



The Swaffham Crier

Volume L Number 5

May 2026



Editorial

This month we received a very interesting communication (*see Letters*) from the grandson of an ex-Italian POW Oldoni Luigi. Oldoni stayed on after the war and becoming close friends with a man called Colin Henderson who visited them in Italy. The Oldoni family have been trying to trace Colin for years and wonder if anyone here has any recollection of him?

The WI has been an integral and indeed very influential part of community life in this village for a great many years but now appear to have struck a rock (see p19). It seems that the recent court ruling on ‘women’ as being strictly biological has led to the High Command (last seen warbling about alternative ‘Sisterhood’ groups) dictating that trans members be turfed out and demanding Birth Certificate proof of *true* womanhood from everyone -else. What? Ethnic cleansing? What nonsense! And just when I was thinking of joining but now finding I have LOST my birth-certificate.. Is our own WI going to have any truck with this? — we await further news in our next issue.

Many congratulations to the bell-ringers on Bulbeck’s anniversary and celebratory new ‘tune’ Swaffham Bulbeck Delight Major— actually for one horrifying moment we thought they meant a REAL tune, like say *Jingle Bells*, but no, English Bell-ringers would surely never stoop so low!

Meanwhile, this is the month of year when we need to be nominating this year’s GAY BULLEID winner (another WI-founded institution—see p 2) so do get your nominations in and don’t forget the attend our Annual Village Assembly on May 20 when the award will be presented. For some reason we STILL don’t have a confirmed time though! 7-7:30? Ish I expect—see you there!

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Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Bumblebee on Lavender*, watercolour by **Dainin O’Dowd**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

QUIZ NIGHT

Another good turnout for our village quiz and a few new faces which was nice to see, thank you everyone for coming. Congratulations to the winners who were Lucky Harry and the runners up were Guess Club Seven. Jenny and I would like to say we really appreciate the help we get. April who organises the raffle and to the people who contribute to the prizes. Mandy and Kate who helped in the kitchen and served the food with help from Jenny this time. Our thanks as ever goes to Andrew who was our quiz master, great music round Andrew.

We raised £428 for St. Mary's church, thank you everyone. The date for your diaries for the next quiz is Saturday the 17th October . Hoping to see you there.

Lynne and Jenny

Annual Village Assembly

Wednesday Evening, 20th May, Village Hall

Everybody is warmly welcomed to this and it is great opportunity for newcomers and longer term residents of the village alike to find out what is going on in Swaffham Prior and meet the people who are involved in our many organisations (see below). Come and give your views on issues that interest you, and hear all about what you neighbour think!

Dear Editors,

Annual Village Assembly—Club Representatives

After a year's gap, the Annual Village Assembly is booked to take place on the 20th May (time to be confirmed). All representatives of the many clubs, groups, organisations and projects connected with the village are invited to attend and hopefully to provide a short talk; this can be on the events of the past 2 years, plans you have for the future, recruitment for new members etc. If you cannot attend, I would appreciate a short written report that could be read out

Jude Griffiths,

Clerk to Swaffham Prior Parish Council

Mark Lewinski/Keith Carter Correspondence

We have received further communication from Mark Lewinski who says that the Editors' titling of his March letter as "Obesity is not a Joke" was misleading and inaccurate. His letter was not about the joke, but in answer to what he took to be the implied query of Keith Carter's remark ("Maybe obesity is a disability.."). No criticism or complaint was either given or intended nor he believes would have been inferred without this heading. We did indeed assume Mark was complaining about the joke as evidenced too by our apology and, not wishing to be seen in the role of agents-provocateurs, we hastily bring this correspondence to a close. Eds

Dear Editors,

Can anyone Remember Colin & Dorothy Henderson?

My name is Ivan Bertulessi and I am writing from Bergamo, Italy. I am writing to you seeking help in reconstructing a story very important to my family, which took place in Cambridgeshire, in the 1940s.

My grandfather, Oldoni Luigi, lived in Cambridge as a prisoner of war from 1943 to 1946, working at Dowcra's Farm in Shepreth. farm near your town. During those years, he became a close friend of Mr. Colin Henderson, so that, after the war, he hosted him in Italy for a few weeks.

Sadly, both my grandfather and Mr. Henderson are no longer with us, but all my grandfather's children (including my mother) have precious memories of their friendship and of the Henderson family's visit here in Italy when they were children.

For a long time, my mother tried to trace the Hendersons' descendants and address, to get in touch, but unsuccessfully. The letters with the addresses have been lost, as have the names of any descendant.

In this days, with the help of some journals and local history researcher, i managed to trace him living since the 70's in Swaffham prior.

According to my sources, Colin (and his wife Dorothy) seem to have had a keen interest in history and local events and wrote regularly to the local newspapers and was still alive in 1993. It appears he must have died after 2007.

I was wondering if your journal was the one Colin used to write to, and if someone in Swaffham Prior could still remember him.

It would be truly important for my family to find information about your fellow citizen, so I'm turning to you for help with this unusual search. If you have any information in your archives, or if you can direct us to someone who does, we would be infinitely grateful.

Ivan Bertulessi
Cavernago (BG), Italy



**Colin and Dorothy at
the Nook, circa 1975**

Colin sent us the photo in the 70's with two addresses, *The Nook* in the High Street (see above) and 14, Blenheim Close. Shepreth.

Julie Nunn who now lives at the Nook thinks she remembers Dot, but since her husband Bob Nunn moved into the Nook in 1977, they must have left by then. The Crier was founded in 1976. and we have yet to find any reference to the Hendersons, although we are missing our 1976 volume. Help anyone? Eds

Dear Editor,

Organ Recital—Advance Notice

I am delighted to inform you that the brilliant young schoolboy organist James Cheng, who lives in Bottisham, is giving a recital in Holy Trinity Church in June.

Stuart Field - Churchwarden Holy Trinity Bottisham

Details in the next Crier. Eds

GAY BULLEID AWARD

The Gay Bulleid Award is open for nominations. This award, held for one year at a time by people considered to be ‘good village neighbours’, is in memorial of Mrs Gay Bulleid, who was for many years President of Swaffham Prior W.I. She died on 1st August 1998 and the following could have been said about her; “Some people strengthen society by just being the kind of people they are” (J. W. Gardner).

