



The Swaffham Crier

Volume L Number 9

September 2026



Editorial

While Europe burned, together with nearer-to-home Dunwich Heath and Holme Fen (which still does), what a glorious summer for us! All was lovely under the shade of the spreading walnut tree (which we are most lucky to have, although the walnut-shell pelting squirrels are another matter...), the bells rang out (see Letters and Janet Willmott on p19), St Cyriac's was taken over by our brilliant local artists while the mellow sounds of Newmarket's brass band wafted out over the village from the Red Lion garden and flotillas of dragon-flies (from the Comins' pond?) wafted out over them, the Devil's Dyke was taken over by an impromptu party of a merry eclipse-viewing picnickers (see Andrew Noyes' brilliant photo p2), our own Wicken Fen did **not** catch fire and Strawberry Teas was a smash success (p16). Although farmers and gardeners were less than delighted, particularly Selwyn's, who had a brown lawn to show SP's visiting gardeners (see p22) but now even the straw coloured grass in Town Close is back to green again, and on we go to the next episode that our ever more alarmingly changing climate might throw at us.

Meanwhile, there seems to have been rather more would-be gerrymandering than common-sense going on with the proposed new Local Government re-arrangement (See Our Reporter, PC Notes and our MP). It seems we may be with Cambridge and South Cambs, or Peterborough and North Cambs, or form part of a new Mid-Cambs. But not to stay with Cambridge (where for so many of us there's work, schools, Addenbrookes, shops... not to mention the daily avalanche of traffic on the top road all heading right there) seems ridiculous and if HM Gov's long-delayed decision-making means "kick it in the long grass" all the better!

Why all this fuss about hog-weed in the village? (See PC Notes). If the council are expected to go around cutting it down then here's news: take one step outside the village and the whole county is covered in it. Not to mention hemlock...

Read all about how our Scouts have been getting on this year (p10). Don't forget the Macmillan Coffee Morning (see *Letters*) and of course, it's the VILLAGE SHOW! See you there promptly at 1.45 for the dog-show start., TRAINING, Polly! Sit! No that's Down, I said SIT.... Hmmm.

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Ethereal Elegance* needle-felting with hand embroidery by **Lindy Rainbow**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning, Friday 25th September

We'll be into September by the time you read this and I wanted to remind you about the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September. Once again it will be at my house and I look forward to seeing lots of you here. If you can't come along on that day then you're welcome to just make a donation, every penny counts! So many of us have been touched by cancer, whether it's personally or with friends or family, that it would be good to raise as much as we can for this very well worth cause. There will be the usual raffle and, of course, the cake stall. If you enjoy baking then we would welcome your contributions, large or small. If you're not a baker then please do come and buy some delicious homemade creation!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, even if you can only pop in for a short time at **The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior 10.30am-12noon on Friday 25th September.**

Ruth Scovil



**Mystery
representation
of last month's
eclipse from
Andrew
Noyes's iPhone
camera, where
the eclipsed
sun is showing
up underneath
the actual sun,
Explanations
anybody?**

Dear Editors,

Golden Wedding Bells

A huge thank you to our local bell ringers for making our Golden Wedding Celebrations even more special on 19th July.

They were rung beautifully and made a special day for us and our guests even more special.

Something we will never forget.

We have lived in the village for over 40 years and both our children enjoyed ringing the bells with Peggy Stanier.

Chris and Graham Jackson

Many congratulations Chris and Graham, and we loved the bells too! Eds

On the cusp..

**The finely balanced fulcrum of fulsome light and fleeting night is tipping,
skipping minutes then hours,
browning summer flowers**

**A solitary goose flies by spearlike,
wing swishing loud,
navigating low 'twixt rooftop and cloud,
vanishing unfollowed, to some shady hollow**

**Small bees pepper pale pink sedum,
foraging on emerging florets,
drunkenly humming to themselves in the hazy, late summer sun..
Autumn's begun**

Karen Redman

THIS MONTH'S COVER PICTURE

There are very few places where you don't stand a chance of finding a dragonfly, even as we move into Autumn. Several species travel a long way away from water, to feed in gardens, fields and woodland edges. One of the greatest wanderers is the migrant hawk, which you can often find hunting for insects along sheltered hedgerows in August and September.

Lindy is a textile artist who lives in Wicken. Her art is inspired by nature, using hand and freehand-machine embroidery, alongside textile techniques including needle felting.

She regularly takes part in the annual Cambridge Open Studios event during the month of July when you can visit her studio in Wicken.

www.camopenstudios.org www.wildlifetrusts.org

Celia Tyler

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting August and...

Yet again, before the meeting had even started, the ongoing saga of misuse of the disabled parking bay in the Village Hall Car Park arose: it was already occupied by a car without any indication that its driver is disabled, e.g. a Blue Badge. This started in January when Keith, who is disabled, was on reporting duty and was unable to park in the middle of a storm because the disabled bay was already occupied. Ideally there needs to be some kind of resolution before Keith is again Our Reporter. I might have raised this at the meeting but there was already another off-agenda item, so I instead afterwards contacted the VH Chair and the Clerk to the PC, and then Charlotte Cane* in her District Councillor role when it was established that ECDC own the car park. Apparently ECDC don't do civil parking or the PC could have formally joined and ECDC's parking enforcement officers could have been involved. The only standard enforcement option left would be a private company which would be prohibitively expensive so the topic will be reported to the next PC Meeting and thought given to whether the signage might be made less ignoreable and/or further appeals made to people's good nature to do the right thing. Let's hope!



So on to the off-agenda item which consisted of a couple of Upware representatives seeking our PC's support in getting something done about the state of the road linking the two villages, on this occasion the elevated stretch alongside the river when you're nearly in Upware. And did they strike lucky: there's specialist expertise on road construction on the PC and Charlotte Cane was there all meeting so they had access to her influence and list of contacts to take things further. The whole of the road is a problem but this is especially tricky because it's on an embankment. There's even a possible risk of it being deemed too expensive to repair and the road closed to the great disadvantage of both villages but, whatever else, there was general agreement that simple patching is a long-term waste of money, not a solution. No one was sure if there's a weight limit but, whilst there probably needs

to be, that may be a problem for the farm traffic, some of which weighs 24 to 40 tonnes. The discussion finished there for the time being but with a list of questions to be answered and people to be contacted. Most of this falls to Reach but the outcome matters to both villages.

There is still no decision on local government reorganisation, i.e. do we go in with Cambridge and South Cambs, or Peterborough and North Cambs, or form part of a new Mid-Cambs. There are apparently various rumours circulating but these may be largely based on various wishful thinking which to an extent divides along party lines. Watch this space! At the same time there had been an email consulting about the

There is still no decision on local government reorganisation, but our say on the Greater Cambridge plan will be very limited unless we end up with Cambridge

Greater Cambridge Plan. This will significantly affect us but there was concern that our say will be very limited unless we end up with Cambridge and South Cambs. Fortunately Charlotte is aware of the problem and advises that we do respond as the problems as seen from Ely by ECDC Officers are different to those seen here: e.g. for travel into Cambridge it's the A10 vs the Quy roundabout. The PC will respond.

