

Reg. Charity No 287936

Patron:



### **Chairman**

Good afternoon to our readers especially our members. Just looking at the calendar it shows we are getting closer to Easter and holidays. Our AGM is imminent and as we have a vacant space we would appreciate a member to come and join us.

### **Editor**

At our last meeting we welcomed John Morris, a retired police officer who came to talk to us about the Bobby Scheme for Cambridgeshire. He explained that Bobby Scheme is a small local charity established in 2001 by the Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust to keep older and vulnerable people safe in their homes by improving their home security and reducing crime and the fear of crime. They work entirely on donations and funding. To date they have secured the homes of over 37,000 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Bobby scheme operates with four staff and is based in Yaxley Police Station. The scheme co-ordinator manages the referrals which are received by the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and various Local agencies such as Age UK, the Local authorities and Trading Standards to name but a few.

In this area, there are two Crime Prevention Advisors who visit the homes of

**Peterborough & District**

**Branch**

**NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2024**

victims of crimes who are aged 60 years or over. The police pass the victims' names on to the Bobby Scheme in the first instance and victims are asked by the Bobby Scheme if they would like a visit from the Crime Prevention Advisors. Security devices such as door chains, window alarms, locks, bolts for external mailboxes, spy holes and similar items are supplied and installed on a free of charge basis. (John had bought a selection of items which he displayed on the table. See also picture on back page of Newsletter) People who haven't been involved in a crime can also access the service by contacting the Bobby Service to arrange a visit to their home but they charge for the equipment at £65 plus extra for a ring door chime, key safe and full home full security to be installed. The scheme can be contacted by email -

[iinfo@thebobbyscheme.org](mailto:iinfo@thebobbyscheme.org). by web – [www.thebobbyscheme.org](http://www.thebobbyscheme.org) or by phone - 01480413311 or mobile 07866 602100.

John explained that most burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves so the Bobby scheme aims to make your house less desirable to burgle in the first place. He advised us not to leave keys in locks as burglars can easily reach in the the keys to unlock the door from the outside from the outside. Also if members of family or friends have key to gain access if there was a problem, they would not be able to insert it into the lock on the outside if there was already a key on the inside. Most modern doors have unique keys which are not easily copied

so the best policy is to keep your external doors locked at all times, especially in the summer time when people are inclined to leave doors open.

He also said if rogue traders visit you always say NO, He told us the ABCD mantra. Assume Nothing, Believe No-one, Check and discuss with family or friends before committing to any work that needs carrying out according to the doorstep traders. In this area there is a register called Safe Local Traders which is maintained by a local lady from Holme. All the traders have to have a DBS check and if she gets any bad reports about any of them they are removed from the register.

If a person forgets to lock their door before taking an afternoon nap, John showed us a device which is fitted to the top of the door. As soon as the door is opened it emits a piercing sound which should wake you up. He said the first port of call for most burglars is the bedroom where people store valuable items. He advised us to use different places to hide jewellery such as fake soup tins, baked bean tins and such like. A burglar hasn't got time to search through cupboards, they need to be in and out as quickly as possible.

John advised having low powered lights on timers when you go away on holiday to make your house look as though it is inhabited when it gets dark. Even dummy cameras are a deterrent as the would be burglar doesn't know if it is real or not. Ring doorbells are useful as they can be connected to phones and you can see who is approaching the door

Round the back of houses is very vulnerable because people can't be seen if others are trying to get into your house. He recommended having a lock fitted to the bolt on the gate and security lighting put in place. He also said if there are battery power tools in the house move the batteries into separate areas where the tools are

Continued on the next column.



# Birthday Corner

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE  
FOLLOWING MEMBERS FOR  
APRIL 2024**

**05 Michael Collins  
05 Bernie Gourlay &  
07 Harold Joyce  
11 Susan Nightingale  
19 Jean Lawson  
28 Gloria Coster**

**& Denotes Special Day**

no good without the batteries. Good locks on the doors are also a necessity. He said that if you buy a safe key make sure it is a good quality one that can't be prised open easily.