If you would like to nominate someone, please contact the PC (clerk@swaffhamprior-pc.gov.uk or 07833 784 626) with their name and why you think they should win. To be announced at the Annual Village Assembly on Wednesday 20th May.

Jude

THIS MONTH’S COVER PICTURE

Dainin enjoys painting in watercolours as well as dabbling in acrylics. She takes inspiration from the natural world around her, particularly plants and flowers in her garden in the village. In her own words: *I just love to see bumblebees on flowers, and take photos of them when out walking to paint later.* She also creates embroideries of flowers using ribbon embroidery.

Did you know? Although all bumblebees are important pollinators they don’t make honey. They don’t need to store food for winter since the worker bees and male bees die as it gets cold. Only the queen bee survives by hibernating in rotten logs, grass or under the soil until Spring. More about bumblebees here:

www.bumblebeeconservation.org.

Celia Tyler

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

There was a sort of holiday atmosphere at the meeting, nice evening, relatively simple agenda, no anticipation of anything contentious to slow things up, and it was all duly rattled through for an early finish.

Charlotte Cane kicked off with her report as ECDC councillor, mainly boring budgets but including the inevitable extra funds required for the Mepal Crematorium. The level of fees for the future use of this facility had been



discussed; at this rate they will need to be so high that no-one will want to use it. Meanwhile we were warned that our bin day will change, but don't panic, it won't be until June by which time we will all have received our new herd of bins (I wonder what happens to the old ones).

Discussion then moved on to sources of funds for those having particular trouble with energy prices (just don't mention heating oil). I lost track of the surprising number of different funds available, including a CCC scheme of means tested benefits up to £400, Winter Fuel, our local parochial charity and possibly others. Steve K-P offered to provide a list to be included in the next Crier (*This would be very welcome. Eds*), and it would be useful to have it on the village noticeboard.. Another useful contact is Pam Waters.

Then our local PC's finances, expenditure generally approved including an extra £208 + Vat for Junior defibrillator pads (see last month's report) and an increase of 3% for grass-cutting; David Greenfield (in absentia) was donated the short straw to renegotiate the contract. The Treasurer noted that he needs to start work on the annual accounts which will need an 'intermediary audit' because the turnover exceeds £25k. He has my sympathy – I used to have to do the same for a local Charity. A request for a donation of £750 by the Ely Foodbank was politely but firmly declined.

Someone has put some logs across an entry to Black Drove, either to discourage or to protect Travellers established there. In either case it's not helpful, firstly because the drove is a Byway for which access is legally required, and secondly because it obstructs efforts to control the space. The PC is not happy with ECDC's level of assistance in this matter.

Reports from the Clerk and individual councillors included the policy of laying down any wobbly gravestones, concern about the state of ground under the slide in the play area, and how the extensive piece of land housing the heating scheme's boreholes might be put to practical use, if only as meadowland accessible to the village. Requests to establish locations and prepare signage for 'The Close Pass' campaign (encouraging motorists to allow 1.5 metres when passing cyclists) received short shrift.

There is a legal requirement to hold an Annual Village Assembly, the responsibility for which has gallantly been assumed by the PC, and will be held in the Village Hall on the 20th May. The village bellringers were encouraged to take their turn on the stage, and two of the regular ringing band who happened to be at the meeting agreed. Look forward to it.

Next month's PC meeting will be the AGM, so will start 15 minutes earlier than usual to give them enough time to go through the motions...

Steve Kent-Phillips offered to provide a list of sources of funds for those having particular trouble with energy prices to be included in the next Crier

John Chalmers



Join POP
(Proud of Prior)



COMMUNITY LITTER PICK **FRIDAY TIDY**

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

Friday 22nd May
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!**



Bric-a-brac donations wanted!

Calling all Spring cleaners!

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior, is running a bric-a-brac stall at the Swaffham Prior Village Feast on Saturday 16th May 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.

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL VILLAGE FEAST
SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026

12.30PM - 4.00PM



ANNUAL EGG-THROWING CONTEST AT 4.00PM

BAR & REFRESHMENTS - BARBEQUE - CREAM TEAS - ICE CREAMS
STALLS - CRAFTS - RAFFLE - CAKE STALL - TOMBOLA - BOWLING
BRIC-A-BRAC - PLANTS - CAN SHY - GURNING - LUCKY DIP
WI STALL - PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT - EMERGENCY VEHICLES
BOOKS JIGSAWS, TOYS - MAJORETTES - CROCKERY SMASHING

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL

Swaffham Prior Bell Ringers – May 2026

On a rare night off from Tuesday practice in the bell tower, the ringers gathered at Kate's house to learn more about handbell ringing. Under Lesley's very patient guidance we progressed from the more familiar Christmas tunes to some method ringing. This involved operating one bell in each hand – extraordinary co-ordination required!

This year the Swaffham Bulbeck tower has been marking the 205th anniversary of the bells being installed and rung there (16th November 1820 – 5 years before the first steam train had run), and also the 25th anniversary of the bells being rehung for the Millennium, with the addition of two bells bringing the total to 8.

As part of the celebrations, one of the young ringers who learnt to ring at Swaffham Bulbeck has composed a new method (tune) to be named Swaffham Bulbeck Delight Major. This is a very complicated method to ring and experts will be called in to help ring a quarter peal in the next month or so. Congratulations to Brin Wilkes for this amazing achievement.

Update: a Quarter Peal of Swaffham Bulbeck Delight Major was rung for the first time ever on Sunday 26 April 2026. The method will now go forward for official classification from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Congratulations to all who took part.

Not to be outdone, Brin's mother Clare has designed a fantastic 3 metre tapestry seat cushion to run along one side of the ringing chamber (see over and below). The design incorporates the method of Swaffham Bulbeck Delight. Many of the ringers from both Bulbeck and Prior are each going to complete their own sections of the tapestry and we look forward to seeing the progress.