V a r i o u s o t h e r correspondence was dealt with speedily: support for the adoption of the 'Flag of the Fens' – not useful or relevant, so no for now but may return to it next time; a Temporary Traffic Order for the High Street in late September – curiously and unhelpfully short of detail but seems to be for Anglia Water; and Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review – a consultation about a consultation.

The problems keeping footpaths in the village clear of obstruction by vegetation keep on cropping up. This is something that I have an interest in, and was allowed to comment on, having a garden which backs onto the footpath which runs parallel to the High Street. The PC would like those in this position to take responsibility for their stretch but most of the problem is vegetation growing on the far side of our boundaries and so not legally our responsibility and, as a result, not everyone has taken action. Whilst I'm happy to cut it back, I don't have any at all easy way to dispose of the debris. This was recognised as a problem for who ever undertakes the work. There was extensive discussion in which there was a general view that the PC might get involved on a one-off basis but not could not afford to pay for recurrent maintenance. Eastern Tree Surgery and possibly others will be consulted about possible solutions and costs. There's a variant of the problem on the bypass going out of the village towards Burwell where growth is obscuring the speed limit signs. This was thought to be a problem for Highways and pictures will be sent to them alerting them to the problem.



SWAFFHAM PRIOR

Saturday 5th September 2026

Village Hall **1.45pm** in conjunction with the
Village Harvest Show

Six Classes: Agility, Waggiest Tail,
Most Obedient (sit, down, stand, heel),
"Treat Run", Best Doggy Trick,
Fancy Dress – ***"To Make the Judges Smile"***, let your
imagination run away with you (dog and owner)

Classes £1 each or £5 for all six classes

Entries on the day, enquiries in advance to

Janet on 07833 960678

Prize and rosette for first place and
a rosette for the runner up in each category

James Matheson

... from JULY

My report of the March PC meeting started *'Alerted by reports in February's Crier about cars occupying the disabled space outside the Village Hall, I took the liberty of establishing that the large car parked there on this occasion did not display a blue badge'*. Guess what...

It was hot in there, despite all the doors being open (those slimmers next door are a noisy bunch), and not surprising that there were several absentees from the committee. The meeting went ahead with David Greenfield in the chair and the usual preliminaries passed through with one exception – one councillor had actually read carefully enough through the minutes of the previous meeting to spot an error (A10 or A14?). Well done.



There was neither a CCC nor an ECDC councillor present so we moved on through Correspondence to Planning Applications. This was one of the two big stories of the evening: one application to renew doors and windows on a house on Cage Hill had already been turned down by the authorities because the detail of what was proposed was not acceptable to the Conservation Area police – do some homework, maybe set a larger budget, and try again... The other (demolition of existing buildings at the smock mill, build a one-story house, change use of land to residential etc.) was condemned on every count, including that the accompanying plans seemed to claim ownership of the entire access roadway and of the Schoolmaster's Plot, an area of land at the end of the road which actually belongs to the PCC. It was considered outrageous nonsense and will be opposed at every level. David Greenfield was surprised that Highways had not found fault with the idea of more traffic in and out of the small access road (formerly designated as a Bridleway) onto the 40 mph B1102, and will take the matter up with them.

Official access to the allotments is (apparently) from the bypass road rather than through the cemetery, although this is only an issue on occasion of a burial service. However, there are concrete steps leading up from the verge of the bypass, a rickety gate and some overgrown hedging, all of which merit attention. It was agreed that the allotmenters should take responsibility for trimming the hedge, the steps will be left to their own devices (they are on Highways land), and the PC will look into what may be required to fix the gate.

PC accounts have traditionally included a provision for insurance against damage to the Pound and Keep (third party risks already catered for). The value insured at present is £10k, whereas amateur estimates for a full 'as-was' rebuild (in the event of an earthquake?) range from £100 to £150k.. The Treasurer did make the perfectly sensible suggestion of not insuring it at all but in the end it was decided to raise the sum to an arbitrary £50k.

Charlotte Greeno addressed the committee on the subject of play equipment accessible to all children on the village playground, noting that nothing on the existing site can be used by one of her wheel-chair-using charges in her role as a childminder. She has been liaising with an organisation which specialises in the

provision of such equipment and can also offer fund-raising services. The committee was sympathetic to the idea but concerned about lack of space for additional equipment. It was agreed that Charlotte would liaise with the Clerk to introduce the potential supplier and establish some more specific proposals in time for the next PC meeting.

The closing session of Clerk and Councillors' reports was dominated firstly by potential changes to the T4 and T5 bus services: it is proposed that the T5 remains more or less the same (but will become the 'C') but the T4 could change significantly to include services to the south of Cambridge (for some reason ignoring the new Cambridge South Station) and become the 'B'. We are all encouraged to contribute to the debate on the subject (see details and a link elsewhere in The Crier).

The withdrawal of the Kingsway Solar Farm planning application was welcomed, and those who have studied it carefully could point out numerous errors of fact and science that would have been valid bases for objection, but the consensus was that they will come back again eventually, probably with an equally shoddy proposal which will just take up time to oppose, better spent on other things.

Then the second big story of the evening – speed limits. There has been a huge negative reaction to the sudden imposition of a 20mph limit on the B1102 through Quy. It is suggested that this was the brainchild of Sustrans (now the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust) to protect cyclists on the further development of their route through the old High Street, and without any consultation with Highways, the Police or the local PC. Those who have delved into it suggest that the police have no interest in enforcing it and there will be no cameras, so it will probably be the least-observed limit of its kind in the area. Meanwhile the residents of Mill Hill are justifiably up in arms about the repeated refusal of the authorities to reduce their limit from 40. This has been an ongoing battle for many years and I can't now remember all the previous authority justifications for leaving it as it is, but any change now would need 'A Reason', maybe shorthand in this case for an accident? A current petition for a reduction to 20mph has no chance of success – that's a bridge too far – but a request to reduce to 30 might now carry more weight if its primary objective was deemed to be the protection of cyclists...



Proposed new signage for VH Car Park Disabled spots ..

John Chalmers

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 17 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



BON MOT NUMBER 172

"No spring nor summer beauty hath
such grace as I have seen in one
autumnal face."

*John Donne, 1571 or 1572– 31 March
1631*

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Ruth Scovil's house

The Oaks, Manor Farm Court

Lower End, Swaffham Prior

Friday: 10.30 am - 12.00 noon



25th September 2026

Newmarket Cinema

Here is our film show for September 2026 at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.

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

Richard Penney

1st Swaffham Prior Scouting 2025-2026

This year 1st Swaffham Prior have enjoyed a busy schedule of activities. The three sections - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - meet weekly during term time. Last September meetings took place on the Scout field with outdoor activities and challenges included den building, pioneering, gardening and wildlife investigations all resulting in activity and challenge badge awards. As the evenings closed in by the end of October we moved to indoor meetings in the Scout Hut, switching activities to include cooking, junk modelling, art and drama.



