall
M is for Manor with chestnuts so tall .

P is for Post Office where stamps are sold
R is for relics of Romans so old
I for the ivy which clings to the wall
O for old houses ready to fall
R is for ruins of towers so quaint
A picture an artist would just
love to paint .

Many thanks to Michael Cazenove for this, he is unsure of its origin, but a copy certainly appears in one-time headmistress Mrs Dowdeswell 's 1958 Scrapbook. See Editorial.

Village Feast 2026

Once again the weather was good to us helping to contribute to a great day.

The Village Hall Committee would like to express a huge thank you to everyone that participated in the Feast in so many different ways, donating for stalls, running stalls and games, providing hot cold and liquid refreshments and entertaining everyone with dancing, maypole, Molly dancers and East Anglia Swing Troupe, classic cars and emergency vehicles and Rampton Spinners. This was a real community effort and we could not have done it without each and everyone of you.

Prize winners this year.

Guess the ladybirds. Zelda Stuck. There were 95

Treasure Hunt Filiz Lamberty. No. 3

Colouring Competition Remy and Lily

Egg Throwing. Rod and Phoebe Clayton

We hoped you enjoyed it and look forward to seeing you next year.

Thank one and all,

The Village Hall Committee

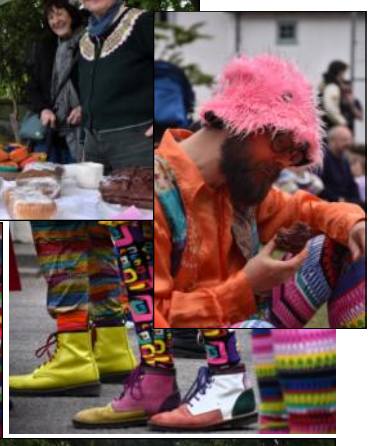
And thank-you too Village Hall Committee, and most especially Organiser-in-Chief **Jenny Brand** who has made our Feast something really special. She and **April Murfet**, who brilliantly compères the whole event, are pictured below and the following pages and back cover contain loads more superbly evocative pictures of the event taken by **Andrew Noyes**, the Crier's chief photographer. Where possible, these are printed in colour and they are all in colour in the on-line version.

The Editors





The Village Feast 2026 (cont.)

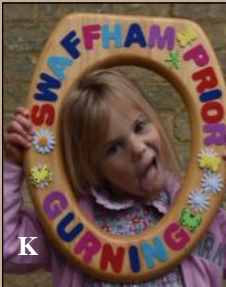




Gurning Contest 2026

Readers have 10 Votes but with
a maximum of 5 allocated to
any one contestant

Send to
editors@swaffham-crier.co.uk
or Kent House, 9, High St



Julie's Greek recipes

Prawn Saganaki

600g raw shell jumbo prawns	4 tbsp red wine vinegar
4 tbsp olive oil	1 tbsp brown sugar
1 large red onion	680g tomato passata
6 large garlic cloves, chopped	20 black olives, pitted
1 medium fennel bulb, diced	100g feta
10g oregano, chopped	10g parsley or mint, finely chopped
1 tsp ground cinnamon	Crusty bread to serve
1 tsp dried chilli flakes	

1. Carefully remove the shells from the prawns, leaving the tails intact. Remove and discard the central tracts.
2. Heat the oven to 220c. Heat the oil in a large deep pan and cook the onion, garlic and the fennel with a good pinch of salt for 10 minutes until softened and starting to take a little colour.
3. Add the oregano, cinnamon and chilli, cooking for a minute, then add the vinegar and sugar. Cook for 2-3 minutes until the liquid has evaporated, then stir in passata and simmer for 10 minutes until the sauce has reduced by a third, then add olives.
4. Taste the sauce for seasoning, adding more salt or sugar if needed. Nestle the prawns into the surface of the sauce, then crumble over the feta. Bake in the oven for about 15 minutes until the prawns have cooked through and feta is beginning to melt. Garnish with chopped parsley or mint and serve with crusty bread.