If you are interested in learning more about the bells and bellringing, you are welcome to come along on a Tuesday evening (19:30), or contact swaffhampriorbells@gmail.com

Mandy Kingsmill





PEACEFUL &
 PRAYERFUL
 art group

at Holy Trinity Church
 Bottisham

PLEASE NOTE LOCATION! ↑

For Adults

Enjoy Art together
 All Skill Levels Welcome

The First 3 Fridays Every Month

1.30pm - 3.30pm

Art Materials Supplied or bring your own art project

Julie's Bank Holiday Barbeque Recipes

Pimm's Glazed Chicken with Strawberry and Cucumber Salad

8 free range chicken thighs
2 tbsp Pimm's
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 garlic clove, crushed
2 tsp grated fresh ginger
1 tsp brown sugar
1 tsp white miso paste

For the Pimm's Glaze

100ml Pimm's
2 tbsp orange marmalade
2 tbsp brown sugar
1 tbsp cider
1 tsp miso paste

For the Salad

300g strawberries, sliced
1 cucumber, diced
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 tbsp Pimm's
2tsp each of lemon, lime and orange juice
1 tsp sugar

1. Put the chicken in a bowl with all the top ingredients and then cover and marinate in the fridge for 2-4 hours.
2. Put all the ingredients for the glaze in a pan and heat to dissolve the sugar, then bring to a boil until thickened and syrupy. Set aside to cool.
3. Heat the barbeque. Take the chicken out of the fridge. Place on the BBQ and grill with the lid down for 20-25 minutes, turning and basting with the glaze regularly until golden brown and sticky and thoroughly cooked through. Set the chicken aside to rest while you make the salad.
4. For the salad, combine all the ingredients in a large bowl, Serve the chicken drizzled with extra glaze with the salad on the side.

Serves 4-6

20th August 2026 inspection of Category 2 grave markers in Swaffham Prior Cemetery.

The following grave markers are due to be inspected on 20th August 2026, starting at 10am. Where contact details have been provided, owners will be contacted directly.

Plot	Occupant	Grave markers
433, 434	Charles Peter Hawkes, Ethel May Hawkes	Double plot curb, containing white marble chips and marble footstone/vase 'to 'Dick, pilot officer failed to return'. Central headstone.
501	Henry and Rebecca Willis	Marble headstone and curb, concrete infill
555	Emma Adams	Headstone
663, 664	Edwin Muir	Thin double curb. Headstone
681, 682	Alice Smith and George Smith	Headstone on double layer base.
876	Albert and Kitty Sizer	Headstone on base, concrete plinth. Small temporary markers stuck at foot of grave
874	Jeannette Fox-Teece	Headstone on base, concrete plinth.
90	Eliza Butcher	Headstone and footstone

POEM OF THE MONTH

The Patriot

Robert Browning

An Old Story

I

It was roses, roses, all the way,
With myrtle mixed in my path like mad:
The house-roofs seemed to heave and sway,
The church-spires flamed, such flags they had,
A year ago on this very day.

II

The air broke into a mist with bells,
The old walls rocked with the crowd and cries.
Had I said, 'Good folk, mere noise repels –
But give me your sun from yonder skies!' –
They had answered, 'And afterward, what
else?'

III

Alack, it was I who leaped at the sun
To give it my loving friends to keep!
Nought man could do, have I left undone:
And you see my harvest, what I reap
This very day, now a year is run.

IV

There's nobody on the house-tops now –
Just a palsied few at the windows set;
For the best of the sight is, all allow,
At the Shambles' Gate – or, better yet,
By the very scaffold's foot, I trow.

V

I go in the rain, and, more than needs,
A rope cuts both my wrists behind;
And I think, by the feel, my forehead bleeds,
For they fling, whoever has a mind,
Stones at me for my year's misdeeds.

VI

Thus I entered, and thus I go!
In triumphs, people have dropped down dead.
'Paid by the world, what dost thou owe
Me?' – God might question; now instead,
'Tis God shall repay: I am safer so.

Robert Browning's poetry is not as familiar these days as it deserves to be. He is a surprisingly modern High Victorian. His psychological insight, exploration of moral ambiguity and irony and the brilliance of his dramatic monologues retain their power and relevance in the 21st century.

The Patriot, imagined perhaps in the aftermath of the French Revolution, or, more probably, the contemporaneous Risorgimento in Italy, is a universal metaphor for the fickleness of the mob – nowadays more often referred to as the electorate – and the perfidy and treachery of demagogues – nowadays often called politicians. If you like, it can even be read as a kind of secular Easter story.

It came to mind as I listened to Sir Olly Robbins testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

Psalms, Spirituals & Sonnets

Ely Consort with The Quintessential Ensemble

Saturday 27th June, 7.30pm

St Mary's Church Burwell

Ely Consort will be singing a programme of joyful music for the summer in a concert at St Mary's Church, Burwell on Saturday 27th June, 7.30pm. [John Rutter's *Psalmfest*](#) will be the major choral work; this is a collection of varied psalm settings showcasing the full range of **John Rutter's** music, amply demonstrating why he is loved by choirs and audiences alike - you can expect beautiful melodies, joyful rhythms and dramatic climaxes. *Psalmfest* is accompanied by **The Quintessential Ensemble**, adding even more colour to this wonderful piece. The programme also includes three traditional Spirituals, arranged in very different styles for unaccompanied choir, culminating in a highly energetic version of the Battle of Jericho. In addition to instrumental items performed by **The Quintessential Ensemble**, the programme is completed by a performance of **James Bassi's *Harpsonnets***; as the name suggests, this is a setting of **three sonnets by Shakespeare**, accompanied by harp.

Tickets: £20 (u18s free)