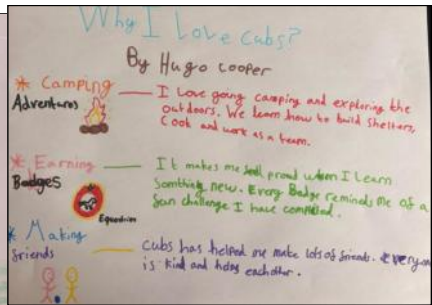
The Remembrance Day Parade and service at St Mary's Church is always a highlight of our year. Our Halloween Party, the Christingle Service and Nativity Play plus the Village Advent Windows have been enthusiastically enjoyed by all in the run up to Christmas. Just before the

Christmas break, our presentation afternoon allowed us to celebrate the achievements of all our young members as many completed their Bronze, Silver, Gold and Leadership Awards.

The New Year offered further activity and Challenge Awards in the form of hikes, film nights, sports challenges and Easter celebrations. In March, we moved back to outside meetings on the Scout field as we practiced our camping skills, tent pitching and campfire cooking ahead of our annual camping trips in May. Beavers and Cubs both spent a weekend under canvas and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"Recently, we went on cub camp with Bottisham Cubs. We learnt how to build rafts





and tying knots. We did an assault course, rifle shooting and a creata run. We sang songs around the campfire with the other scout groups. We had hotdogs and pasta for dinners. It was really fun!

At our last cubs session we went around Swaffham Prior and did a litter pick. Next session we are going to Clip n Climb with the Bottisham Cubs. Sometimes we do fire lighting and roast marshmallows." Margot, cub scout, age 9

The Summer term ended with an all sections joint water fight and picnic, to which all leaders, parents and siblings were invited.

Scouts were delighted to host Strawberry Teas in early August this year, the weather was glorious and everyone thoroughly enjoyed chatting and socialising whilst eating delicious cream tea!

All meetings will restart in September, after a relaxing summer break. We are always looking for new additions to our Leadership team. If you are interested in being part of Scouting in Swaffham Prior, we would love to hear from you. Please do get in contact and join us for a chat at gsl@1stswaffhampriorscouts.org.uk

Amanda Parton



VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER



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

Substantial quiche and salad supper; scrumptious puddings
Bar serving wine and soft drinks
Entertainment: Jude Simpson - professional poet, wordsmith
and spoken word artist, performing for adults and children
"She has words on a string like so many yoyos
and her lines sparkle with wit and panache." – The Scotsman
Raffle draw for our famous Fair-Trade hampers

We would love to encourage everyone wishing to
attend to come along, so ask that you
"pay what you can afford"

Suggestions: adult - £10; over 65/under 16 - £8; under 11 - £6

Meal order forms available from
mandy@kingsmills.uk; 07796 091855
or from St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

- ❖ Advance ordering essential by 27 September
- ❖ Please advise of allergies when booking;
we hope to be able to accommodate special diets
- ❖ Newcomers to the village/benefice especially welcome!

JULIE'S AUTUMN APPLE RECIPES

Pork Chops with Apples and Cider

4 good quality pork chops
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Olive oil
1 large onion, peeled and chopped
5 eating apples. 2 cut into 8 wedges and

3 left whole
A few fresh sage leaves
A few juniper berries
A pint of cider

1.Preheat the oven to 200c.

2.Season the pork chops with the salt and pepper. In a large shallow ovenproof pan, heat the oil and fry the rind of each chop until brown and crisp. Then fry each chop lightly on each side until brown, remove from the pan. Add the onions to the pan with the pork juices, brown a little before adding the apple wedges, sage leaves and juniper berries.

3.Add the chops back into the pan and nestle them between the apples and onions, along with the remaining whole apples. Pour over the cider. Enough to cover the ingredients and place in the oven for 30 minutes until the pork and apple are cooked.

Serves 4

Upside-down Apple Pie with Butterscotch Sauce

50g cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
50g sugar
5 Braeburn apples, peeled, cored and cut into quarters
100g good quality all butter puff pastry

170g light muscovado sugar
2 tsp Cabernet Sauvignon vinegar
170ml double cream
Large pinch of sea salt
20g cold butter, cubed

1.Preheat the oven to 180c

2.In a 20cm ovenproof frying pan, arrange a layer of butter cubes and squash the cubes to form an even layer, sprinkle over the white sugar, covering all the butter and arrange the apples on top.

3.Roll out the pastry and cut out a circle slightly bigger than the pan. Place the pastry over the top and gently push the pastry all around the pan. Bake for 1 hour or until the puff pastry is brown. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

4.To make the sauce. Heat the muscovado sugar with 30g water in a saucepan, stirring until the sugar has dissolved, then boil until a caramel has formed. Add the vinegar, cream and salt and whisk to combine, now add the chilled butter very slowly, whisking between each addition until the sauce is smooth. Keep warm until ready to serve.

5.To turn out the apple pie, warm the pan in the oven for 5 minutes and then turn out the apple pie onto a plate and spoon over some of the warm butterscotch sauce and serve with a generous portion of vanilla ice cream.

Serves 6.

PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

"The Little Chapel in the Fen"

All welcome to our

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 4th October

3pm

Traditional harvest service and hymns

Produce welcome

Find us at CB7 5YJ, between Upware and Swaffham Prior.

Be early to guarantee a seat.

For more information contact Nicola: 07968 658319



CEILIDH

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL

 **6.30PM** 



TICKETS £10 ADULT - £5.00 CHILDREN

INCLUDES A BAKED POTATO SUPPER



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

karenlynn580@gmail.com

POEM OF THE MONTH

Scot in the Desert

All day the sand, like golden chains,
The desert distance binds;
All day the crouching camels groan,
Whipped by the gritty winds.

The mountain, flayed by sun, reveals
Red muscles, wounds of stone,
While on its face the black goats swarm
And bite it to the bone.

Here light is death; on every rock
It stretches like a cry,
Its fever burns up every bush,
It drinks each river dry.

It cracks with thirst the creviced lip,
It fattens black the tongue,
It turns the storm cloud into dust,
The morning dew to dung.

Men were not made to flourish here,
They shroud their heads and fly -
Save one, who stares into the sun
With sky-blue British eye.

Who stares into the zenith sun
And smiles and feels no pain,
Blood-cooled by Calvin, mist and bog,
And summers in the rain.

Laurie Lee

There were whole weeks, this summer, when the television weather maps strongly implied that with a few more decades of global warming, the only habitable parts of the British Isles might be the Highlands of Scotland. That put me in mind of this poem, which, perversely, suggests that an upbringing of Calvin, mist, bog and summers in the rain is a perfect preparation for impending desertification. Quite what possessed Laurie Lee to write this for the *New Yorker* magazine in 1953, is not obvious, but he did fight in the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War and during the Second World War made documentary films for the Crown Film Unit. If I were to hazard a guess, I suspect this poem commemorates a comrade-in-arms who made a profound impression on him..

Andrew Grant

Strawberry Teas

What an absolutely amazing afternoon for the Strawberry Teas this year, held for the first time at the Scout Hut behind the play park off the High Street. With response being very slow for ticket sales to start with I was wondering if we might have to rethink the whole idea of Strawberry Teas - BUT - what an amazing turnout! We catered for no less than 70 which is most definitely a record, the sun shone, the venue was perfect and with the help of the Scouts it could not have gone better. Over £300 was raised for St. Mary's Church and I cannot thank the Scout Team enough, led by Tim, Amanda and Marie, for all their hard work and support. Hoping they'll say "yes" to hosting us again next year 🍓🍓.