Meatball and feta tray bake

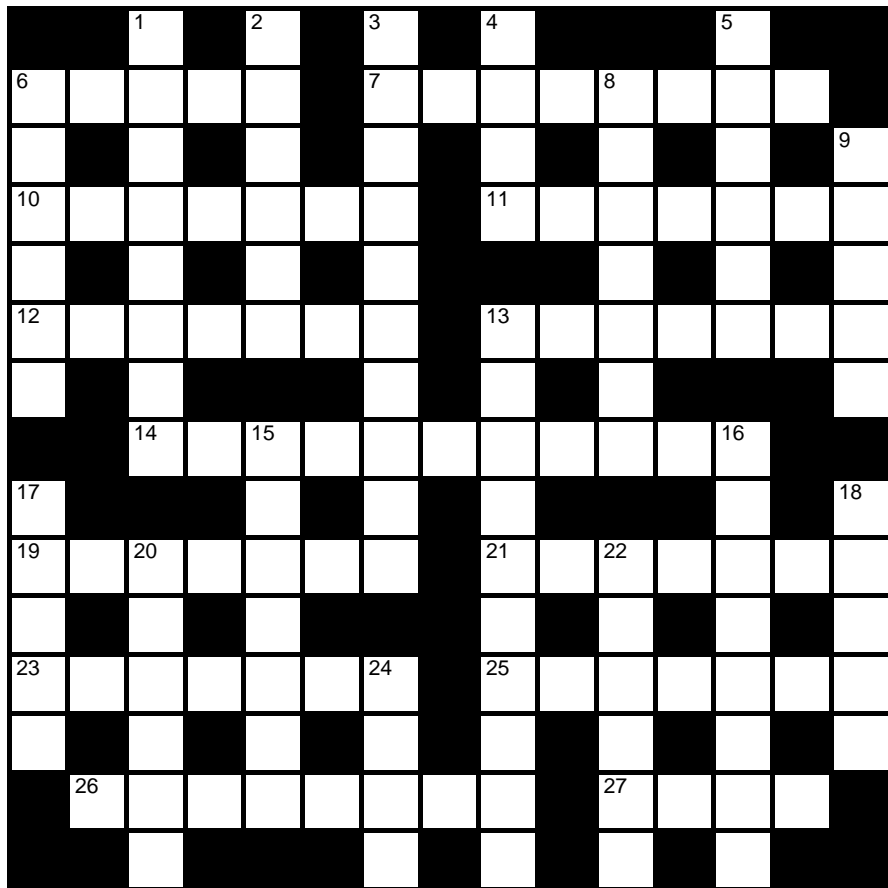
4 tablespoons olive oil	A handful of chopped flat leaf parsley
400g tin chopped tomatoes	Toasted pine nuts
600g passata	400g lamb mince
200ml red wine	200g lean beef mince
4 tbsp runny honey	1 red onion, finely chopped
2 tsp ground cinnamon	3 cloves crushed garlic
1-2 tsp dried chilli flakes	75g Greek yoghurt
2tbsp fresh oregano, chopped	75g soft breadcrumbs
200g feta	1 tbsp dried oregano

1. Mix together the meats, onion, garlic, breadcrumbs, oregano and Greek yoghurt, season well and make into 18 meatballs, chill for 30 minutes.
 2. Heat the oven to 170c, put the olive oil in a large frying pan and fry the meatballs until browned all over.
 3. Remove the meatballs from the pan and pour away any excess oil, add tomatoes, passata, cook through and then add the red wine, cinnamon, chilli flakes, honey and oregano. Season well. Now put meatballs into a ovenproof dish and cover with the sauce. Cover with foil and bake for 1 hour. Towards the end break up the feta and crumble over the top and return to the oven until the cheese has softened and browned. When ready scatter with chopped parsley and pine nuts and a dollop of Greek yoghurt. Serve with bread cous-cous or orzo.
- Serves 4-6

Crossword Number 239

Compiled by **CALVIN**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18th June 2026. 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 Worries as soprano comes to the front, causing a fright (5)
- 7 Bad drivers, I heard, on Harley Davidsons? (8)
- 10 Pay attention to X to improve morale (7)
- 11 Unknown person finally departing - that's odd! (7)
- 12 Reincarnate, with three ribs - in short - mixed up (7)
- 13 A variable, repeatedly involved with doctors making emergency calls (7)
- 14 X-rays caused by networks following medium (11)
- 19 Caps price, both headless and tailless, for fruit (7)
- 21 Initially, one can try work, if one has eight arms (7)
- 23 Feverish, flee Berlin unevenly, with most of ale (7)
- 25 Napoleon's penguin? (7)
- 26 Author produces new slant by merging lines (8)
- 27 I'm following group that's hunting aliens (4)

