

The Mardler

The Newsletter of Swanton Morley Parish Council
Thirtieth Edition March 2015



Improvements to Mill Common

Swanton Morley Parish Council is pleased to be working with the Environment Agency to make improvements to Mill Common. There will be two enhancements to this area. The first will be to locally lower the height of the bank of the river to improve the connectivity between the river and the floodplain. This will make a proportion of the common wetter during high flow events and will increase the suitability of this part of the common for wetland birds such as snipe and duck (this localised flooding will not pose any risk to people or property). The second enhancement is to selectively plant alder trees along part of the river bank. Once established, the alders will enhance the landscape value of the site and contribute to a pattern of light and shade along the channel, locally suppressing vegetation growth and increasing habitat diversity along the reach. They will also provide a nesting site for birds and a food source for mammals, birds and invertebrates. The cost of this project is to be met by the Environment Agency and we look forward to working with them to increase the biodiversity within this area which is open to the public.

Local Elections 2015

2015 is an important time for local people to have their say in the way this village is run. So what can you do to ensure that your voice is heard?

Firstly, and most importantly, make sure you are on the electoral register. This is a list of everyone who is entitled to vote and is held at Breckland District Council. If you need to register you can do so easily on at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. If you are unsure as to whether you are on the register or would like assistance with registering, call Breckland District Council on 01362 656870.

On May 7th, there will be three different types of elections to vote upon.

- 1) **National Elections** – Who would you like as an MP in government to represent you and the area you live in?
- 2) **District Elections** – Who would you like to be elected onto Breckland District Council to represent you and your area? Breckland District Council is responsible for areas such as planning, domestic waste removal, environmental health, housing and collection of council tax and business rates.
- 3) **Parish Elections** – Who would you like to represent this village on the Parish Council? The Parish Council is responsible for assets in the village such as the village hall, the allotments, Gooseberry Hill Playing Field, the village green and the new street lighting stock. They also lobby the District and County Councils and the local MP to ensure that the village has the local services it needs to thrive.

Voting is important, but would you like to really get involved in the running of this village? There will be an important change to the Parish Council at the May elections, in that we will be voting in 9 parish councillors as opposed to the usual 7. This is because our village has grown so much as we have many assets to look after and protect for future generations. If you would like to find out more about what is involved in becoming a parish councillor, please join us for an open evening on 16th March at 7.30pm at the Village Hall for an informal discussion about the role and how you can contribute to your village.



Could you be part of our new Parish Council team? Join us on 16th March at 7.30pm at Swanton Morley Village Hall to find out more!

Parish Litter Pick

A big thank you to the ladies, gentleman and children who braved the snow for our parish litter pick. We were astounded at how mucky our village had become in places. We hope to organise another litter picking event later in the year, but in the meantime we would encourage our parishioners to help uphold the good work done by our volunteers on 17th January and help keep our village clean and tidy. In the meantime, problematic litter can be reported to Breckland District Council on 01362 656870.

Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 20th April at Swanton Morley Village Hall.

This is an opportunity for parishioners to raise any matter affecting the parish of Swanton Morley. Village groups will also be in attendance giving reports about the successes that they have had over the past year. This meeting is an ideal opportunity to find out more about your village and voice your opinion about the way your village is run and the services it provides.

Ask the Council

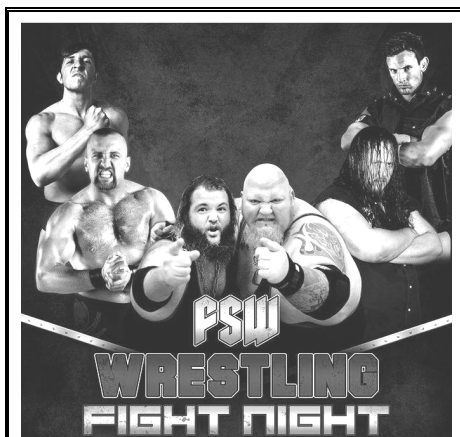
Q. Have you extended the car park at the Gooseberry Hill Play area?

A. Yes we have. Concerns have been raised about the number of cars parked on the road around the park, so we have created a bay to enable more cars to park on the track. Sensible parking is still required though!

Do you have a question you would like to ask the Council? If so, write to the Mardler via the clerk and we will publish the best questions and answers.

Your Parish Councillors are:

	Roger Atterwill 01362 637000/637383	
Keith Tidman 07721 978910	Ben McCall 07907 358819	John Carrick 01362 638302
John Keen 07767 405098	Steve Westbury 01362 637454	Bernie Marsham 01362 637300



For your entertainment, Swanton Morley Village Hall is proud to bring to you the stars of FSW Wrestling!

Date: Saturday 28th March

Time: 7.30pm (doors at 7pm)

Tickets: £10 for adults, £7 for under 14s or £30 for a family ticket (2 adults & 2 children).

Tickets are available via www.fswrestling.co.uk or by calling 07866 796079

Fete Date

Dereham Young Farmers will be holding their annual fete at Swanton Morley Village Hall on Saturday 4th April. There will be a variety of stalls and a selection of livestock to see. They will be raising money for Star Throwers, a charity which helps people affected by cancer. Please come along to support them.

Defibrillator Purchase

The Parish Council has agreed to purchase a defibrillator for the village. This will be located at Swanton Morley Village Hall and accessed via a 999 call to the Norfolk Ambulance Service. The rate of survival of a cardiac arrest is dependent upon time. Brain death starts after only 3 minutes so urgent action is needed, particularly in rural areas where it can take several minutes to get a competently trained person to the scene.

Dog Fouling

As you may have noticed we have a problem with dog fouling in the area again and we need your help to catch whoever is responsible. If you witness anyone failing to clean up after their dog please report them to Animal Warden Services on **07771 617417**.

Dog fouling is not only socially unacceptable; it is also a criminal offence. We are working hard to catch everyone who continues to break the law. We are trying to get as many people as possible to join our fight against dog fouling.

Together we will get these irresponsible people to clean up their act!

For any further information about the Parish Council, or comments and submissions to The Mardler, please contact the clerk, Faye LeBon on 01362 637166, email parishcouncil@swantonmorley.org.uk, check out the website www.swantonmorley.org.uk or write to 32 Humbletoft Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 2RT