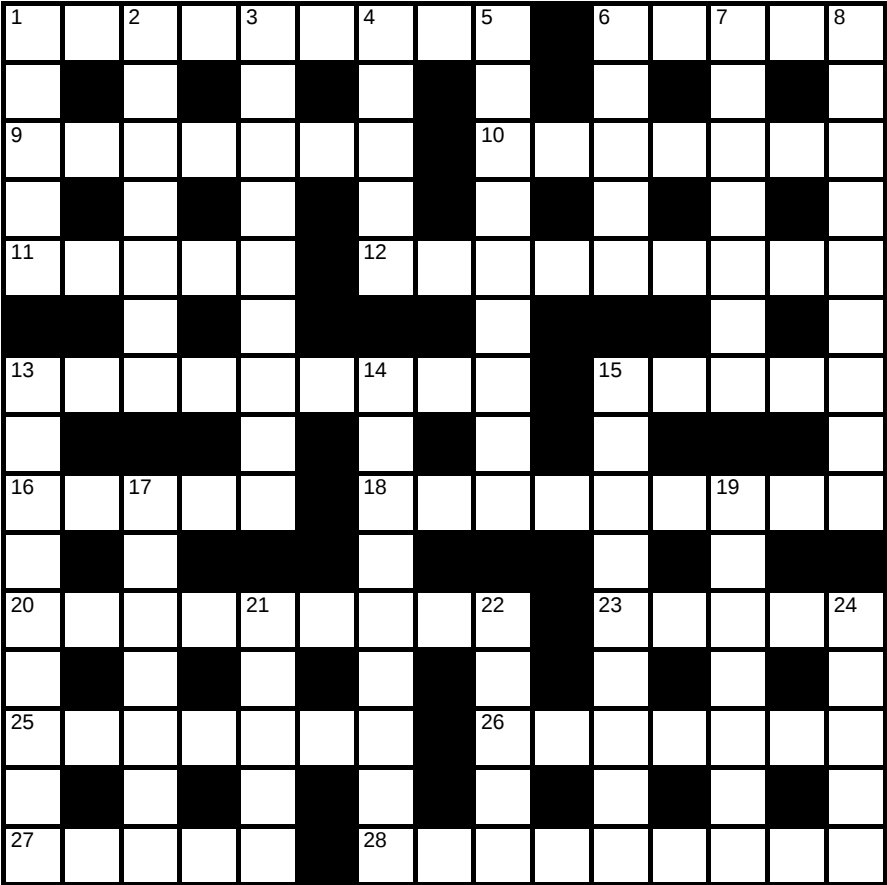
[Online](#) or in Burwell at CentrePeace, PO & Tina's



Crossword Number 238

Compiled by **BYWELL**

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

- 1 Surprise bearer of cotton, following the Saudi leader inside (9)
- 6 Titan returns in Saltaire (5)
- 9 Turns round ringless Russian writer's glasses (7)
- 10 Leather from central Denmark, with rococo decoration (7)
- 11 Religious meeting is a bit drowsy, no doubt (5)
- 12 Where's Lee? Surprisingly not here! (9)
- 13 How things are making us to squat in a funny way (6,3)
- 15 She's coming back after her first colouring (5)
- 16 Install new equipment to row backwards round last reef (5)
- 18 American soldier in the Italian pub? It doesn't make sense (9)
- 20 Revolutionary confounded by gawky fuse (3,6)
- 23 Insects stage a return to drink (3,2)
- 25 Paul waits, confused without his father, for action (7)
- 26 Speaking Pashtun, say a sequence of letters and a province (7)
- 27 Give her my new presentation, it's sometimes missing with reason (5)
- 28 It's late in the evening and she's losing her first verbal attribute (4,5)

Down

- 1 Fake disaster on the football pitch, then in the coach (5)
- 2 Purple name tag can be confused (7)
- 3 Diffidence at slipshod double-first, without RI (4-5)
- 4 To happen afterwards is, oddly, not seen as rude (5)

- 5 All confused about court following for Saudi prince - they say it's for software (9)
- 6 Director in slow or rapid reversal (5)
- 7 Stand for leadership of the left before re-organising the centre (7)
- 8 Hold up allows net to be re-arranged (9)
- 13 One not keeping up, spread out using both hands as well (9)
- 14 March rising of cats and dogs, maybe under prompt (9)
- 15 Memorable episode of lofty match, perhaps (9)
- 17 Unruly adult in migration route (7)
- 19 Rank patina served up after first course (7)
- 21 Entertain in hippopotamus exhibition (5)
- 22 Closes securely with flippers (5)
- 24 Lions hiding in Capri delta (5)

Solution to crossword no. 237

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

We congratulate Mike & Christine Carrington, the winners of last month's competition, who will receive a prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Colin Dailly, Mary Joiner and Dainin O'Dowd.

The Swaffhams' WI

'My life didn't please me, so I created my life'. Is this quote from Coco Chanel something to be admired or something to send a little shiver of fear through your spine? The April meeting of The Swaffham's WI brought the wonderful Carol Poole to talk to us about Coco Chanel.

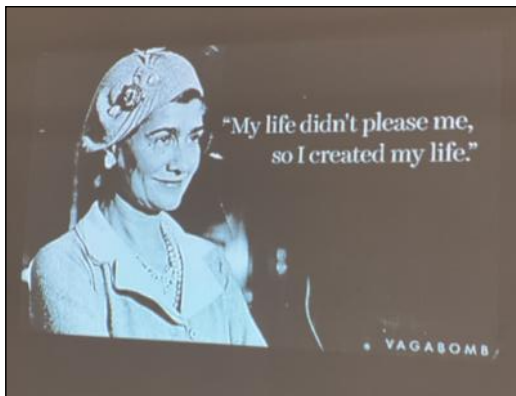
Gabrielle (Coco) Chanelle was born into a poor house in Saumur, France in 1883. Gabrielle's first 18 years were dominated by poverty, unhappiness, frustration and distress at her family being torn apart. Her father was an itinerant leaving her mother to bring up the 5 children in abject poverty. When Gabrielle was 11, her mother died and her father returned home.



two young brothers as farm labourers and the three sisters were sent to a convent as orphans. Whilst growing up with the nuns as a child, Gabrielle acquired her dress making skills. In her twenties, she learnt tailoring and from then on continued to develop her own style. Connections with the wealthy and the aristocracy helped Coco step into the world of fashion.

Gabrielle's rise to fame and fortune as the creator of the leading French Fashion House is a complex story full of determination, sex, connections with the rich and famous and a refusal to let anyone or anything get in her way. Although there are many, many parts of Coco's life which are shocking, sad and simply upsetting, her sheer determination to move away from her terrible childhood, surely has to be admired? Her early life did not please her and she therefore created a fantastic career and life for herself. But at what cost?

Thank you to Carol for a very stimulating and thought provoking talk!