- 8 Accelerate after your rally racing uncle has started? (5,2)
- 9 Loan provides learner with comfort (5)
- 13 Marie Antoinette tidied up after removal of one neat puppet (10)
- 15 Reduction of refuse (7)
- 16 Split pears, and eat after careful arrangement (8)
- 17 Coach missing the final - what a mistake! (5)
- 18 Sailor interacting with ship for Russian 25s (5)
- 20 Kick for a second time, having tried turning it off and on again? (6)
- 22 Pity party on the street for secretary (6)
- 24 Islamic 25 with rising frost (4)

Down

- 1 Arab lads knocked about by buffet, perhaps with leaves (5,3)
- 2 Regressive cabarets eject some clown (6)
- 3 Clothing providing cover for ocean depths? (6,4)
- 4 Girl removing head from beer, perhaps? (4)
- 5 Neither male nor female article replacing hesitation in schedule (6)
- 6 Herpes outbreak at ball. (6)

Solution to crossword no. 238

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

We congratulate Bob & Julie Nunn, the winners of last month's competition, who will receive a prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Rod Clayton and Colin Dailly.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At our May meeting, Liz Wright from March discussed ‘How Good is the Good Life’. As editor of *The Country Smallholder* magazine, Liz has followed changing trends in small-scale food production on market gardens and smallholdings. Early market gardens were set up in the 1800s on the edge of cities to

feed a growing urban population; Heathrow airport sits on land where market gardens once grew food for London. Commercially operated, they needed easy access to markets to sell their produce. They tended to grow cash crops all year round, and sometimes reared small, outdoor livestock such as chickens. Although some market gardens still exist, for example the fruit farms around Wisbech in the north of Cambridgeshire, many went out of business with the advent of industrial-scale farming in the 1960s and a move towards indoor-farmed animals, coinciding with the development of plastic which enabled longer food preservation and increased food miles. Those still in business today often rely on sales via farmers markets, roadside stalls or ‘pick-your-own’.



In contrast, smallholdings are usually family homes with a few acres of adjoining land which is farmed to provide food for the family. They are generally non-commercial, although they may sell their surplus produce. Smallholdings boomed in the 1970s, encouraged in part by the BBC sitcom *The Good Life*, in which the characters Tom and Barbara Good inspired people to try self-sufficient living when they turned their suburban garden into a smallholding for fruit and vegetables, pigs and chickens.

Unfortunately, despite the romantic image of the TV show and good intentions of smallholders, the reality for most was that without good planning and a realistic understanding of the costs, full self-sufficiency was expensive and difficult to achieve. Although a happy experience for some, living the ‘Good Life’ was not always good for the whole family; many marriages ended in divorce and many teenagers didn’t embrace their parents’ lifestyle. Twenty years later, in the 1990s soaring city house prices caused an exodus to the countryside and partial self-sufficiency became popular among those who could afford a house with a bit of land. This happened again to a lesser extent during the COVID pandemic of 2020, when people aspired to live and work from home in the country, and preparedness for food shortages also motivated many to grow their own food. Nowadays, many of us grow some vegetables and fruits in our gardens as a hobby; not for necessity or to save money, but for the satisfaction of eating tasty, traceable, home grown food.

The Village Gardeners will now move outside for our summer evening garden visits. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th June when we will visit the gardens of Histon Manor to see the results of the restoration work of Katherine Mann and her family.

Fiona Geraghty

The Reading Group Reads... **Testimony by Anita Shreve**

The story is set in an elite, New England boarding school when a sex scandal involving three male students (aged 18 and 19) and a 14-year-old female student is caught on videotape and later handed to the Headmaster, who takes the decision not to involve the police but to handle the incident himself - very unprofessionally as it turns out. However, the female student involved in the incident later tells her parents who then go to the police triggering a media frenzy and a profound unravelling of the community.

Events slowly begin to unfold through the viewpoints of the characters and those whose lives are affected by it. Each chapter gives the reader an insight into how each cope and the way in which their lives are derailed or destroyed in one foolish, drunken moment. This multi-viewpoint approach doesn't always work, and some members of the group felt you never really got to know any of the characters well enough to really draw you into the story.

I felt it was a story that read like a - "can't put the book down" thriller – my personal view and **not taken** by everyone in the Group!

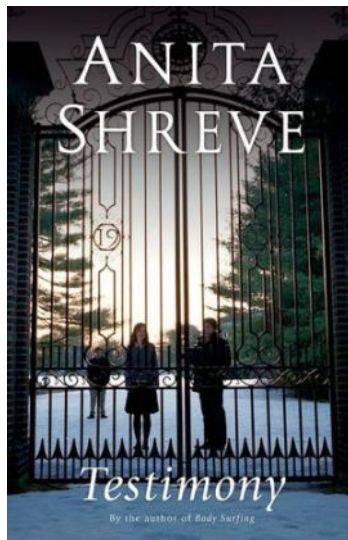
Zelda Stuck

Meetings take place at 6pm on the first Wednesday of the month and new members are always very welcome.