Janet Willmott



A record attendance for this year's Strawberry Teas, immaculately hosted for the first time by the Scouts.



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.

On the 7th June we attended a Federation Engagement Day at Duxford Air Museum when 16 clubs took part in the EAF Duxford Challenge Competition. During the day members also enjoyed iconic WW2 exhibits and captured wartime re-enactors such as Aircrew, Pilot, Staff Sergeant, Civilians, WRAF, Nurse and Lindy-Hop dancers.

Our Club Outing this year was on the 12th July to Cambridge when members captured photographs to enter 4 digital images on specific subjects taken on the day for The Metcalfe 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.

On the 27th September our Club is pleased to announce that we will be holding an Exhibition of our members work at Swaffham Prior Village Hall when 160 prints and 200 digital images will be displayed throughout the day. The prints will be judged by Paul Radden from Hunstanton, who will officially open the Exhibition at 11 am, and present awards for various categories. Refreshments will be available all day. The Exhibition will close at 5 pm.

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 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.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB, Chair

The Reading Group reads in August...

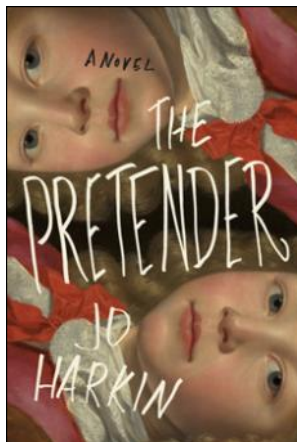
THE PRETENDER by Jo Harkin

The Pretender is an imaginative retelling of the story of the real Lambert Simnel, the manipulated pretender to the throne as Edward Earl of Warwick.

The story starts in 1483 in a remote Welsh farmhouse where a boy named John Collan is being raised by his widowed father. Taken from the family by unscrupulous political operators, John is taken first to Oxford to be groomed as Edward Plantagenet, rightful heir to the throne now occupied by Henry VII. There he is re-named Lambert Simnel. Next it is to Ireland as Edward (via Burgundy) and the court of the Earl of Kildare. There he is to prepare for a war that will see him become king or die in the attempt. Throughout, he is passed around so like a package that he is painfully grateful for any amount of love, uncertain of his true self, gaining and losing supposed relatives as their interest and machinations turn to other plots.

This is a hefty book, the first by this author. Using a mix of medieval and modern words, written in the present tense and always from the Pretender's viewpoint, it reminded me of Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall novels.

I loved it – a great mix of fantasy and historical fact. Others were less convinced; there are characters all sounding similar and with varying noble titles and intentions that the reader can be as confused as John/Lambert/Edward.



Roz Chalmers

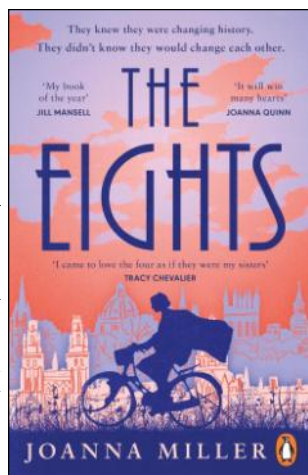
...And before in July

THE EIGHTS by Joanna Miller

This is the story of four young women, amongst the first to be admitted to Oxford, as undergraduates, in 1920, and much of which is historically correct. They all move into adjacent rooms in corridor 8- all from very different backgrounds and their back stories are seamlessly woven into this very enjoyable book.

This is a very different Oxford from now- appallingly misogynistic, many of the older male undergraduates, severely traumatised, having served in the First World War, the women constantly chaperoned and severely limited in their social opportunities. Not much to shout about, but their growing friendship, support for each other, and determination to prove what women can achieve, forms the main framework of the book.

Dora is there really, to replace her brother who had a place, but was killed in the war. Beatrice, the daughter of a famous suffragette, is there to find an independent



life. Otto a socialite, the only one with money, and whose treats for all four are much appreciated, is there to get away from a frightful family. And Marianne, the cleverest, but poorest, who has a secret ,which almost ruins her life and is only revealed very near the end.

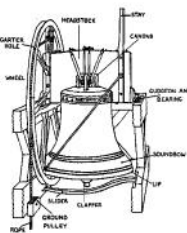
They all work incredibly hard, share each others social and academic traumas, go punting, climb over walls late at night, acquire bikes, despite hideously impractical, compulsory wearing of academic gowns, some have love affairs and get married and all finally achieve a pass in the first public examinations. A mighty achievement.

Our September read is *The Camomile Lawn*, by Mary Wesley and in October, *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie. All are welcome to attend.

Margaret

SP BELL RINGERS' NEWS

The Swaffham Prior ringers really have had a wonderful summer. We rang in celebration of a Golden Wedding Anniversary, congratulations again to Chris and Graham, and for the wedding of Rob and Rachel - so special to be a part of their amazing day. On top of that, new sally's have been installed (the fluffy bits of the ropes!) which look fantastic, bit springy at the moment but we're getting there. It goes without saying that there have been several practice nights over the summer where it has just been so hot up in the tower making ringing "challenging" to say the least, but only one practice was actually cancelled. We recently had ringers from Oakington join us for a Tuesday evening, we enjoyed a fabulous summer lunch with partners at one of our ringer's homes and had a brilliant mini rout that included ringing at Duxford! Looking forward to seeing what the Autumn brings.



Janet Willmott

Bric-a-brac donations wanted!

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior, is running a bric-a-brac stall at the Church Christmas Market in the Village Hall on Friday 20th November 2026

We are currently collecting donations for the stall – small, clean, preloved items in good condition.

If you have any items to donate, please get in touch with Kate Muscroft (07752011308/

katemuscroft@gmail.com) and she will happily collect your items within the Swaffham Prior area.



The Swaffhams' Women's Independent Group (SWIG)

July and August 2026

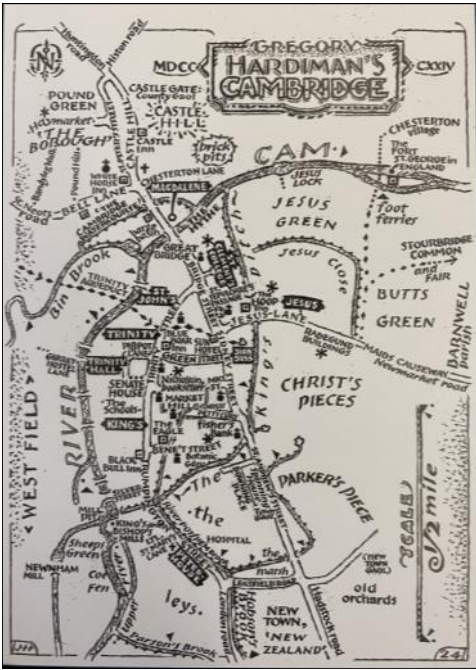
In 1971 the overland route to India was opening up and the 'hippie trail' was making its way through Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan. A road off the beaten track promising wonder and excitement. The late 60s, 70s and even early 80s were times when almost anything was possible for many young people. It was a time of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Bowie. There was Woodstock, Mary Quant and Biba. After the miniskirt came flared trousers, platform shoes and then punk rock. On the stage were The Rocky Horror Show, Hair and Jesus Christ Superstar. The 1970s was a decade marked by bold self-expression and a growing sense of independence and with all of this came a greater desire to travel.