He finished his very interesting talk by distributing leaflets with the information about the scheme. Our members gave John a round of applause.

## MONTHLY LUNCHES

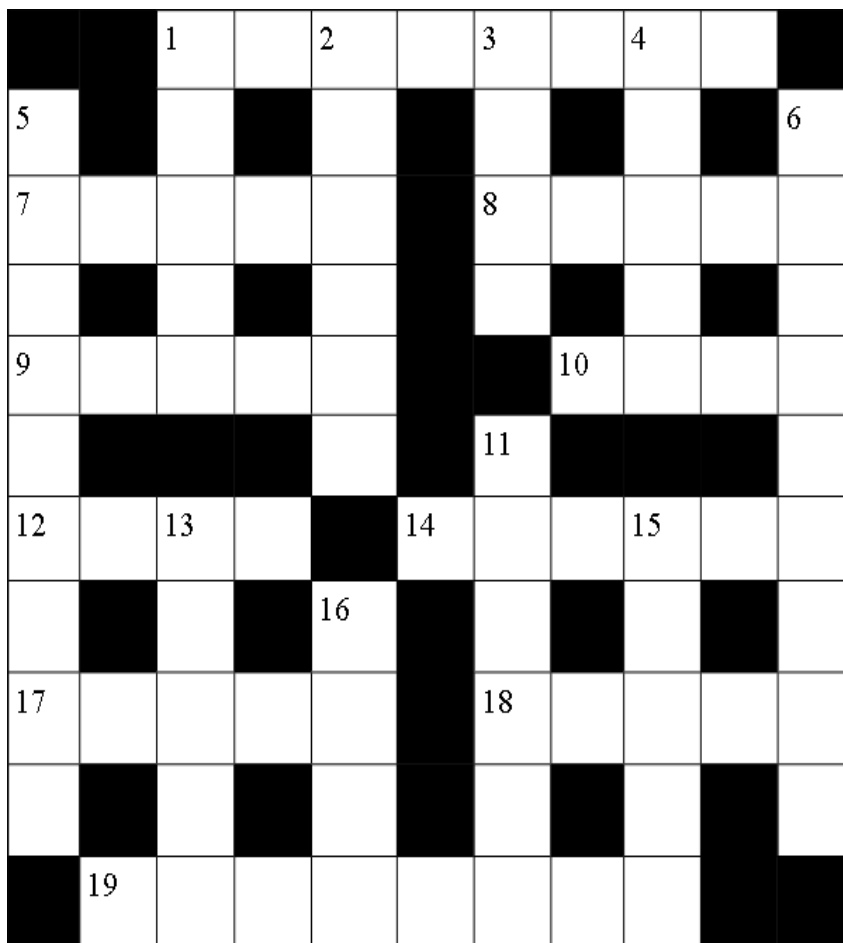
**Due to holidays the next  
lunch has been  
cancelled.  
Future details will be  
circulated.**

**Date of Next Meeting -**

**2.15pm April 24th 2024  
in St Andrew's Church Hall**

**Speaker - Kew Gardens  
by Gill Walsh**

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### MARCH CLUES

#### Clues across

1. To continue      7. Remote areas      8. May not happen  
 9. Very pale with shock      10. Ships ropes  
 12. Skeleton of 3.2m years old      14. Joins with 3 down  
 17. Next month      18. Not a man      19. Last years final month

#### Clues Down

1. This one      2. Not working      3. With 14 across first  
 4. An alloy of iron and nickel      5. Shape of leaf      6. Makes lighter  
 11. Made by flies      13. Cut up      15. Bone in leg  
 16. Stick things together

### February Answers

#### Clues across

1. Forensic      2. Ascot      3. Optic      8. Optic      9. Hosta  
 10. Cove      12. Lire      14. Addict      17. Gable  
 18. Panes      19. Analyser

#### Clues Down

1. Facts      2. Ratbag      3. Noon      4. Intro      5. Pathology  
 6. Scientist      11. Adapts      13. Robin      15. Inner  
 15. Heal

### **Branch Officers and Committee 2023-2024**

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