Forthcoming:

July- The Eights by Joanna Miller

August- The Pretender by Jo Harkin.



Newmarket Cinema

Here are our film shows for June – September 2026 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.

June 15th - The Choral (12)

July 20th - Song Sung Blue (12)

August 17th - Shirley Valentine (15)

September 21st - From Time To Time (PG)

Doors open at 6.45pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £7 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats either send an email to richardjbowler@outlook.com or call 07582 560566

BURWELL SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP – HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Burwell Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients and GP practice staff who meet in person, and with the option to join online, for 90 minutes, four times a year.

Members of the PPG get to hear about any upcoming changes at the surgery as well as being able to provide feedback on the patient experience to help improve the service. We also act as a consultative group for any changes at the practice and the wider NHS.

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

Joining the PPG does not mean you have to come to every meeting or attend for every item on the agenda. You can dip in and out, or send feedback in advance of the meeting, but by being part of the group you will receive the agenda and minutes of each meeting.

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 PPG articles about Surgery services such as weight loss jabs, perinatal feeding, prostate cancer awareness, health checks, social prescribing and health and wellbeing coaching, please visit: <https://www.theburwellsurgery.co.uk/patient-group/about-our-ppg/>

Colin Warnock

...And from Bottisham Surgery

Extended access appointments: There are many extended access appointments to see both GPs and nurses available during the evening and weekends which you may be offered when asking for an appointment. These are most likely to be at Nuffield Road Medical Centre which is only a 15 min drive from Bottisham. You may be seen quicker if you accept one of these appointments and currently we are not filling these appointments.

Summer holidays: Please think ahead if you are off on holiday when you usually request or collect your medication, please order in advanced so we reduce the number of urgent medication requests.

ADHD right to choose referrals: We are receiving many requests for ADHD referrals for both adults and children. The practice will support eligible patients to exercise Right to Choose (RTC) where clinically appropriate. RTC is where you select a healthcare provider for the first outpatient appointment and can thus choose somewhere with a shorter waiting time than our local NHS provider. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough approved providers are currently: *Care ADHD, Harley Street Mental Health, Harrow Health, Modality, Skylight and Owl* .

This is not the same as you choosing a private provider which would usually be the quickest route but is not on the NHS. Not all private providers are able to provide shared care.

The first step if you are concerned your child has ADHD is to discuss with school and then get assessed via the YOUNited pathway. <https://www.cpfh.nhs.uk/younited/> This referral can be made by the school SENCO.

Accessing the Practice: As you will be aware we have been operating a Triage system since 1st October, currently 11% of our patient are accessing us via the NHS App, 78% via our website and 11% are either attending or telephoning the Practice. By whatever means you contact us, please stay available to stake a call swiftly when an appointment maybe booked, often within minutes of your request. If you have not heard from us within 4 hours your form may not have been received so, please call us.

The surgery will be closed for training from 2pm on 18 June. Use 111 if necessary.

July PPG Meeting: Dr Shackleton will be giving a talk on Thursday 27th July 2026 at 6:30pm, subject to be confirmed. If you wish to join our meetings please contact our chairman Steve Gilson on s.j.gilson@btinternet.com.

Bottisham Patient Participation Group



From our District Councillors
Charlotte Cane &
John Trapp

Changes to Bin collection.

Delivery of the new bins is proceeding, and you should have received, or about to receive, two bins: one for general waste and the other for food waste. The new service is due to start in June, once all the bank holidays are over, and a regular routine can be established.



Full information will be given with the arrival of the new bins. Information can also be sought from the Council web-site.

Waste food will now be collected every week in the food caddy, and not in the green bin.

Your first collection day is Wednesday 3 June and this is a Blue week, so it will be the food caddy and the blue bin; Wednesday 10 June is a Green week, so it will be the food caddy, green and black bins.

Surgery

On Wednesday 24 June at the Memorial Hall, Brinkley, from half past six to half past seven, and to be followed by socialising at The Red Lion in the same village.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP (charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk) 07976 607512 and John Trapp (john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk) 0794 268 5599

BOTTISHAM & BURWELL

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Our club ceased meetings on 5th May for our Summer break when members showed and discussed their most successful images entered during the year. Our Autumn term commences on 8th September with a Welcome Evening when Cups & Trophies awarded from last season for the internal Print and Projected Digital images will be presented.