Kate Muscroft

katemuscroft@gmail.com

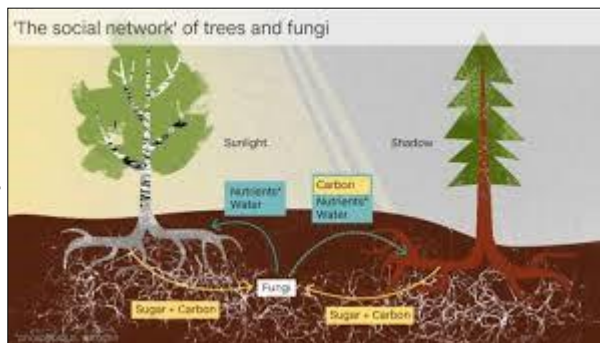


VILLAGE GARDENERS

At the April meeting of the Village Gardeners, Jim Paine gave a fascinating insight into 'The Empire Beneath Our Feet'. Jim is an environmental scientist with a background in conservation, and for 25 years he ran a plant nursery in Attleborough, Norfolk. He took us on a scientific journey to understand why soil is so important,

both to us and to the life forms that live within it. Soil is a complex, biologically active medium forming the uppermost layer of the Earth's crust. More than 95% of our food is grown in soil and at least two-thirds of all species live in it. Most soil dwellers are microscopic organisms such as bacteria and fungi and, although invisible to us, they are essential to plant life.

A teaspoon of soil can contain up to 10 billion bacteria and 750 metres of fungal threads! In the rhizosphere, the area of soil surrounding a plant's roots, roots send out signals to attract good bacteria, feeding them with sugars in return for nutrient cycling, help with water uptake, protection against harmful pathogens, and eventual decomposition. Beneath a forest floor, a social network of tree roots and fungi connects distant trees and plants. Termed the 'Wood Wide Web', a symbiotic relationship between the trees and fungi enables mature or thriving trees to share nutrients and water with seedlings or struggling trees and, in return, the fungi receive sugar and carbon from the trees.



Moving up towards the earth surface we find familiar invertebrates such as earthworms, woodlice and millipedes aerating the soil and breaking down organic matter, as well as mammals such as moles which aid with soil mixing and drainage. Soil from molehills is apparently nutrient rich and, although unsightly, can be used elsewhere in the garden. To sustain so much life, soil must be healthy and nutritious with a good physical structure. All soils, and particularly our local, chalky soil, can be improved by the addition of organic matter such as homemade compost or well-rotted horse manure. These days we are advised that minimal soil disturbance is better, so don't dig and instead add organic matter as a mulch on the soil surface and allow worms and other creatures to incorporate it. This helps to retain soil structure, moisture and warmth, and to minimise weed growth.

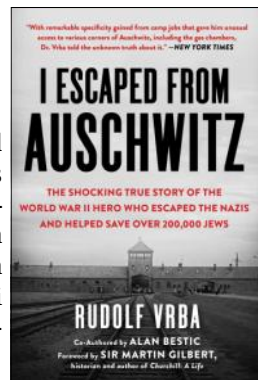
The next meeting of the Village Gardeners will be held in Swaffham Prior Village Hall on Tuesday 19th May at 8pm (doors 7:45pm), when Liz Wright will give us a talk about her experiences as a smallholder and market gardener; 'How Good Is The Good Life?' The talk will last about an hour, and tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be available afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us; attendance is free for members (£20 for the year) or £4 for visitors. We hope to see you there.

Fiona Geraghty

The Reading Group Reads... "I Escaped from Auschwitz" by Rudolph Vrba

On April 7, 1944, two Slovak prisoners Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler successfully escaped from one of the most heavily-guarded and notorious concentration camps of Nazi Germany and finally succeeded in alerting Western authorities, such as Pope Pius XII, Winston Churchill, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, to the reality of Nazi annihilation camps, thus saving the lives of 200,000 Hungarians.

Strangely, this is one of my favourite books and it was I who foisted it on my fellow book-readers. This is because, against this unimaginable background of Hell where prisoners never hoped to survive, but rather "survive a little bit longer" there nevertheless blossomed immense courage, humanity, humour, tittle-tattle, incongruities of all sorts, and even (very occasionally) cracks in the facades of their stony-faced SS guards, of whom when Vrba was later requested to give instances of particular atrocities asked which bit of the water in the Danube would they like to talk about. There was the Kappa (notorious club-swinging prisoners in charge of others) 'Franz Marmalade', an enormously well-respected German political prisoner (even among the SS it would seem) who only pretended to club his charges when anyone was looking and although condemned to almost certain death for filching marmalade for some starving women by successive increasingly awful punishments, somehow these were not carried out quite right, and Franz survived the war to become an Austrian Inn-keeper. Then there was Vrba himself, who was obliged to smuggle love-tokens his Kappo and his girlfriend in Canada (section of the camp dealing with merchandise, often of great value, extracted from the continuously incoming transports before they were gassed). "Well, what a strange collection of clothes. A chicken! Swiss Milk Chocolate. Eau de Cologne ... and Chanel! I wish I could get that for my wife.." murmurs Scharfuhrer Wiglep, then "WHO GAVE IT TO YOU?" before delivering 47 blows, which should have killed him, but for once Auschwitz Hospital acted as a hospital and with the help of Kappo Bruno, Hermione and the Camps underground resistance, Vrba not only goes on to survive but seemingly collects the protective admiration of Wiglep himself. And eventually escape. A page turner of a book.



Caroline Matheson



Mothers' Union

The meeting on the 16th April was a celebration of Spring – with a fun game of 'Flower Beetle Drive', which was greatly enjoyed by all. This followed our usual short service. Tea/coffee, biscuits and chat rounded off the afternoon.

Our next meeting is our Summer Tea on 16th July.

Alison Martin

THE VIEW FROM LOWER END



Easter and April have been and gone and during it we received the most extraordinary threat of war. Possibly the last time was when France, UK and Israel in 1956 “concocted a barmy and deceitful plan with Israel” to rescue the Suez Canal from Nasser. The current BBC programme illustrates this. That earlier war was going to be a disaster until President Eisenhower smacked the bottoms of Anthony Eden and his friends and told them to grow up. The current war has words like “full of hate”, “stupid”, – many more could be added,, and will be. But before that another scandal came to light. And this concerned “Ladies”.

Earlier in the year I was surprised to discover that until the 1900s it was generally considered that female bodies were too complicated for science because of the hormonal variability of women. As a result, and perhaps unsurprisingly, the earliest research was largely conducted by men on male subjects and male animals with the assumption that the results would be the same for both sexes. There may have been some doubts studying women’s bodies in clinical trials because females are born with every egg they will ever produce. So there were some fears about research which might compromise the females’ fertility. As the 21st century moved on the range of medical research on women increased, and males also benefitted. But it has taken many years since the 1900s for women to have the same rights as men.