Our speaker in July was Alastair Cairns Hull who came to talk about his book *The Travellers' Tales*. Alastair travelled the hippie trail and without realising it, started gathering inspiration for the characters and places in his book. It was only when travelling later to Ethiopia with his wife, Hazel, that Alastair started 'writing' the book in his mind and then 6 years later he finally put pen to paper. *The Travellers' Tales* is a book of fiction reflecting the journey of several young people as they set out on the hippie trail in 1971. We were lucky enough to hear extracts read by both Alastair and his wife, Hazel. A highly entertaining and inspiring talk and I can't wait to read the book!

August continued on a literary theme and this time our speaker was Susan Grossey, who for 25 years ran a one-woman anti-laundering facility educating businesses and banks as to how to spot criminal money. Susan is fascinated by financial crime and she became a passionate researcher into the financial crimes committed from 1824 in London. With her degree in English, Susan soon turned to writing fiction, resulting in a 7-book series following the life of Constable Samuel Plank. It was the true-life character of Henry Fauntleroy, who triggered the events of the first book in *The London Series*; in 1824 Henry stole all the money from his bank in Oxford Street, London. Why would Henry do such a thing? He was rich and pleading guilty to this crime would definitely lead him to the scaffold.



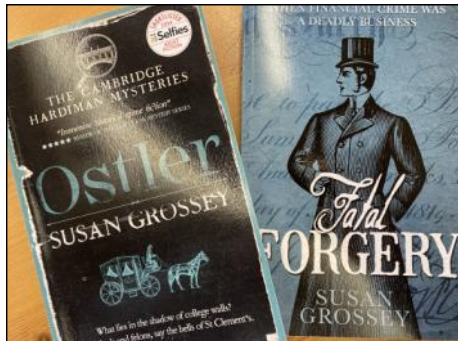


The London Series was then followed by The Cambridge Series, which follows the life of Gregory Hardiman from 1825 – 1830, an ex-soldier turned ostler, whose life becomes entwined in the murky world of Cambridge college life. Susan talked about her three passions of the 1820s: Finance (paper money was just being introduced), Policing (regional policing was being introduced pitting, for example, the town constables against the university constables in Cambridge) and Justice (in the 1820s there was no defence in a court of law, only the prosecution and the jury and the average murder trial lasted just 8 minutes.) In each book you will always find crime and death, picked up meticulously by Susan from the newspapers of the time and court transcripts. But there are other fascinating nuggets included too: Did you know that in the 1820s a paddle

steamer ran from Cambridge to King's Lynn? That the Vice Chancellor of Cambridge held his own court for the Gownsmen (students) whilst the Magistrates Court dealt with the Townsmen? Imagine the conflict and tension that caused!

Do look up Susan Grossey and sign up for her newsletter: www.susangrossey.com/insider-updates. In the meantime, I have added two more books to my reading pile!

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 September is a trip to watch Pride and Prejudice at Anglesey Abbey but we will be back in the Village Hall on 19th October when Alison Giles will be talking about (and maybe demonstrating) Molly Dancing. It would be lovely to see you there.



Kate Muscroft, Committee Chair
katemuscroft@gmail.com



VILLAGE GARDENERS

In mid-August, the Village Gardeners visited Selwyn College gardens, off Grange Road in Cambridge. The gardens were established in the 1880s and since the early days of mainly lawn and tall trees have been enhanced by the addition of colourful beds and borders planted with collections of plants from around the world. The Head Gardener guided us around the 8 acres of courts and gardens which were beautifully back-dropped by the classic, red-brick, Victorian college buildings, shrouded in Boston creeper which will itself turn red in the autumn. Being a non-commercial garden, Selwyn College is subject to hosepipe bans, so all plant watering is currently done by hand with watering cans. In response, the gardeners are adapting their planting and recent additions include the 'dry garden', containing plants which can manage with only weekly watering. This summer, even the drought resistant and tropical plants have struggled to grow to their full potential, but they should survive and return next year, which may not be the case for those preferring cooler, wetter climates. Selwyn College gardens are freely open all year round and are well worth visiting; we will hopefully return in the spring when everything should be more fresh and green, and in the meadow the 40,000 snowdrop, narcissus and tulip bulbs should be emerging, followed by the wildflowers.



Alex Turner, Selwyn's Head Gardener, showed us round

Our next indoor meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th September in Swaffham Prior Village Hall (8pm, doors 7.45pm) when Dr Gwenda Kydd will give a talk titled 'Chemical Warfare and Cooperation in your Garden'. Gwenda will explain how plants release chemicals that influence the growth and survival of surrounding plants and microorganisms, and how we can use this information to our advantage in gardens and on farms to reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides. Everyone is welcome (non-members £4). Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be available at 50p per item. We hope to see you there.

Fiona Geraghty

Two committee meetings were held this past month.

Operational Services on 22 June

Community Safety Partnership report was presented and noted.

Budget report for the previous financial year showed an underspend of £476,084 for the year, but some of this was due to bills not yet paid. The capital spend was also under budget by £5,572,775, but some expenditure was not yet billed.



Register of Buildings of Local Interest, for buildings or neighbourhoods that were interesting but not meriting a National Grade, was presented and noted.

Performance Report for the Waste and Street Cleansing Services showed marginal improvement in performance.

A report on the new waste bin strategy was presented and it showed that the service had been delivered quite well, with a few teething problems.

The Long Term Empty Homes Strategy was debated, and it was agreed that it should be forwarded to Full Council.

Finance and Assets on 25 June

The Climate and Nature Monitoring Report was presented and accepted.

A grant of up to £100,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy funding was allocated to the Viva Arts and Community Group Theatre in Soham towards the expansion of the theatre to enable larger youth participation and provide enhanced and inclusive welfare and safeguarding spaces to continue to operate with full compliance with the Children in Entertainment Regulations.

A new fee for Planning was introduced to give some limited time to give guidance on possible applications without the formality of a pre-app or full application.

Progress on the Mepal Crematorium was presented and noted.

The Council's Proposed Business Grant Scheme for capital grants to small businesses was approved. Further information is available from:

[Business Grant Scheme 2026 to 2027 | East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)

This Committee has a year-end underspend of £1,331,912 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £7,969,054. Most of this was due to savings on staff salaries because of staff not being replaced immediately.