The Summer recess however has so far been busy as we exhibited our members work at the Swaffham Feast which took place at Swaffham Prior Village Hall on Saturday 16th May. Prints and Projected Digital Images were displayed for visitors to view and enjoy during the day.

We exhibited our work at the Swaffham Prior Feast in the Village Hall in May...

On the 7th June we will be attending a Federation Engagement Day at Duxford Air Museum when clubs will be taking part in the EAF Duxford Challenge Competition. During the day members will also be able to enjoy iconic WW2 exhibits and capture wartime re-enactors such as Aircrew, Pilot, Staff Sergeant, Civilians, WRAF, Nurse and Lindy-Hop dancers.

Our Club Outing this year is on the 12th July to Cambridge when members will capture photographs to enter 3 digital images on specific subjects taken on the day for The

Metcalf Trophy on 29th September.

Before the close of meetings on the 14th April members entered the Hanson Trophy PDI Competition judged by Ben Pike from Biggleswade, viewed a Zoom presentation by Viveca Koh on 'Urban Exploration to Fine Art' and on 28th April took part in the Roger Human Print Trophy judged by Paul Radden from Hunstanton.

In our Autumn term we look forward to a Zoom meeting 'Home & Away' by Peter Ormsby from Glasgow on 15th September and on 22nd September our members Debra & Jim Bennett will demonstrate how to master basic Photoshop techniques. We will also enjoy Table Top Photography on 24th November and a 3-way Friendly Cup Print Battle with Melbourn and Ely Photographic Clubs, hosted by ourselves and judged by Jonathan Vaines from Bedford.

Our meetings are held Tuesdays at Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD, from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, except the third Tuesday in each month via Zoom conferencing. Visitors are always welcome to join our weekly meetings and zoom presentations for a small fee of £4.00.

If you are interested in joining this active club, please contact our Secretary, Debra Bennett, for further information and a copy of our 2026-2027 programme. Email: secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com or visit our website www.bottburpc.org where you will find more detailed information and a gallery showing a selection of our members' work. I look forward to meeting you.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB
Chairman

News from Our MP Charlotte Cane



On 29 April, Parliament was prorogued, bringing the first parliamentary session since the 2024 General Election to a close. As we begin the new session, the King's Speech has set out the Government's priorities for the year ahead.

Among the measures announced were plans my Lib Dem colleagues and I have been pushing for: to break the link between gas and electricity prices to bring prices down; to invest in homegrown renewable energy; to tackle sewage pollution and water company failures; and to end unfair residential leaseholds for new properties. While these steps are welcome, we urgently need to see more ambition and action from the Government, particularly on protecting consumers, cleaning up our waterways, and extending leasehold reform to existing homeowners.

There were also several areas I was disappointed not to see included in the King's Speech. In particular, I believe we urgently need action to address the social care crisis, and a Good Food Bill to strengthen food security and back British farmers.

As the new parliamentary session begins, I am continuing to press for the improvements our area urgently needs: fairer funding for Cambridgeshire's SEND provision, rural policing and highways (especially those affected by peat soil as we see here in our region), and long-overdue investment in Ely Junction which would drive national growth.

In the last session of Parliament, I opposed a number of Government decisions which I believe risk harming vulnerable people and local services, including reductions to winter fuel support, pressures on disability assistance, and tax and National Insurance changes affecting GPs, hospices and family farms.

The concerns residents raise with me are often deeply personal: families struggling to secure support for children with special educational needs, older people unable to access care, tenants facing unacceptable housing conditions, and ongoing delays within the Home Office immigration system.

My Liberal Democrat colleagues in Parliament and I will continue holding the Government to account and pushing for action on the issues that matter most to people: tackling the cost-of-living crisis, protecting nature, rebuilding our NHS, and ensuring rural communities receive the attention and investment they deserve.

If there's ever anything I can help you with, please do get in touch via charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk or +44 20 7362 1601. I am always happy to assist wherever we can. You can also keep up to date with my work through my fortnightly newsletter - sign up here: www.bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte

P.S. Have you signed my petition calling on Government to fund long-term fixes for our peat soil-affected roads? These roads are failing twice as fast and costing far more to maintain. Back my "Fix Our Soil-Affected Roads" campaign—please take 30 seconds to add your name: <https://bit.ly/fixoursoilaffectedroads>

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOTTISHAM



Coffee & Cake Concert

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 10.30 AM

SHORT ORGAN RECITAL BY JAMES CHENG



James is a Year 10 student at the Perse School, lives in Bottisham, usually practises in our church and achieved Grade 8 Distinction in his organ examination. He has received prizes in recent organ competitions in London and Leicester.