The WI at the beginning of this year, women and their rights and independence were attacked from its own ranks. This has left many branches of the WI absolutely seething with rage, Currently the WI in the UK has 6300 branches and 220,000 members. It was founded in 1915 by Colonel Richard Stapleton-Cotton and his dog Tinker These were the only male members of this all-female organisation. (For the full story look up Wikipedia). But it is now over a year since the Supreme Court decision on single sex And now Six Months since the Equity and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) confirmed the decision. It just needs Bridget Phillipson (Minister for Women) to present this to Parliament, and she has delayed and continues to delay, with The complexity of the law and all the procedures, political jiggery pokery, crookedness, as amply illustrated by the current Starmer/Mandelson affair. I think this can be safely left inn the hands of the WI remembers and taken out of the hands of Phillipson.

While all this was going on I was lent a book concerned with George Orwell’s 1984 which had been a recent Book Club choice. And a second opinion was sought. It is not an easy read especially the lengthy parts discussing, accepting, rejecting the World of Big Brother. More readable were the sex parts from the woman’s point of view, and experience. This was very interesting and essential for a man to read. The book was part of a Toppings Bookshop event, in Ely, and one of its Booksigning and Discussion Meetings. I would be interested to know what some of the discussion and questions were. If the book had been written by a man I am not sure some parts would have been published.

What ever the questions there is doubt that Julia by Sandra Newman will always be part of any discussion of 1984.

Alastair Everitt



Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026

12 noon to 5pm

*Fairground, Village Fair, Maypole Dancing,
Morris Men, Craft Stalls, Live Entertainment and more*

**Entrance free. Parking £10 per vehicle
£5 Blue Badge holders and motorbikes**

www.reachfair.org.uk 
Fair Green, Reach CB25 0JD





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 is established.

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

Change to Group sizes

One Lib Dem member has left the party and decided to form a group with the Conservatives; the Conservative and Independent Group has 15 members, and the Lib Dem and Independent Group has 13 members.

Operational Services committee 23 March 2026

Not an exciting meeting, as the agenda contained a number of housekeeping reports: the ECSS business plan for next year, the Community Safety Partnership six-monthly report, End of Year Reports on Service Delivery and the Plans for next year, Quarter 3 2024/25 Budget Monitoring Report (which predicts an underspend of £229,000 on operating costs and an overspend of some £3.7m on capital mainly for buying black bins and for the Mepal Crematorium had been deferred from the preceding year.

The new bin collection arrangements were on course for a June start.

The proposed Mepal Crematorium rules and regulations were presented, discussed, and accepted.

Finance & Assets committee 26 March 2026

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

The proposed Mepal Crematorium fees were presented, discussed and accepted, even though no benchmark for them was presented.

Two new funds were created, one for Local Infrastructure, the other for Inclusive Play and Open Spaces. Information about these funds will be provided to Parish Clerks.

Surgery

On Tuesday 19 May at Fassage Hall, Lode, from half past six to half past seven, and to be followed by socialising at The Shed, Lode Road, Lode.

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



Live theatre and music returns to Waresley Park Estate

This summer, Waresley Park Estate, in Cambridgeshire, will welcome back beloved theatre troupes for its popular summer theatre programme: a rotation of open-air performances for all the family performed in its hillside amphitheatre.

This year's performances will include children's classics like *The Tales of Peter Rabbit* and *Benjamin Button*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *The Railway Children*. There will also be raucous pantomime fun with *Aladdin*, as well as a gothic makeover of the Shakespearean classic, *Much Ado About Nothing*.



Alongside the performances, guests can pre-order delicious food and drinks, including a charcuterie board, afternoon tea or a bottle of wine, made with locally sourced produce and curated by the Estate's Head Chef, Ed Forrest-Brown. The performances will be an atmospheric experience in the peaceful surroundings of the serene countryside estate.

The full list of amphitheatre performances are as follows:

Sunday 31 May at 3pm - *The Wind in the Willows*

Saturday 25 July at 3pm - *Aladdin*

Friday 31 July at 3pm - *The Wind in the Willows*

Friday 31 July at 7pm - *The Railway Children*

Friday 14 August at 2pm - *Yara in the Wild Wood*

Friday 14 August at 4pm - *Yara in the Wild Wood*

Saturday 15 August at 7pm - *Much Ado About Nothing*

Sunday 16 August at 3pm - *The King's Cake*

Friday 21 August at 3pm - *The Railway Children*

Friday 21 August at 6pm - *The Railway Children*

Saturday 29 August at 4pm - *The Tales of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny*

As well as the programme of theatrical performances, the Estate's Sunday Sessions are back by popular demand. Every Sunday afternoon from 21 June to 30 August, visitors can dine in the Courtyard and enjoy live music from artists including Isobel Pearce Jazz, Tim Rose and Will Robert.

To book a performance, visit: <https://waresleyparkestate.co.uk/amphitheatre>

From Our MP

Keep Ely and East Cambridgeshire Moving

Many residents have contacted me recently about the rising cost of everyday life – particularly the price of getting around and heating their homes. From filling up the car to travelling to work or keeping warm, pressures are building fast for families and businesses across Ely and East Cambridgeshire. That's why I'm calling for urgent action to help keep our area moving.



I'm pressing the Chancellor for an immediate 10p cut in fuel duty, which would reduce prices at the pump by around 12p per litre. In a largely rural area like ours, where many people depend on their cars, this would make a real and immediate difference. Alongside this, I'm backing a wider package of measures to reduce transport costs, including cutting bus fares to £1, reducing rail fares by 10%, and lowering the cost of electric vehicle charging by cutting VAT and tackling unfair network charges.

I'm calling for these measures to be introduced for an initial three⁽⁰⁰⁾ month period, with the option to extend them if high prices persist. People need help now, not later.

I also continue to campaign for fairer support for off-grid households. Over a quarter of homes locally rely on heating oil or LPG rather than mains gas, leaving them especially exposed to volatile global prices. I'm therefore calling for an immediate three⁽⁰⁰⁾ month VAT holiday on heating oil and LPG, and for the introduction of a proper price cap, similar to the one that already exists for gas, to protect rural households from extreme price spikes.

In the short term, I want residents to be aware that a £53 million Government support package for vulnerable households reliant on heating oil or LPG is now available. Applications opened on 1 April, and eligible households may be able to receive up to £400 in support. (More information here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/crisis-payment>). The fund is limited, so I would urge anyone who may qualify to apply as soon as possible. I encourage those not eligible but in need of support to seek advice from Citizens Advice.