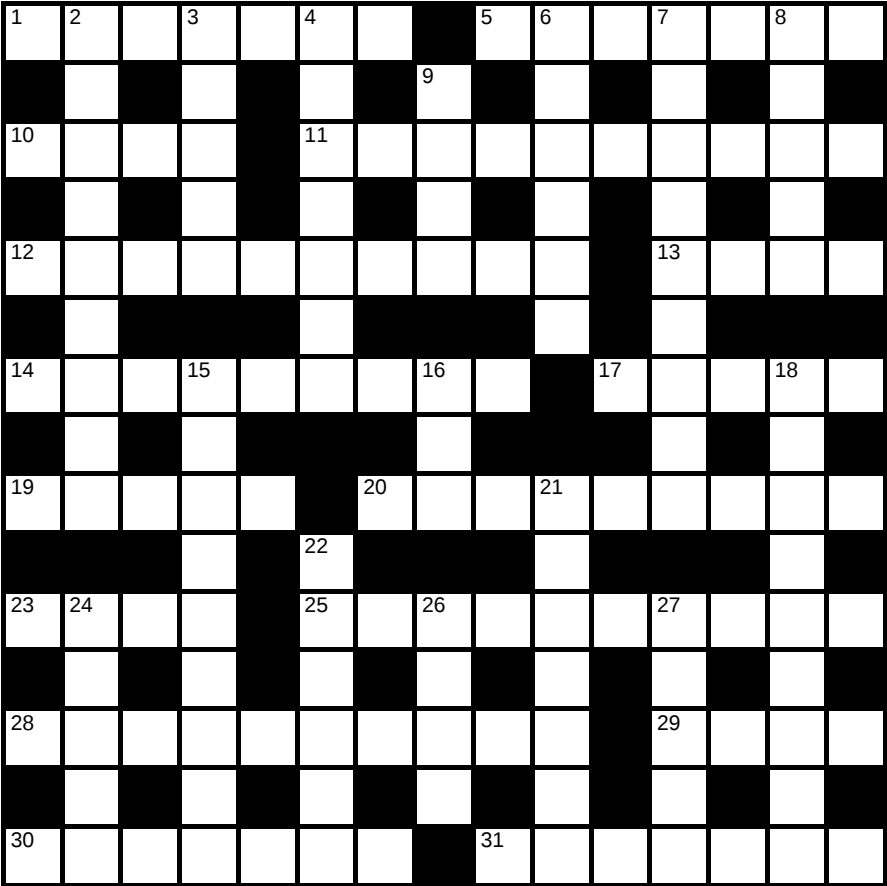
Food caddies: There have been reports of animals knocking over food caddies, and eating the contents. *Please make sure that the food caddy is locked, by turning the handle all the way to the front, when you put it out.*

Surgery: There will be no surgery in August, and we shall resume surgeries in September. However, you can always contact us by telephone or email.

Crossword Number 241

Compiled by BYWELL

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



Across

- 1 Polytheists lose hope before adapting to this profession (7)
- 5 Is this the way to Battle? (7)
- 10 Ducks in the paper part of the poem (4)
- 11 No to visual disturbance for biological processes (10)
- 12 Pretended nothing's malleable about boron (10)
- 13 Alternative accommodation for relaxation, starting in New Amsterdam (4)
- 14 Attack the good name of misrepresented IT grandee (9)
- 17 Full of energy and high spirits, a bit like a fastener (5)
- 19 Maybe Oman or Mexico disconnects (5)
- 20 Fix a time to display this formal declaration? (3,6)
- 23 Boyfriend oddly almost blew a fuse (4)
- 25 Watch UFO crash; OK about it needing adjustment (3,2,5)
- 28 Paints don't mix in this perspective (10)
- 29 It's hammer-driven and complete with flying colours (4)
- 30 Can be both under and on top of the rails (7)
- 31 As a rule we bend with a friend (7)

Down

- 2 Throw euros at us in this outfit (9)
- 3 Left one article moving with ease (5)
- 4 Support arrangement for sopranos after a drop-off (7)
- 6 Flower from an African country meadow (6)

- 7 Gym where food is left before show of items for sale (5,4)
- 8 To force between poles for picking up what's hot (5)
- 9 Could be burnt-out or waiting for spring (4)
- 15 Affect another form of clue in fen (9)
- 16 Refreshment after extra time arises (3)
- 18 Not looking very far in the village (9)
- 21 Centre Court setback after sporting official proves to be false (7)
- 22 Stiff afterthought in heart (6)
- 24 Honour in telex to London (5)
- 26 Thirdly the Robinsons group (4)
- 27 Mrs Shakespeare rises to do her hair (5)

Solution to crossword no. 240

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

We congratulate Sarah Cook, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive a prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jill Bourne, Dee Noyes, Dainin O'Dowd and Bob & Julie Nunn.

Wicken Fen News

September-December 2026

As autumn approaches the cast of wildlife and show of colours changes on Wicken Fen. Summer swifts and swallows head south, while thrushes arrive from Scandinavia and wildfowl from the Arctic Circle. Although their peak has passed, occasional butterflies and dragonflies may still be seen on the wing on warmer days. The Summer Nature Trail remains open until the end of September, offering the best chance of such insects as well as late summer flowers such as the purple-blue scabious.

With the breeding bird season over, our ranger and volunteer groups are busy carrying out practical management of the Fen during autumn and winter. This includes using the Fen Harvester to cut sections of Sedge Fen – which is done on a three-year-rotation – to create a diversity of vegetation heights to benefits a diversity of different species (of which over 10,000 have been recorded at Wicken: the most on any site in the whole of the country).

Our Mucky Pups adventures, for pre-school children who enjoy getting grubby, are back. Sessions are running on 18th

September, 16th October and 13th November (10.30-12.00). Head to our website for more information and to book.

The beautiful Fen Cottage – designated a Grade II listed building earlier this year – will be closed between 7th September and 2nd October for repair work and maintenance. It will then be open daily until 1st November.

During October Half Term week, Cycle Hire will be open daily, otherwise only at weekends. Both Cycle Hire and boat trips finish for the season on 1st November, the latter run most days until then, depending on the weather. We will also have family events and a new Stranger Folk trial (aimed at –13-year-olds, requires a pre-downloadable app) during the October school holiday week. Check our website for more information.

nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Our daily opening hours are:

The Docky Hut Café: 10am–5pm (10am–4pm from 2nd Nov)

Visitor centre and shop: 9.30am–5pm (10am–4.30pm from 2nd Nov)

Nature reserve: Dawn – Dusk every day (but closed on Christmas Day)



News from Bottisham Medical Practice

Patients' Participation Group.

GP Trainees: We will sadly be saying goodbye to Dr Jilshy Varghese and Dr Callum Wheeler in August as is the usual rotation of trainees. We welcome two new trainees to the practice and one foundation year 2 doctor. Michael, Syed and Khadija are all qualified doctors. Each trainee spends anything from 4 months to a year with us as they rotate through different specialities. They are supervised by the GPs and each patient is discussed after clinic and if any issues arise whereby something additional needs to be done they would make contact with you.

Dr Nikhita Joglekar is now on maternity leave: Her shifts will be covered by Dr Kamran Yousef. We have had comments recently that “doctors never stay”. We have two GP partners who have each been at the practice over a decade and five other permanent salaried GPs who have all been with us for many years, two of whom were trainees here. The doctors who “come and go” are the trainees on fixed rotations, many do wish to stay but sadly that is not how training works. Being a training practice is a recognition of good care and good standards.

Medical students: From October to May we regularly have medical students in the practice. If they see you in clinic your appointment will be followed by a review from a qualified doctor. It is part of their learning to see patients independently and it is very helpful for them to see a variety of patients.