Enjoy a coffee (tea or juice) & cake, served from 10.15am and then the concert which will last around 40 minutes

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



PEACEFUL & PRAYERFUL art group

at Holy Trinity Church
Bottisham

PLEASE NOTE LOCATION! ↑

For Adults

Enjoy Art together
All Skill Levels Welcome

From 1st MAY 2026

1.30pm - 3.30pm

The First 3 Fridays Every Month

Art Materials Supplied or bring your own art project

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 date of your magazine submission date 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

Contact Lindsey 07773 027155 or email lindseysm8@gmail.com

1. SMALL SOFA BED, makes into a small double bed, in excellent condition. Off-white fabric, no arms, 2 cushions in gold velvet. Flameproof labels. From Glasswells, very handy for accommodating guests comfortably in a small space.
2. Sofa: 120cm wide x 83cm deep x 80cm high.
Bed: 120cm wide x 190cm long x 36cm high
Comes with an optional mattress topper, memory foam, fits exactly and adds 10cm to height of bed. Viewers welcome with no obligation.
3. TWO SMOKE ALARMS, unopened, FireAngel multi-sensor, battery-powered, 10-year sealed.
4. LAUNDRY WATER SOFTENER TABLETS, most of a pack of 45, individually wrapped.
5. WATER FILTER, under-sink type, carbon block, UK Water Filters USC2000. Unopened



Contact Debra 07732044275

1. **9 paving slabs** 60 x 60cm but each with a little 20cm corner cut out due to interslab brick design. Take one, some or all. (2 bricks per 4 slabs available).
2. ASUS CM6730 desk top computer: Key board, mouse, little WiFi booster, 50cm screen. All working but not used for a long time.
3. **Garden wheelbarrow** – getting on for 60 years old, this barrow still has some life left in it! The handles have been replaced by wooden ones, the frame is a bit rusty, but the container part is solid. It has a steel wheel with a solid tyre that has seen better days. So, still serviceable and perhaps ideal for an allotment as no-one is likely to pinch it! By all means come and have a look – I will not be offended if you decide it's not for you. Charlie Rickard 07707 635565
4. **Samsung 40" flat screen TV** (not a Smart TV) with remote in good condition. Steve 07917 697259
5. **Internal glass door**, solid wooden frame, multi-paned (x 15 panes). Lucy 07776 292746

Wants:

Digital projector (with HDMI port) & large portable tripod projector screen (ideally 2.4m wide) needed for a course presentation by BALA at Bottisham Sports & Social Club. We would also consider a loan - the projector and screen are needed on Thursday mornings for September to December 2026 (actual dates to be confirmed). Contact Robert on 07785 110434

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



**SONGS OF
INNOCENCE &
EXPERIENCE**

Caille Peri, Soprano
Andrew Taylor, Piano

Saturday 18th July, 2.30pm
St Nicholas', Great Wilbraham
In aid of Arthur Rank Hospice
Suggested donation £10 per person



**Flag Flying Days
From the Tower of
St. Cyriac**

13 th June	Official Celebration of His Majesty's Birthday
21 st June	Birthday HRH Prince William Prince of Wales
27 th June	Armed Forces Day

Services in June 2026

Wednesday 3 June

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 7 June – First Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Sunday 14 June – Second Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 21 June – Third Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 28 June – Fourth Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom
Holy Communion BCP, Swaffham Bulbeck
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Revd Canon 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 June 2026

Wed	3	Bookclub [23]
Fri	5	Peaceful Art group, 1.30-3.30, Bott Church, First 3 Fridays of month
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.30 VH
Mon	15	SWIG (ex WI) Garden Party [9] Newmarket Cinema, The Choral, 6:45pm [23]
Tue	16	Village Gardeners visit to Histon Manor [22]
Sun	21	Organ Recital, Bottisham Church, 10.30am
Mon	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Wed	24	District Councillors' Surgery, Brinkley Memorial Hall, 6:30pm [25]
Fri	26	Litter Pick. 10am (meet by shed & playpark) [10]
Sat	27	Organ Recital by James Cheng, Bottisham Church, 10:30am [28]
Sun	28	Science Day, Prickwillow Museum, 12-4pm [10]

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

Annual Egg Throwing Competition 2026

Winners: Rod and Phoebe Clayton