I know that for so many, this relief won't be enough, or it will be too little, too late. After the Council's funding allocation, I wrote to the Chancellor to urge her to reconsider the funding formula in light of skyrocketing prices, and offer more support for all. I will continue pressing the Government to go further and act decisively to support households across Ely and East Cambridgeshire during this challenging time.

Charlotte Cane

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>

Swaffham Prior Heat Network – May 2026 Update

Here is the latest update on the Swaffham Prior Heat Network:

Connections and the Energy Centre

We are pleased to share that the Heat Network now has 111 customers connected. The team continues to monitor the network and the Energy Centre regularly, and the system is operating well. Works at the Energy Centre have also been completed, including the fencing and landscaping works. Photos of the Energy Centre are included below.

January – March 2026 heating bills

Heat bills for the period January -March 2026 have now been issued to customers.

We kindly ask customers to pay their charges within the stated payment period to avoid any late payment charges. If you have any questions about your bill, need clarification on the charges, or require support with payment, please contact the Heat Network team using the details below.

We are here to help and would encourage customers to get in touch early if they need any support.



Heating charges for 2026

We also want to reassure customers that, for the rest of this year, heating charges remain fixed, as set out in the 2026 Tariff Letter.

Prices will be reviewed again at the end of the year. As explained in the Heat Supply Agreement, the tariff is gradually transitioning from being linked to oil prices towards a blended approach that also reflects electricity costs.

We understand that global energy prices can change due to wider geopolitical events and market conditions. When we review future pricing, we will take a balanced and responsible approach, considering costs, fairness, and the long-term sustainability of the network while continuing to support the community as far as possible.

Heat Trust to Ofgem transition

The Swaffham Prior Heat Network is currently registered with Heat Trust, which provides customer protection standards for heat network customers.

As part of wider national changes, heat networks will move under Ofgem regulation from January 2027. This means that reporting and regulatory

oversight will transition to Ofgem as the new statutory regulator for heat networks.

We will continue to keep customers updated as this transition progresses and as any new requirements are introduced.

Customer Feedback:

We've been pleased to hear positive feedback from properties already connected, particularly about the quality of heat supply and the prompt response from the team when issues arise.

If you are connected, we'd love to hear about your experience. Your feedback helps us shape how we deliver the service for everyone.



Get in touch

If you have any questions about your bill, heating charges, customer support, or would like to share your feedback, please contact the Heat Network team:

Email to: Heatingswaffhamprior@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

24/7 Helpline for connected customers: **01782 390777**

Newmarket Cinema

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

May 18th - Made in Dagenham (15)

June 15th - The Choral (12)

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

Bottisham Patients' Participation Group

Vaccinations!

We are administering Covid booster vaccinations from the middle of April. Eligible patients are

Those aged 75 and over

Care home residents

Those 6 months and older who are immunosuppressed

We are also keen to vaccinate those 80 and over against RSV. RSV stands for respiratory syncytial virus. Classically it causes bronchiolitis in babies but can also lead to a nasty pneumonia in older people.

Frailty scoring

Please don't be alarmed if you see we've scored you as moderately or severely frail in your records. We are being encouraged to do this to reduce your risk of falls as target blood pressure and blood sugar readings are different if you're a little more frail than you used to be. Also we need every patient's weight and height measurements. Over the course of the year we will be messaging everyone for this information. Please feel free to come and use our measuring equipment in our pod in reception ahead of us asking you. Reception can then add this to your records.

ABTRACE: we are starting to use a new recall system. The text messages will ask for your date of birth to confirm who you are and will then allow you to book any recall appointment you need eg diabetes review. You may be asked to complete a questionnaire ahead of your appointments eg asthma or heart failure reviews.

Weight loss injections: We have had many enquiries regarding these. NHS funding criteria is very strict and currently we only have 8 patients who are eligible all of whom have been contacted. As more patients are eligible as the criteria changes we will contact you. If you are purchasing these injections privately please note it is important to use reliable contraception as their risks in pregnancy are unknown. The contraceptive pill may have its absorption affected by these injections and thus not be reliable. If you're on HRT, patches and gels are recommended as the tablet formulation may have its absorption affected

Appointments: For the first quarter of this year we had 185 appointments logged as DNA, (Did Not Attend) which equated to just under 60hrs of lost clinical time. We appreciate that circumstances and situations can change at short notice but ask, if you are unable to attend your appointment please let us know so we can reallocate this to another patient

Accessing the Practice: as you will be aware we have been operating a Triage system since 1 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 take calls 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 15 May. Use 111 if

necessary.

Prescriptions: With 2 bank holidays in May please order by 15 May to collect on 22. Hopefully you will already have ordered by the 24 April for collection on 1 May.

Next Meeting Details: 6.30pm in the waiting room at the surgery, date to be advised. There will be a talk by Dr Shackleton. If you wish to join our meetings or consider joining the committee please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or speak to reception.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

BON MOT NUMBER 169

"We can always count on the Americans to do the right thing, after they have exhausted all the other possibilities."

Winston Churchill (30 November 1874 – 24 January 1965)

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

Large upright vacuum cleaner (Hoover) - in good working order, hardly used. Contact Gill 01223 811539

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.

Notes from the Parish Council April Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council took place on Thursday 9th April, chaired by Cllr John Covill and attended by 6 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the public.

Reports

East Cambridgeshire District Council – Cllr Charlotte Cane attended and gave a verbal report.

Operational services. The committee had been looking at next year's budget and the spending to date, noting an overspend on Mepal crematorium and on purchasing black bins.

The new black bins are due for delivery any time now, but are not for use before 1st June. Swaffham Prior's bin collection date will move to Wednesday in June.

Finance and Assets committee. The end of year reports on service delivery have been received. Funds have been set up for inclusive playground grants and for a County Council scheme giving grants of up to £400 to households dependent on oil or LPG heating and receiving means-tested benefits, for payment for oil or LPG. Cllr Cane noted that other schemes are available for households that do not qualify for this one.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that the Parochial Charities also having heating grants available to residents of Reach and Swaffham Prior. Cllr Kent-Phillips also asked if a Local Infrastructure Grant would be considered for a bus shelter? Cllr Cane indicated it was worth looking into.