Weight loss injections: We are inundated with requests for weight loss injections GPs can now prescribe weight loss injections, but only in very specific circumstances. We only have 8 patients currently eligible all of whom have been contacted by us, so the vast majority who are asking are not eligible on the NHS

This indicator applies to patients aged 18 and over living with obesity who meet the NICE criteria for primary care pharmacotherapy (e.g., Tirzepatide/Mounjaro). Patients must meet the following baseline requirements: BMI: equal or over 35 (or 32 if of South Asian, Chinese, and other ethnic backgrounds) with at least four of the following conditions: Cardiovascular disease, Hypertension, Dyslipidaemia, Obstructive sleep apnoea. Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Vaccinations: The RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) shot is a vaccine designed to protect high-risk individuals—primarily older adults and newborn babies—from severe lung infections. It helps your body build immunity against RSV, a common virus that can trigger life-threatening conditions like pneumonia or bronchiolitis. Everyone aged 75 or older is now eligible for a routine, one-off dose. There is no upper age limit. You will be contacted however you're welcome to call to book your vaccination. This is a once only vaccine not annual.

Influenza vaccination clinics: SATURDAY 3rd October and SATURDAY 10th October 9am – 1pm SAVE THE DATE!

Invitations will be coming to your mobiles soon. If you would like to book an appointment please call the surgery if you have not received your invitation.

Eligible patients for flu jabs : Adults aged 65 and over, Individuals over 6 months clinical risk groups, Pregnant women, Children aged 2 or 3, school-aged

children (Reception to Year 11), Care home residents, carers, and frontline health and social care workers

Practice closure dates for 2026: we are closed for training on the afternoons of:

Wednesday 16th September

Thursday 15th October

Tuesday 17th November

Wednesday 20th January

PPG meeting: Thursday October 8th: 6.30pm at the surgery, with a talk from one of the doctors on colds, flu and viral symptoms and how to know you are seriously ill and when to seek help. There will be an opportunity for questions on this topic.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

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 Ann 01223 811620.

Sebo upright vacuum cleaner (old but working well)

Screen for slides (about 1 metre wide)

Rapid mop

Contact Garry 07803 002194. Four-burner gas barbecue with 2 Calor gas bottles. It has wheels, so if you live in the village you could wheel it home.

Contact Steve 07917 697259. 125cm x 125cm square foldable metal pen for puppies etc

Contact Jun 07980 423210

Sony digital photo frame, model DPF-C1000

2 sets of weekly medication organisers (daily medication split into morning, noon, night, backup)

Contact John 07973 728666

Pair of car wheel ramps

38" LG TV, not 'smart' but works fine from an antenna. Has one very thin vertical line down the screen.



Wants

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.

From our MP, Charlotte Cane

As Parliament returns after the summer recess, I have been reflecting on a busy few months across Ely and East Cambridgeshire. I have met residents, businesses, community groups and local councils, while continuing to raise local concerns with ministers and press for action on the issues affecting our area.

One issue that has dominated the summer is the continuing uncertainty over local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. After months of consultation and planning, the Government announced in July that it still could not reach a decision and may delay an announcement until October. This is a major decision for the future of local services, yet councils, residents and businesses have been left in limbo.

I raised this directly with ministers in Parliament, asking what further consultation would take place and how electoral officers are expected to prepare for elections next May when they still do not know council boundaries, ward structures or councillor numbers. Those questions went unanswered.

I have since written again to ministers, pressing for clarity and urging them to put local people at the heart of any decision. If the Government cannot show that reorganisation will improve services and accountability, it should consider retaining the current arrangements rather than imposing a flawed solution with little public confidence.

Many conversations over the summer have also turned to the cost of heating homes as we approach autumn and winter. The new Burnham Government has announced the removal of VAT from domestic electricity bills from October, but that will save the average household only around £45 a year. For many families, that does not go far enough.

This is especially true locally, where many villages have large numbers of homes not connected to the gas grid. More than a quarter of households rely on heating oil or LPG and are often overlooked in national energy policy, despite facing sharp and unpredictable price rises.

The Liberal Democrats are proposing an Essential Energy Guarantee that would save the average household around £100 a year, with extra support for lower-income families, disabled people and households with children. We are also calling for stronger protections for households using heating oil and LPG.

With around 4,500 households in Ely and East Cambridgeshire experiencing fuel poverty, keeping people warm this winter must be a priority. I will continue pressing for certainty on local government and practical support with the cost of living.

If there is an issue or concern you would like to raise with me, please do get in touch. I am here to listen and to help wherever I can.



Charlotte Cane MP

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

Notes from the Swaffham Prior Parish Council meetings for July and August

East Cambridgeshire District Council.

The reports covered:

meetings of the Operational Services committee and the Finance and Assets committee, noting of reports on waste management, community safety partnership, budgets and spending for both committees, progress on Mepal crematorium, a new fee for planning applications, a grant award to Soham's Viva Arts and Community group, the Register of Buildings of Local Interest and the setting up of a Business Grants Scheme for small businesses.

The ECDC Action Plan has been updated.

A commitment to continue collaboration with housing providers was made, aiming to increase East Cambs' social housing capacity.

A delay to Local Government Reorganisation has been announced; both ECDC and the MP have expressed their frustration with the delay.

The Corporate Plan for ECDC mentions facilitation of an amphitheatre – no further details are available at present.

The new bin system seems to have settled in, although there have been some complaints of increased rubbish spilt on collection.

Cllr Latchford asked if there had been notification of new dispersal arrangements of migrants to East Cambs. Cllr Cane said there was no official notification and that she thought high property prices locally would make it unlikely.

Parish Councillors reports

Cllrs Kent-Phillips and Muscroft. The need for maintenance to the village hall car park had been raised (weed-killing, tidying the hedge) and a member of the public had offered to cut back the shoots on the driveway trees. It was agreed to get a quote for spraying the carpark with weed killer in August and to accept the member of the public's offer.

Cllr Latchford. The double yellow lines on the High Street have still not been repainted.

Cllr Latchford. A parishioner is having issues with the new wheeled bins and has approached ECDC four times without resolution -this has since been resolved.

Cllr Latchford. Noted the presence of hogweed in the village and asked who should be dealing with its removal. The Clerk looked into the issue and found that it is not an issue for the PC unless it is growing in areas under the PC's responsibility and the PC is ordered (by the Environment Agency, ECDC or CCC) to remove it.

Cllr Greenfield. A petition has been launched to reduce the speed limit on the B1102 (Mill Hill) to 30mph through the village. Cllr Greenfield noted that while the PC had tried on numerous occasions to get this reduction before, a change in the political mindset in the last few years may result in a more favourable view being taken.

Cllr Greenfield. Bus Network engagement. Changes are under consideration to the T4 and T5 routes, including potentially adding a leg onto the end of the T4

routes from Addenbrookes through Stapleford to the Park and Ride, bypassing Cambridge South Station.

Cllr Hart reported that a yew hedge on the High Street was overgrowing the pavement – the Clerk to write to the owner requesting it be cut back.

Cllr Greenfield reported that the speed restriction sign coming into the village from Burwell is obscured by the hedge - the Clerk to report to Highways.

Cllr Durrant reported that the cemetery is still lacking a black bin. Cllr Cane volunteered to chase this up.

Cllr Latchford reported that the double yellow lines outside Anglesey House are still missing.

Cllr Latchford requested a review of rewilding projects in connection with concerns of an increase in the tic population.

Clerk's Report

A complaint was received regarding the grass cutters in the cemetery leaving a mess of cuttings on gravestones. The contractors have promised to try to avoid this where possible and asked that the shoots on the trees in the playground be cut back, the trees on Coopers Green be trimmed and the brambles growing out of the ditch along Lower End between the Beeches and Rogers Road be cut back.

A new Grant book has been purchased for the cemetery, 1 transfer of Grant ownership has been completed and 1 purchase of a Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial.

Information gathering for the asset register is ongoing. The minute book for April 2000 – December 2009 is currently missing and the Clerk is trying to track it down.

The Clerk would like to look into subscribing to Parish Online to make use of it's mapping system e.g. for recording the position of PC assets such as bins, benches, verges etc. Cllr Greenfield asked for the councillors to be given access as well to see what it involved.

An issue was reported with the big swings in the playground. The Clerk found on of the seat was cracked but is not presently an issue - to be monitored.

Correspondence.

Email regarding consultation on the proposed Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Cllr Greenfield argued that the PC should respond to this consultation while it may affect Swaffham Prior after Local Government reorganisation. Cllr Cane encouraged responses from both the PC and individuals. The PC agreed that Cllr Greenfield would respond to the consultation on behalf of the PC.

Email regarding Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for the High Street between 21st and 29th September 2026. Noted. It was observed that the TTRO lacks basic information such as what it is for, is the High Street closed fully or partly and who is the applicant.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

Cllr Greenfield noted that Kingsway Solar Farm had withdrawn their planning application on 17th June after many errors and omissions had been highlighted by

the Planning Inspector. The feeling is that the application will be redrafted and resubmitted at a later date.

Cllr Greenfield reported that weed killer had been sprayed on the cemetery path 17th July 2026.

The steps to allotment road gate have been cleared off completely by Cllr Durrant. The gate is hanging at an angle but is useable and it was decided to leave it for the time being.

The Parochial Charities' first invoice for grass cutting of Town Close has been sent and a cheque received.

The allotment tenants have been reminded not to leave hosepipes on overnight.

Cooper's green trees have been trimmed to allow for easier mowing of the grass.

The Clerk requested a quote to paint pound and keep from Elston Decorators and will chase a reply. The Clerk will also look for alternatives.

Planning applications.

[26/00645/FUL](#) Demolition of existing storage units, construction of 1No. single storey 1 bedroom cabin for staff accommodation and change of use of land to residential. The Smock Tower Mill, Mill Hill Swaffham Prior Cambridge CB25 0JZ

After discussion, the following objections to the application were raised:

The Schoolmaster's plot was included as part of the land belonging to the Mill when it belongs to the Parochial Charities.

The access lane is shown as belonging to the Mill – this is disputed. The properties fronting onto the lane have shared ownership. It is also a public right of way.

The fence shown would prevent use of the turning circle at the far end of the lane that has been in use for many years.

The PC support the concerns raised by the Conservation Officer over the lack of a coherent plan for development around the listed Mill.

The PC question the statement from the Highways Development Management, that building of further accommodation will not intensify the access arrangement to a degree that would have an unacceptable impact on highway safety, given that the access road is an unadopted track that gives onto a 40mph road of increasing traffic numbers.

[26/00801/FUL](#) and [26/00802/LBC](#) Erection of an outbuilding. Church View, 54 High Street, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD.

The PC supported this application.

Finances.

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that the reserve funds had been transferred to the Barclays business account following the closure of the Manchester Building Society account. The Cambridge Building Society account required an opening cheque of £1000.00, to be signed and sent. A total of £33,000.00 would be transferred to the new account once the opening was complete.

Review of the Asset Register.

The PC accepted the insurance valuation of the Pound and Keep of £50,000.00

and the insurance cover was updated accordingly, with no change to the cost.

The Clerk is working through past minutes to find purchase dates and costs for items on the Asset Register.

Inclusive play equipment at the playground.

Cllr Greenfield remarked that the PC were fully committed to the concept of inclusivity in the playground and its equipment.

The Clerk reported that a Facebook question to the village had shown an interest in inclusive equipment and particularly in equipment for younger, pre-school age children. The Clerk and Charlotte Greeno intend to produce a list of wanted play equipment in order of preference and then arrange a meeting with Elevate Play at the playground to see how many of them could be fitted into the area, then return this to the PC for discussion.

Change of phone contract for the PC mobile.

The Clerk put forward a four new Sim-only phone contracts with different providers for a range of costs and data. The PC approve the phone contract change from Vodafone to a Lebara monthly contract of £1.69 per month (months 1-9) then £4.40 per month. The current phone number will be kept.

Jude Law

Clerk to the Parish Council



Red2Green

Red2Green is a registered charity celebrating over 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.

Red2Green Community Garden

Our site at Lode Road, Bottisham (CB25 9DL) is open Monday to Friday, 9:30am-4:00pm, offering a wonderful selection of plants and handcrafted items. Come and support Red2Green while browsing our wide range of plants, including houseplants, bedding plants, shrubs, vegetables, and more. We also offer a beautiful collection of botanical crafts such as seed bombs, seed paper tags, lavender bags, handmade cards, bird boxes, and other unique gifts.

During your visit, you're warmly invited to explore our sensory garden and take a moment to enjoy our newly installed pond water feature!

Interested in running Cambridge Half Marathon 2027 for Red2Green?
Get in touch via email info@red2green.org or call us on 01223 811662. We would love to cheer you across the finish line!

Ways you can get involved:

Volunteering opportunities – we are looking for Minibus drivers!

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.



The Anglesey Group of Churches

Services in September 2026

Wednesday 2 September

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on
Zoom

Sunday 6 September – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 13 September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 20 September – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 27 September – Seventeenth 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)
Curate: Rev'd Sian Binley: angleseycurate@gmail.com; 07752 215896 (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 September 2026

Wed	2	Reading Group [18]
Sat	5	Village Harvest Show (and Dog Show), 2pm [back cover]
Thu	10	Parish Council, VH, 7:30
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm [22]
Fri	18	Mucky Pups, Wicken Fen, 10:30-12:00 [26]
Mon	21	SWIG Outing to see Pride and Prejudice [20] Newmarket Cinema, 6:45 for 7:30 [9]
Tue	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Fri	25	Macmillan Coffee Morning, The Oaks, Lower End. 10:30-Noon [2,9]
Sun	27	Photographic Club Exhibition, VH, 11am—5pm [17]
October		
Sat	3	Village Harvest Supper, VH, 6:30 [12]
Sun	4	Harvest Festival, Prior Fen Chapel, 3pm [14]

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
SWIG	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



SWAFFHAM PRIOR AUTUMN SHOW

COMPETITIONS

PRODUCE ~ BAKING ~ PHOTOGRAPHY

CHILDRENS CREATIVE ~ DOG SHOW ~ CREAM TEAS

Entries to be exhibited 10:00 – 11:50

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

2:00 pm Start 3:00 pm Produce Auction

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL

FREE ENTRY

Online Crier: www.swaffham-crier.co.uk