Cllr Covill asked for a contact to talk to about litter on Black Drove – Cllr Cane to look into.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Cllr Gynn reported that the surface at the foot of the slide in the playground is cracking. The clerk noted that the annual RoSPA playground inspection is due this month and Cllr Kent-Phillips volunteered to check in the meantime.

Cllr Hart asked what plans the Heating Scheme have for the borehole field – is it to return to agricultural use, turned into a community asset, left to go wild? The clerk will pass the question on to Cllr Greenfield for answer at the next meeting.

Cllr Kent-Phillips noted that he will be doing the year end accounts and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and that the PC is due an intermediary audit as the expenditure was over £25,000.00.

Cllr Kent-Phillips also noted that the next PC meeting will start at 7pm, as it is the Annual Parish Council meeting and that the Annual Parish Meeting/Annual Village Assembly is due to take place on 20th May.

Clerk's Report

The letter of support for the Reach Lode Catchment Plan was written and sent.

The Local Government Reorganisation 2nd letter was approved and sent, and an acknowledgement of receipt had been received..

Cemetery safety tests – 8 stones are scheduled for testing. The clerk will post 3

months notice in the Crier, on Facebook and on the cemetery noticeboard as all 8 have no active/living contact details. The PC authorised the clerk and Cemetery Warden to lay down any category 3 markers that posed an imminent danger to the public.

Matters arising from previous minutes.

Cllr Kent-Phillips reported that the replacement defibrillator pads cost £208 including VAT.

Correspondence.

Charlotte Cane MP had emailed to raise awareness of a petition for funds for peat-affected road repairs.

The Cambridge County Council Active Travel Officer emailed to raise awareness of the Close Pass campaign, asking for drivers to leave a 1.5m gap when passing cyclists.

Cllr Jonny Edge (ECDC) emailed circulating the second joint letter of support for option A (Local Government Reorganisation).

East Cambs District Council emailed announcing that the new bins will be delivered between 30th March and 1st June 2026.

Grass-cutting contract.

Cllr Greenfield had emailed to confirm that the increase in the grass-cutting contract for 2026 would be 3%, as had been expected and used for budgetting.

Cllr Greenfield had also suggested the following changes to the grass cutting contract:

- 1) A monthly invoice for £913.75 + VAT for 8 months i.e. March - October,
- 2) The Parish Council has access to their online portal to inspect 'site visit details'
- 3) The PC reconcile the account after each of the June & October Invoices to establish any discrepancies and a credit note is raised, if necessary, in the month of July & November to correct the account before any further invoices are paid.

The PC agreed to all three changes and Cllr Greenfield was authorised to access the portal and manage the contract on the PC's behalf.

Close Pass campaign.

The PC agreed that placing of temporary signage for this campaign would be inappropriate in the village.

Grant application.

The PC rejected a grant application from Ely Food Bank as the scheme does not cover Swaffham Prior and is not exclusively for Swaffham Prior residents.

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

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 14th May 2026 starting at **7pm** at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

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.

Coming up – Coffee & Plant Sale Mornings and Summer Fair!

We'll be hosting Coffee Mornings, Plant Sales, and Craft Sales at the Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion and our Community Garden site in Bottisham over the next few months, and we'd love to welcome as many of you as possible. Please see the details below:

June 17th - Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion (10:45-11:45)

July 6th - Bottisham Community Garden (10:30-12:30)

We're excited to be hosting our Summer Fair on Saturday 13th June 1pm-3pm at our Park End site in Swaffham Bulbeck! There will be food, drinks, stalls, games, music and more! We'd love to see as many of you there as possible!

What have we been up to?

We have enjoyed lots of activities recently including making crafts for Easter and celebrating national days like National Pie Day, World Book Day, St Andrew's Day, St Patrick's Day and of course World Autism Day. One group created an Autism Awareness Rainbow by drawing and painting around their hands to represent differences, celebrating individuality while showing that we are inclusive, this helped to mark World Autism Awareness Day the theme this year was Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value.

Over the last financial year, 49 Learners and Clients across both Services have earned a massive 656 AQA Unit Award Scheme Certificates acknowledging their fantastic work towards education, employment and independent living skills.

The past two months have been especially focused on running, with our supporters taking on a range of inspiring challenges, including the Cambridge Half and the London Marathon. Together, they've raised an incredible £4,267.28 so far!

We Are Hiring!

We are looking for Support Workers to join our Red2Green Team. We have a number of vacancies available. Please visit our website <https://red2green.org/job-vacancies/> for more information on how to apply.

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

Services in May 2026

Sunday 3 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Wednesday 6 May

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online
on Zoom

Sunday 10 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Thursday 14 May – Ascension Day

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode
7.30pm Holy Communion with Cambridge Voices, St Cyriac's,
Swaffham Prior

Sunday 17 May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday 24 May – Pentecost

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

Sunday 31 May – Trinity Sunday

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Lode
6pm Evensong, 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

Dates for Your Diary May 2026

Fri	1	Peaceful and Prayerful Art Group, 1.30-3.30pm, Bottisham Church First 3 Fridays of Month [9]
Mon	4	Reach Fair, 12 noon, Reach [6]
Wed	6	Bookclub, 6pm
Thu	14	PC Meeting, 7pm, VH [29]
Sat	16	VILLAGE FEAST, 12.30-4pm [7]
Mon	18	Made in Dagenham, Newmarket Cinema, 7.30pm [25]
Tue	19	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [17]
Wed	20	Annual Village Assembly, VH, time ? [2]
Fri	22	PoP Litter Pick, 10am, sheds by playpark [6] Crier Copy Deadline
Sun	31	The Wind in the Willows, Waresly Park 3pm [22]

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

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL VILLAGE FEAST
SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026

12.30PM - 4.00PM



ANNUAL EGG-THROWING CONTEST AT 4.00PM

BAR & REFRESHMENTS - BARBEQUE - CREAM TEAS - ICE CREAMS
STALLS - CRAFTS - RAFFLE - CAKE STALL - TOMBOLA - BOWLING
BRIC-A-BRAC - PLANTS - CAN SHY - GURNING - LUCKY DIP
WI STALL - PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT - EMERGENCY VEHICLES
BOOKS JIGSAWS, TOYS - MAJORETTES - CROCKERY SMASHING

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL