

July/August 2024



THE
Cresset



News, views and what's on, in and around Bottisham



Village Litter Picks 2024

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looking after our wildlife

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Starting Location	Date	Month
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	13	July
Queens Court Care Home	10	August
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	September
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	October
Queens Court Care Home	16	November
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	December

Further Information:

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am

Ways to keep in touch with updates:

- ✓ Join the [Bottisham Village Litter Pick WhatsApp Group](#)
- ✓ Visit either the [Bottisham Events Facebook Page](#)
- ✓ Visit the [Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page](#)

Welcome to the Summer Editorial in this two-month edition of The Cresset.

School holiday time approaching and families will be planning not only where they might be going as a family, but also what the children are to do over their 6-week break.

As a kid I only remember the weather being good and spending most of my days out either playing in the street or on my bike. We didn't have a telly, personal computers hadn't been invented, and indeed we didn't have a family car until I was about 12 years old. Unlike today I don't remember having to be entertained with things done to keep us entertained. We did it ourselves, if left to it, without ever getting into serious trouble.

Occasionally my dad would borrow from our neighbour, Mr. Mackay, his Austin A40 Somerset and we would have a run out with picnic basket in the boot.

Our family holiday every year was to the Northwest coast by train to Mallaig on the very scenic line now famous as the Hogwarts Express route! To get to the station in Glasgow, where we boarded the train, involved getting up at 5.00am., then a pre-booked taxi from the house at 6.00am.! All very exciting for a 5-year-old.

Another regular event and not just in the Summer was when, as a bit older, we used to go to the cinema on a Saturday morning to what was known as the ABC Minors, where a couple of films would be shown to an enthusiastic but noisy audience. The programmes consisted of cartoons, regular films and serials to encouraged us to go along the following Saturday. All for 6d. That's 21/2p in today's money. But that took about half of my pocket money! We would recoup some of that from collecting discarded lemonade bottles and returning them to the local cafe to get the deposit back. Happy days.

Last month I was honoured to be involved with the small gathering of villagers when we raised the flag remembering those who were in Normandy on what we know as D-Day 1944, particularly those who gave their lives in that struggle, including three from Bottisham. They were Captain Edward Thomas Jenyns aged 33, and two USAF pilots who flew from RAF Bottisham. 1st LT Lawrence B Perry, and Major George L Merrit. Lest we forget.

You will read elsewhere about what a success the village event day was back at the beginning of June. It was designed to follow up on the great day we had at King Charles 3rd's coronation weekend last year.

Well, all reports indicate it was even better than that, with success reported from all participants. Of course, it was helped with the weather being reasonably good and dry. One wonders what it would have been like if it had poured with rain this year and last. A washout I suspect.

Your magazine this month contains lots of detail of various events which are happening over the next two months and also some interesting and informative articles to read. Gerry 'bird brain' Daish has his fascinating insight into the avian world with a focus on the Cuckoo. I've heard them, but never seen one. It reminds me of the time we were staying on Skye in a cottage by the shore with the silence of the evening being broken loudly by at least two, if not more Cuckoos, on an island just offshore holding forth for ages. Mesmerising!

Our cover picture this month was taken by Neil Winkcup in the field behind Beechwood Ave.

Have a great summer and there will be more from me in September.

Peter W.



News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

The day is nearly upon us! After a vacancy lasting 18 months our new vicar Rev Canon Max Osborne will be taking our next Holy Communion Service on Sunday July 7th at 10.30am. Why not come along, give him a welcome and enjoy coffee, tea and biscuits afterwards as well as a good chat! Max and his family will be moving into the new vicarage towards the end of July following which they will become fully integrated members of Bottisham Society. We are sure that a new and exciting era will then be starting in Bottisham and the Anglesey Benefice. Our Morning Prayer service on 21st July will as usual be led by Sarah Maxwell



Those of you who pass through the churchyard will have noticed scaffolding up recently. Work on the south aisle roof has revealed much more damage than initially suspected with not only several splits in the lead covering but some rotting roof boards and possible rot in a rafter. However, after consultation with some other members of the PCC work to rectify this damage was approved and hopefully when you read this it will have been completed. Around the other side of the church the rendering on the north chancel buttress was found to be damaged and dangerous. This has now been removed and rectification of the brick work and tiling here is also in hand. Thankfully the monies raised from your generous giving to our Easter Appeal will largely cover this work.

We hope you enjoyed viewing the craft on display in the church during the Village celebrations on June 8th and we thank Alison Martin for coordinating this.

An exciting new venture has started. Ruth Blundell is leading a 'Peaceful Prayerful Art Group' on a Thursday morning in church from 10.30 - 12 Noon. This is for anyone over the age of sixteen and will cater for all skill levels. For further details why not contact Ruth ruthblundell@hotmail.com, or just turn up and see what is happening?

Our regular Toddler Group continues to meet on a Tuesday morning in the church at 9am in term time and would welcome more parents and children to play and chat with our regulars. Why not come along and try it out and have a chat over coffee and biscuits?

Our services for August will follow our usual pattern with Rev Max Osborne leading Holy Communion on 4th August and Sarah Maxwell our Morning Prayer on 18th August.

We hope to see you soon at one of our services.

Stuart Field, Churchwarden.

GARDEN HELP WANTED

Hi. I have an elderly housebound relative in Bottisham. Is there anyone in Bottisham who does a bit of odd handy services, my relative needs the grass and hedge cutting, nothing fancy no beds to look after, if someone could email me, I could give them more details and see what they think, I live in March so only get there at odd times (trains permitting). I am also in the senior league. As my relative lives on their own, I am mindful of how vulnerable they are.

Kind regards - Jenny

Contents

Parish Council Report.....	7 & 9	Community Herb Bed News.....	25
Planning Notes.....	9	Anglesey Group Mothers' Union	27
News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group	13	Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG).....	29
BWG	15	Letter	29
East Anglian Air Ambulance	17	Public Transport Matters	31 & 33
Bottisham Community Library Association.....	17	Letter	33
Bottisham WI.....	19	Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)	35
Bottisham Bird Brain.....	21 & 23	Anglesey Abbey	37
Devil's Dyke Morris Men	23	Sales, Wants and Swaps.....	38
Bottisham and District Gardening Club.....	25	Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club.....	39



Art Materials supplied

Thursdays 10.30am-12pm
in JULY 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
(no group in August)

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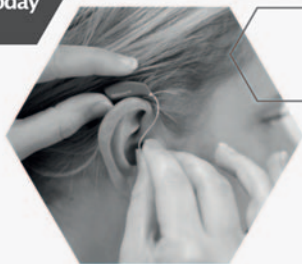
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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

JULY

Wed 3rd	8pm	C by C- online via Zoom
Sun 7th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Sun 14th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion - Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship - Swaffham Prior
Sun 21st	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer - Quy
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer - Bottisham
Sun 28th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Swaffham Prior

AUGUST

Sun 4th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Wed 7th	8pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) - online via Zoom
Sun 11th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion - Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship/Matins - Swaffham Prior
Sun 18th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer - Quy
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer - Bottisham
Sun 25th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Swaffham Prior
Every Thurs	10.30am	Holy Communion - Lode

Please check the Church notice board for any changes to these details,
or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk, which is also the address to request the Zoom link.
You are very welcome to attend any of these services.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 August.

Please send material to the editor at BottishamCresset@gmail.com



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Parish Council Report

The next full council meeting will be held by on 1st July 2024, 7.30pm at the Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. Please note that the Clerk to the council does not keep regular office hours. Replies to emails and phone calls will be attended to as soon as is practicable.

I am writing this following a very successful VILLAGE CELEBRATION on 8th June. After a rather gloomy start we had a good dose of sunshine as the afternoon progressed - which was very welcome. The Parish Council were pleased to be able to make a grant to help the event to happen. However the event was largely co-ordinated by the Sports and Social Club - so I would like to give full credit to them for all the hard work that went in to making the day happen. Thank you too to all the other organisations, volunteers, cake makers and exhibitors who made such an important contribution to the success of the event.

Earlier in the week, 6th June, a number of residents gathered at the village flag pole to conduct a solemn ceremony. This was to raise a special D Day flag in memory and to give thanks for the brave servicemen from so many nations, who gave their lives 80 years ago to ensure our freedom. The ceremony was led by our Chair, Cllr Ogborn, and the flag raised by Mr. Peter Walker representing the Royal British Legion. A big thank you to volunteers from the Bottisham Airfield Museum, who added to the occasion with two World War II jeeps. During the ceremony it was recalled that a member of a local family (Captain Edward Thomas Richard Jenyns) lost his life in the invasion, as well as two members of the USAAF flying from Bottisham 1st LT Lawrence B Perry and Major George L Merrit.

Now to report on other matters from this past month.

MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

For logistical reasons this was delayed until the middle of the month and constituted our Annual Meeting, at which Chairs are re-appointed and membership of the various Council working groups agreed. The current Chair Cllr Ogborn and Vice-Chairs, Cllrs Wilson and Cundell, were reappointed.

It was also the meeting at which the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) is normally approved. Unfortunately, due to my unplanned absence through ill health, it was not possible to resolve some of the questions Cllrs were raising. No meeting had been planned for June, due to the late May meeting. However, a decision was then taken to have a brief emergency meeting on 12th June after my return from annual leave, to review and approve the AGAR.

At the meeting the council approved a formal letter from the Council to the Mayor giving our support to the proposed new bus services for Bottisham and local villages. Thank you to all residents who also wrote to the Mayor. Progress looks positive and members of the Council are attending an online CPCA consultation about the plans on 12th June.

After a furious 12 months we are experiencing a welcome “lull”, as developments with all our projects are now in the hands of lawyers or administrators - and so developments are largely out of our hands. Thus we were also able to turn our mind our mind to such routine matters as to how to discourage youngsters from dangerously climbing on the bus shelter roof and other upgrades to its fabric.

Continued on page 9

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OTHER MATTERS

The trees in the village cemetery have been inspected by a tree surgeon and their recommendations will be reviewed at the July Council meeting.

The Parish Council owns (and pays the electricity bill) for 8 lamp posts around the village. Several of these are very old and need replacing to allow use of more efficient LED lights. The works will be completed during June. One of the lights is completely surrounded by a huge bush and we have commissioned a local handyman to remove this before-hand. He has also cleared away a heavy infestation of ivy that was engulfing the cemetery shed!!

Our solicitor has just submitted a revised draft legal agreement to Ridge Clean Energy in relation to the Community Benefit that Bottisham, Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham/Six Mile Bottom will receive once the solar park is operational. We have time to get this right, as we are still some way off from the site becoming operational, with agreement yet to be reached on the route for connection to the grid.

THOMAS CHRISTIAN WAY MEMORIAL

Bottisham was significantly impacted during the war by the arrival of a large number of US personnel operating out of the air base to the south of the village. August this year marks the passing of Col. Thomas Christian, commander of the 361st Fighter Group, who lost his life in action. Many of you will be aware of the memorial at the entrance to Thomas Christian Way unveiled by his daughter in 1988. Over the years local residents have sought to keep it clean but, after many years' weathering, it is looking a little tired. So we are grateful to volunteers from the Bottisham Airfield Museum, who have offered to carry out some cleaning, repointing and repainting of the lettering at no cost to the village.

The Airfield Museum are planning a brief rededication ceremony at the memorial on 10th August at 3 pm. All residents are welcome to attend.

If you need any further information relating to anything raised in this report or anything you wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, then please do not hesitate to contact me via email, clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk or via phone 07369248998.

Sam Chambers-Turner, Clerk to the Council

Planning Notes

APPLICATIONS

182/FUL 19 Pound Close Bottisham Alterations to the ground floor layout to create an enlarged kitchen and study. Extension to porch. Replace flat roof with pitched roof. Install solar panels and rooflights.

24/00243/TCON Dunkeld 70 Tunbridge Lane. To comply with Condition 6 (Tree Topping, Lopping & Felling) of Decision Notice 98/00604/FUL

24/00271/FUL 41 Beechwood Avenue. Single storey front extension small ground floor extension

24/00404/CCA Bottisham Primary School Beechwood Avenue Bottisham. The retention of a 7-bay mobile classroom period with the retention of 2 scooter pads. A 4-year extension to the original agreement.

24/00328/FUL Rothbury Cottage 122 High Street Bottisham. Single storey side ground floor extension to existing dwelling.

REFUSALS

23/00887/FUL Spring Hall, Newmarket Road. Change of use of barn to events venue – retrospective. Unable to use/hold barn for events but can apply for stand-alone/individual licence for 1 event.



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District Councillors' Report

The Council is running a campaign to support people suffering from domestic abuse. Their staff and Councillors have been trained so that they can help anyone who 'asks for Ani' find the help and support which they need. Unfortunately, there tends to be an uplift in domestic violence during major football tournaments. If you are aware of anyone who might need help, please direct them to the Police and the Council – there is help available for them.

The Operational Services Committee agreed the Council's Vulnerable community strategy. Charlotte asked why no formal assessment had been carried out of disabled parking spaces across the district, why restrictions on disabled spaces ceased in the evenings, and how disabled parking spaces were enforced. Answers were unavailable at the meeting. After the meeting the Council simply confirmed that it had not carried out a survey and that it accepted no responsibility for on-street parking.

The budget for the Health & Wellbeing strategy was confirmed to be just £5,000, and questions were asked whether this was sufficient for the actions in the strategy, and what the service could do with more money.

The ECTC business plan for 2024/5 was approved by a majority. Charlotte, John and colleagues voted against the plan but were defeated. The company is not delivering more than thirty per cent affordable housing, which is what is required of any commercial developer, and it is not delivering a surplus for the council.

Hedgehogs were chosen by public vote to have their own Supplementary Planning Document. This proposed policy contains a number of measures such as creating 'hedgehog highways' via gardens through simple measures such as small holes created at the bottom of fences. For larger developments, the policy seeks wider habitat creation suitable for hedgehogs.

The Council unanimously agreed a motion, proposed by Cllr Chika Akinwale, recognising the essential role of play in child development. The motion also highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for outdoor play that can be accessed by all children, including those with mobility disabilities, such as wheelchair users.

The council will now carry out an independent audit of all 27 playgrounds it maintains, which provide a range of facilities for toddlers, juniors and youths. It will also offer Parish Councils the chance to have their playgrounds audited.

Once complete, the council will develop an inclusive Playground Strategy which looks at what can be achieved in the short, medium and long term, explore possible funding opportunities and create a toolkit to help deliver improvements which will be made when the existing equipment needs replacing.

The council has also agreed to work closely with its planning department to encourage Inclusive Playgrounds into the planning and approval processes for new developments. It will also explore the feasibility of developing a planning policy, through the new Local Plan, to include a requirement to deliver Inclusive Playgrounds.

Our next Councillors' Surgery will be on Tuesday 23 July at 6.30pm in Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion. We will not be holding a surgery in August, but you can always contact us directly charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk 07976 607512, john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk 07942 685599



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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

PRACTICE UPDATE

Appointment Data: Unfortunately we had 28 appointments in May where patients did not attend, this equated to 6.75 hours. We appreciate that there will always be some circumstances which prevent patients from attending appointments but we request that if you are unable to attend, please let us know so that we can reallocate the appointment to another patient.

Dispensary: May has been a challenging month for the team, which unfortunately continues. For a period in the month we had one full time and one part time vacancy, as well as some sickness, in an already small team. Whilst we continue trying to recruit to the part time position, we were successful in appointing Matteo and would like you to join us in welcoming him to the team. As we work through these issues, your continued patience is requested and as always, is appreciated.

Our Multidisciplinary Team: Did you know that you do not always need to see a GP, we have team members that can diagnose, prescribe and if necessary make hospital referrals for some illnesses / conditions

First Contact Physiotherapists provide patients with expert diagnosis and treatment for musculoskeletal conditions and can prevent the need for referral to hospital.

Paramedics can provide advice, help assess and triage calls from patients, make home visits for urgent assessment and manage minor illness.

Advanced Nurse Practitioners can diagnose and treat certain health conditions, order tests and interpret results, prescribe some medications and make hospital referrals.

Practice Nurses can assess minor injuries, provide support with long term conditions and family planning / sexual health advice.

COVID 19: we request that if you have, or suspect you may have Covid 19, please wear a mask and let the team know. Whilst we will always care for our patients we also have a duty to protect our teams, which in turn will allow us to maintain services. Please see attached link with advice from the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>.

Patient Participation Group Meeting: Dr Thomas Shackleton will give a presentation at the meeting scheduled for September, subject yet to be determined. The meeting will start at 6:30pm and will be held in the waiting room, all patients of the practice are welcome.

Memorial Tree: You may have noticed that unfortunately we have lost one of our memorial trees. We have been advised that this was likely due to the stress of the recent cold winters and will be removed as soon as possible.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 August.

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Bottisham Working Group

Dear Resident,

In last month's Cresset, the Bottisham Working Group, or BWG, outlined the reasons for embarking upon a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Bottisham and they updated you on progress so far. We also referred to the analysis of the data collected in the 2023 Village Consultation. This consultation has helped shape a collective Community Vision for our village which is as follows:

“This Neighbourhood Plan:

Reflects the desire of our community for future development that, as far as possible, meets the needs and aspirations of those who live and work here now and in the decades to come. The community accepts the need for housing development as the population expands, but wishes to see this take place in a manner that maintains and enhances the character and vibrancy of our village.

Vision Objective:

The primary objective is to maintain Bottisham's rural aesthetic by ensuring all development contributes positively to the community and reflects the key concerns and issues brought to us through community consultation. This means development that prioritises smaller properties within a better balanced housing mix, whilst also preserving our open green spaces, sweeping countryside vistas, trees, hedgerows and dark skies.

It means aligning future development with climate change, water management and pollution free streams and rivers. It also means development that positively contributes to the provision of schooling, play, health, transport, parking, road safety, walking, cycling, technology, employment and other needs of our diverse and growing population.

A Vision for Bottisham - 2025 to 2035:

Over the next decade we want to see our respected countryside village - with its strong sense of heritage, community and historic charm - developed in a sensitive way that protects and enhances its pastoral characteristic and all that this relates to, whilst also matching the diverse needs of a 21st century community.

We want Bottisham to be a safe, harmonious village with open green spaces and a sustainable infrastructure. We want protection for the preservation of our biodiversity and for our Local Green Spaces, Green Belt and Conservation Area.

Collectively to be providing a good quality of life, delivered through a balanced housing mix that reflects a local need rather than a district shortfall. But foremost, where our entire village population feels valued and connected.”

The NP is a work in progress, and will be for many months, so there will be adjustments and fine tuning to meet the measures set by East Cambs District Council as we progress. Only when ECDC sanction the NP will it be put to residents to vote in a formal referendum. However, it is the intent of the BWG to keep the village informed of progress using public meetings, the Cresset Magazine, the Parish Council Website and through the medium of social media.

BWG

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East Anglian Air Ambulance



Recent screenings of Air Ambulance ER will have brought home to viewers the importance of clinical intervention at the scene of an incident within the first hour. Many survivors openly admit that, were it not for that crucial treatment, their lives, if they had stayed alive, would have changed significantly.

To all who regularly support EAAA a HUGE 'thank you' - without it we could not do the work we do. Also, a very special 'thank you' to everyone who supported us at Bottisham's Village Fun Day - to those who slaved over stoves to bake cakes, to those who served teas, coffees, cakes etc and those who came to have 'tea' and donated so generously - THANK YOU again. You helped to raise over £460 - a tremendous result.

As usual, the objective of articles in The Cresset is to maintain awareness and to promote support for EAAA, both financial and personal. If you have time on your hands and would enjoy being part of a team please do get in touch - either by emailing info@eaaa.org.uk or online to www.eaaa.org.uk

Together - we help save lives.

Michael White

Bottisham Community Library Association

The May Bank holiday books and jigsaws sale was well supported raising nearly £90, a welcome addition to our funds and also a good way of making room at the Library for the many donations we have received. We had to clear away early as the fine weather only lasted until 11.30. Thank you to all the helpers and those who bought books.

Lego Club dates are 13th July, 17th August, 14th September and 12th October. Thanks to Laura Overton for running this club. This starts at 10.30.

Barbara Walden will run the Rhyme and Story time sessions on the same dates starting on 13th July (thank you).

We have a new volunteer after my request last month who is currently undergoing DBS checks but would welcome more new volunteers to help run sessions for 2 or 3 opening periods each month. The more the merrier.

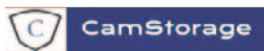
Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 16th July at 7.00pm in the library please note in your diaries. We are looking for a speaker at the moment.

The summer reading challenge this year is open for pre school and primary age of all reading abilities and its theme is Marvelous Makers.

Please note that urgent electrical work is being carried out at the college during the summer holiday. there will be no power for 2 or 3 days in the week starting 23rd July.

We shall do our best and operate from the foyer if necessary. please see notices in the library and on facebook for further details.

Sylvia Overton



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At our May meeting Angela, accompanied by Dory, her dog, gave a most interesting talk about Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. The organisation was founded in 1982 by Bruce Fogle (Ben Fogle's father) and Princess Anne became patron in 1992. The charity trains a variety of breeds including labradors, cockapoos, poodles and spaniels. Whilst working the dogs wear a distinctive jacket so that it's easy for other people to identify them and see what they're doing. The dogs are able to offer support for not only for hearing but also for support and as companion animals making them ideal for helping with anxiety, loneliness and depression. After initial 'soft' training as puppies when they're placed with volunteers they receive further training in the home and out and about in the community. If the dog hears an alarm it will nudge its owner then lie flat on the floor to alert the owner. Dogs are trained to remain very calm when they're wearing their jackets but become more playful, just like any other dog, once the jacket is taken off and they're not working.

It's possible to visit the breeding centre in Oxfordshire to learn more about the dogs and their training. Once somebody is accepted to have a hearing dog they have to undertake a week's training, learning the commands, rules and bonding with the dog. The dogs then retire at the age of 11.

As the charity receives no government funding it is reliant on a wide variety of fundraising methods and the help of volunteers for training. Unfortunately, there are never enough trained dogs for all those who would like to have one – 900 people enquired in 2023. There is no waiting list so fully-trained dogs are only placed as they become available. Funding of £12 million is required each year for the charity; lifetime training for a dog costs £40,000.

At the end of the talk Angela gave us a very useful, quick lesson in British Sign Language (BSL) to help us when we meet people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th July with Alan Gray 'You Cannot Be Serious. Tales of a Wimbledon Empire'. This meeting will be open to members and non-members alike so do please come and join us. 7.30 pm in the Main Room at the Sports and Social Club. £5 for non-members to include a glass of wine or soft drink for everyone.

A summer lunch for members at Newmarket Golf Club has been arranged for Thursday 25th July.

On Wednesday 28th August we shall be visiting Bottisham Airfield Museum in the afternoon for a tour followed by tea and cake.

Regular monthly meetings take place in the Poppy Room at the Sports and Social Club on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Visitors are most welcome.

Jennifer Clark



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 August.

Please send material to the editor at BottishamCresset@gmail.com



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Bottisham Bird Brain

You may have noticed that there is no particular pattern among the birds I chose to feature in this column and that's because, firstly, I like to remind everyone what a wonderful spectrum of species we enjoy in our corner of the world and, secondly, I often wait until near the copy deadline day to decide, in case anything interesting catches my eye. Well, it was the first week of June when my mind was made up for July's edition!



I finally heard my first Willow Warbler of the year as I was labouring up the hill on my bike towards West Wratting. I was so happy to hear that melodious, descending strain, I smiled through the pain all the way to the top. (See the May issue for the feature on this bird.) Then, the very next day I was just about to cross the footbridge at Swaffham Bulbeck Lode, when a Cuckoo announced itself, facing outwards from a typical ten o'clock position in a tree by the side of the water. One look at me, and it flew off downstream to "cuckoo" for all it was worth at a 'safe' distance!

Now, most people will have heard a Cuckoo, often from a considerable distance, but I wonder how many of you have actually seen one? With over 18,000 pairs in the UK, you might think Cuckoos would be a common sight, but they have suffered a severe decline in recent decades – 65% loss since the early 1980s. Ongoing research has not satisfactorily explained this yet, but it seems that factors include reduced insect populations – especially hairy caterpillars – during the breeding season, and deterioration of conditions in sub-Saharan wintering grounds and migrations routes.

Cuckoos don't spend a lot of time out in the open and, when they do fly, one may be forgiven for thinking this Kestrel-sized bird was another bird of prey! Indeed, other birds occasionally take to 'mobbing' cuckoos for this reason! With its darkish plumage, long tail and slim, pointed wings, it would not be unreasonable to mistake a Cuckoo for a hawk, but it has a style of flying which is diagnostic if you get a sustained look! Even at rest, the bird has a sort of low-slung appearance and, in flight, its wings appear not to flap above the horizontal. And fortunately for us, there is no other bird with this trait! Nor is there any other bird with the Cuckoo's courtship call, of course; but remember – it is only the grey male bird that cuckoos; the brown female responds with a lower, bubbling trill.

Our Cuckoo, the European Cuckoo – *Cuculus canorus* – is a member of the order Cuculiformes, a worldwide family which (surprisingly enough) includes the American Roadrunner among others! And it belongs to a sub-family (Cuculinae) of what are known as 'brood parasites'. I hardly need to mention that this means they do not rear their own young but the female lays her eggs, one at a time, in the nests of other birds, with Meadow Pipits, Dunnocks and Reed Warblers among the favoured hosts. But records show that over 50 different species have found themselves fostering Cuckoos!

The adult birds arrive from Africa during April and the male is a free agent after mating while the female gets busy selecting a briefly unattended nest. She is most likely to choose

(Continued on page 23)

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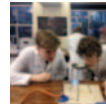
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(Continued from page 21)

the nest of the species in which she, herself, was reared and this leads to a degree of ‘egg mimicry’ where the Cuckoo’s egg closely resembles that of the host. She will eat or destroy an egg in the nest to make room and the host bird will be completely unaware of the foreigner. Even when there is no mimicry, most victims will accept the new egg as their own anyway. The female repeats this process a dozen or more times throughout her territory before both she and the male migrate back to the southern hemisphere in July or August.

Next, comes the really clever bit... upon hatching after only about 12 days, the baby Cuckoo will squirm underneath the other eggs in the nest and, using a hollow in its back, force them out of the nest to leave itself as the sole survivor. If the timings are slightly wrong and any of the host’s eggs actually hatch first, the Cuckoo will either oust them or simply insist on receiving all the food. Now the host birds will feed the imposter until it dwarfs its foster parents (you can find lots of photos of Dunnocks feeding young Cuckoos, standing on the fledgling’s back!) and drives them towards starvation, such is its voracious appetite and rapid growth. The Cuckoo leaves the nest after three weeks but will still demand to be fed for up to a further fortnight before it becomes independent.

Like many of the miracles of evolution in the natural world, the Cuckoo’s story is one of magnificent ingenuity and brutality. I guess this (together with its arrival supposedly heralding the onset of summer) is why it has a special place in various cultures as a sacred creature and how it has inspired folklore, literature and music over the centuries. In Greek mythology, Zeus transformed himself into a Cuckoo in order to seduce the goddess Hera; in India the Cuckoo is associated with desire and longing; and similarly, in Japan, it symbolises unrequited love. Songs featuring this fascinating bird are too numerous to mention, so I’ll leave you to enjoy your summer with the words of Shakespeare.

See you in September.

TTFN - Gerry Daish

The cuckoo then, on every tree,
Mocks married men; for thus sings he,
“Cuckoo;

Cuckoo, cuckoo!” O, word of fear,
Unpleasing to a married ear!

From the song in ‘Love’s Labours Lost’ – William Shakespeare

Devil's Dyke Morris Men

Your local Morris group, Devil's Dyke Morris Men, will be dancing outside **The Bell at 7:45pm on Thursday 19th September**. We hope some of the residents of Bottisham will be able to watch our performance and maybe join in!

Morris Dance is a great way to keep fit, meet others and helps to keep an ancient tradition alive. Its also free to join and our practice sessions at Bottisham Scout Hut are open to all. For more information, contact: Gordon Heald on 01223 833983 or bagman@devilsdykemmen.org.uk or visit www.devilsdykemmen.org.uk



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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Our speaker in May was Tim Sparks who is part of the Phenology Network and the Woodland Trust project Natures Calendar. Phenology is the study of the timing of the seasons from records regularly checked for many years and is part of the research into climate change. Robert Marsham and later his family kept copious notes from 1736 until 1958 of the first showing of wood anemone, snowdrops, hawthorn blossom, the first leafing of trees and turnips (he came from Norfolk) and this has shown 2\3 months difference over the period.

He showed pictures of the Annual Remembrance service at the Cenotaph which showed the trees in leaf now compared with 70 years ago. He himself records when his rhubarb is ready to be made into crumble and this is earlier each year (late in 2013 very early in 2011). We obviously remember the harsh winter of 1962 and the drought in 2022 but forget the in between times and this is why regular recording is necessary.

There are unseasonal oddities with daffodils in bloom on Christmas day and horse chestnut in leaf in January. The date for Thriplow daffodil weekend is fixed 18 months in advance. In 1969 it was late April now it is late March.

In Alaska melt dates for the frozen river have advanced by a week since 1917, Kyoto's famous flowering cherry trees have advanced 3 weeks in 70 years and Russia which normally has 5 months snow cover had no snow in 2023!! I think we can say that climate change is happening. You can find more Information on www.naturescalendarwoodlandtrust.org.uk.

Our plant stall on May 25th went well (until the rain at 11.30) and raised a welcome £103 for our funds.

We shall be having our summer party on 23rd July in the Poppy room and members are to bring a rose for the Don Bedford Rose competition.

No meeting in August.

Sylvia Overton

Community Herb Bed News

“Today I met with Jan to give the community herb beds a good tidy. We were pleased with our efforts and hope that residents will take a snip of herbs to use for their dinner.”

Sarah Brown



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Please send material to the editor at BottishamCresset@gmail.com



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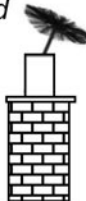
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At our May meeting, members were delighted to once again welcome Wendy Lovell as our guest speaker. Wendy has been a regular visitor and guest speaker for a number of years and again she gave us a very light hearted and entertaining talk on preparing for the Flower Festival in her local church, Duston United Reformed Church. The church is well positioned (in what the locals still call 'the village', but is now part of Northampton) opposite the pub and bakers. The church building celebrated its 150th year in 1977 and the first Flower Festival with the theme '150 year long, 150 years strong' was organised as part of the celebrations. Every year since then up until the Covid outbreak a Flower Festival has been held on the first weekend in March. With the pandemic lockdown not happening until mid-2020, the festival was able to go ahead as planned. The first post pandemic festival was held last year.

Plans begin to be drawn up in the autumn and before Christmas arrangers are given the title of their display. Luckily, there is a very helpful florist next to the church which gives a 15 -20 percent discount. A much-welcomed gesture as approximately £1,700 worth of flowers are used for the festival. Preparations begin on the Wednesday, with Boys Brigade moving tables and chairs to their designated places and general setting up. Flowers arrive on the Wednesday evening and flower arranging beings in earnest on the Thursday for the all-day Saturday and Sunday afternoon event. There is no entry charge, but opportunity given for donations. Main income is from refreshments served: coffee and scone 10 - 11.30am, lunches of salads and jacket potatoes from 12 noon, afternoon teas 2-4pm. On average 600 people visit each year, and on the Saturday £6,000 to £7,000 is raised.;

There have been numerous festival themes over the years, and some more than once. These include: Wedding Anniversaries; Men of the Bible; Animals of the Bible; London Shows; Music to name but a few. Last year the theme was Coronation and Commonwealth Realms to celebrate the coronation of HM King Charles III.

Wendy explained that the main altar platform in the church is always dedicated to a church related topic whatever the festival theme is. One of the difficulties is coming up with the theme, and some themes are very difficult to depict, one of them being hymns. As the years have gone by the organising gets easier, but it gets more difficult to meet expectations of surpassing previous festivals.

As always Wendy had some humorous tales to tell one being the tacking up of drapes, which at the very first festival organisers were weary as to whether tacks should be put into the church woodwork. Wendy had said "It will be alright". It is now a standing joke, whenever tacks are being put in someone always says "Wendy says it will be alright"!

Last year the Boys Brigade celebrated their centenary by setting themselves 100 challenges, one of which was to do a display for the festival, which they accomplished magnificently. Wendy concluded by expressing how important it is to have a good team of workers and knowing they will complete the task(s) they are given. This makes for a most enjoyable and successful event. During tea members enjoyed browsing through Wendy's collection of festival photographs.

Our summer meetings will be Afternoon Tea on 18th July, and outing to Ely Cathedral on Friday 9th August for Mary Sumner Day Service and Mothers' Union Banner Exhibition.

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Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)

The museum has been lucky with the weather for our events so far this year. The May 19th car show was a great start to our event calendar with 120 cars on show, and the MG Owners club was blessed with a good day with 60 MGs attending their annual picnic on June 2nd.

We are now planning for Bottisham At war/Forties weekend, 6th and 7th of July. Full details and advance tickets are available on our website Bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk

Warning, there will be some gunfire and loud bangs on both days.

On the 27th of May, I had the honour of laying a wreath on US Memorial Day at the American cemetery Madingley in memory of the 361st fighter group USAAF, that operated from Bottisham during the second World War.

On 6th June we were invited to attend the Bottisham D-day Flag raising ceremony opposite the church. A number of us in military uniforms travelled in two WW2 vintage jeeps. At eleven a.m. we were joined by eight Dutch reenactors in two more jeeps and went to Hilton Park care centre where about 20 residents were sitting outside waiting for us.

One lady in particular we went to see was Dorothy, who is 104 years old and a war veteran who served at Bletchley Park code breaking centre in WW2. The residents were all happy to see us and waved union Jack flags.

After half an hour we went to Bottisham Hall, which served as the officer's headquarters in WW2. We were invited to look round inside and what a privilege that was, I would like to thank Roger Jenyns for making it possible.

On Sat 10th August we shall be having a small event to remember the life of Col. Thomas Christian on the 80th anniversary of his passing which include a re-dedication of the of the memorial in Thomas Christian Way at 3pm

On 11th August the museum is holding our second classic car and bike show. Details on our website along with more helicopter flights during July and August. Please come along and see us.

Charles Cook - Museum volunteer

Letter

We would like to thank all those involved in the Bottisham Parish Celebrations on June 8th. The Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club committee who masterminded the day's events and the many groups and clubs who worked hard both beforehand and on the day in Queens Court, the Church, the Poppy Room and Bowling Green. I understand that funding for the musicians and children's entertainer was provided by the Parish Council from funds deposited with them when Bottisham Players folded.

What a great day for all who participated, a good opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new friends and the sun shone too.

John and Sylvia Overton

Have you ever stopped of a morning to sit down to have a cup of coffee in the house on your own, and thought it would be nice to talk to somebody?
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Public Transport Matters

Much of the material in this issue's Public Transport Matters comes directly from an article written by Jonathan Cook, Chair of the A to B1102 Group, and I am most grateful to him for allowing me to use this.

There will be major improvements to our Bus Network commencing in the Autumn of this year. Subject to final procurement, our area will be served by two new bus services (replacing the existing 11 service), one running from Soham along the B1102 to Drummer Street Bus Station, Cambridge and another, from Newmarket – through Exning, Burwell, Reach, the Swaffhams, Lode, Bottisham, the Wilbrahams, and Fulbourn to Addenbrookes and Hills Road. The existing hourly bus service 12, linking Bottisham directly to both Newmarket and Cambridge, will continue to operate.

At this time, no information is yet available as regards timetables, frequency, and dates on which the two new services will start – that will come later in the summer.

The background to all this is that Nik Johnson, current Mayor of Cambridgeshire, made a commitment to work to improve our existing bus services and add new routes to enable more people to access and use public transport. Our local politicians have also done a great deal of work to lobby for improvements to the services. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) have now delivered on that commitment after an agreement was reached to fund the improvements through the Mayoral Precept – additional payments we all pay through our Council Tax. The new funding will not only deliver improvements and enhancements to bus services, it also includes an amount dedicated to reducing the price of travel for everyone under the age of 25 – reducing bus fares to £1.00 per journey. This second commitment has already been delivered with the launch of the new Tiger Bus Pass, available free to anyone under the age of 25. Full details on how to apply for the Tiger Bus Pass, and what it gives you, are on the CPCA website at <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare/>

The CPCA undertook a process of consultation to explore how best to deliver the improvements and as part of this, engaged with the A to B1102 Group amongst other stakeholders in our area. The work the A to B1102 Group does bringing together all our communities (from Fordham to Quy, including Bottisham, the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom), its plans for a Fast Bus including Travel Hubs, and the Group's recent Travel Survey data, were all incorporated into the CPCA's decision making. The CPCA have listened to your feedback!

The two new bus services which together will replace the 11 will provide new facilities for Bottisham and the Wilbrahams, restoring the direct bus service between Bottisham and Lode Crossroads that was withdrawn in Autumn 2022, provide a new link from our villages to Soham, AND will also provide a direct bus service from here to both Addenbrookes and the main Cambridge FE Colleges.

The two new services are designed to work together providing easy and fast interchange between them in Burwell, the Swaffhams, and Lode, making it easy for Burwell, Reach and Lode residents, in particular, to access both services. In this way, no community should

Continued on page 33



Bank Holiday Monday
26th August 2024

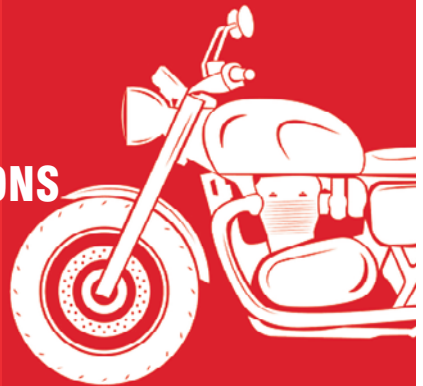
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Continued from page 31

suffer a significant detriment of service provision compared to what they currently enjoy and, for most should gain significantly.

At this point we do not know whether services will run covering the existing hours of service only or will extend into the evenings and weekends / bank holidays. The A to B1102 Group has asked the CPCA to explore costings to cover evenings, weekends and bank holidays.

The CPCA are now undertaking a procurement process with bus operators. Once costings for the new package of services have been agreed, the services will be confirmed and timetabling etc will be agreed and published. It is hoped that the services will commence some time during September or October.

The A to B1102 Group is also exploring the development of Travel Hubs including parking facilities for cars & bicycles at various locations to make it easier for people to interchange between cars and bus and active travel options and bus!

Happy Travelling!

National Traveline Enquiries (for bus services) - www.traveline.info or 0871 200 22 33 (a Premium-rate service)

National Rail Enquiries - www.nationalrail.co.uk or 03457 48 49 50

John Austin

Letter

Dear Colleague

I wanted to write to let you know many counterparts including Bottisham Parish Council, MP Lucy Frazer and the A2B102 Group have been working hard to get the buses around our vicinity either re-instated or at least improved. We have supported the A2B group with surveys as you know alongside a letter to the Cambridge and Peterborough Mayor, Nik Johnson. All of this hasn't been in vain we are pleased to say. A really positive survey response in terms of numbers was received from Bottisham residents which was greatly appreciated.

We promised we would keep you informed as progress went along, hence my update.

So the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have put forward design improvements to the public transport network and new and/or improved services have been designed for implementation in Autumn 2024. These improvements are being paid / funded for by using the Mayoral Precept as you know ... hence the uplift. The routes, we are informed, are being procured (whichever bus company / service provider) and individual posters for the routes will be release in the summer.

This information will be published shortly on our Bottisham Parish Council website and our Community Facebook page for all residents to see too but please feel free to share this news.

With Regards - Cllr Nadene Cundell

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Each week we will explore a different topic from artist gardeners to gardener's Latin, the history of Wrest Park to the distinguished ancestry of the garden gnome, plants for pagans and plant hunters. There is something for everyone in this mixed border of garden-related delights as our tutor, Twigs Way, leads us down the garden path to discover places, plants, paintings and people. We will commence with an exploration of the sun-filled gardens of the French Riviera.

The course will start on Thursday 19th Sept with a break for half term on 31st October and finish on Thursday 5th December. Please note: there will not be a meeting on 10th October.

Meetings are held at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club in Downing Close (CB25 9DD) starting at 10.30am. More information will follow in the September magazine.

We look forward to meeting again. New members are always welcome.

Helen Cole

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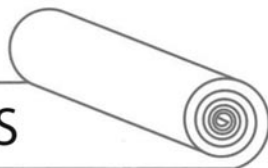


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Anglesey Abbey

The Rose Garden at Anglesey Abbey is in bloom and boasting 60 beautiful beds of roses now. Thanks to a generous donation from David Austin Roses, we have another 19 cultivars in the garden and some 180 new roses this year. We'd also like to say thank you to a group of students from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, who dedicated a day to volunteering, hoeing, and weeding in the Rose Garden last month, post exams.



Do come and make the most of the summer evenings at Anglesey Abbey this month and explore the Herbaceous Border, Wildflower Meadows and Formal Garden. Every Wednesday in July, the gardens will be open until 7:30pm. Why not bring a picnic dinner or go for a walk to unwind after work? The shop will be open until 7pm, and Redwoods Restaurant will serve food until 7.15pm.

On Saturday 13 July, you're invited to join us for an event called 'Whispers of Wonder' – a one-off evening of magic and history, with performances from world-class magicians inside the house. Guests will enjoy exclusive access to the gardens, and food and drink will be available to purchase between performances. The Rose Quartet, Cambridge, will also be playing on the front lawn. Tickets are limited, so do book early to avoid disappointment.

The Lord Chamberlain's Men are also coming to Anglesey Abbey this summer. Experience the drama of outdoor theatre and enjoy a picnic while watching Shakespeare's Hamlet performed in the gardens on Saturday 17 August. Please see our website for more details and to book your tickets.

Looking ahead to the summer holidays, we have an activity-packed Summer of Play lined up for the whole family from 20 July to 1 September, sponsored by Starling Bank. With five creative play zones across the gardens as well as story times, craft activities, bubble shows, lunchtime discos and even some crazy golf, there's plenty to keep you busy and coming back for more throughout the summer.

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DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TEL
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6xA4 ring binders and 2xA4 lever arch files. Used but plenty of wear left.	Free.	07775 920388
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ECCO shoes, Brand new men's summer sneakers in grey. cost £90. Ordered two for colour choice and forgot to send these back!	£30	01223 811402



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Saturday - 12 noon to 11pm

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WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 20th July - Pam is back.

Pam will be singing some of your favourite songs.

Saturday 7th September - Emma and the Dinosaurs

Back by popular demand, come and listen to the sounds or even have a dance.

Saturday 5th October - Roy Orbison Tribute Night

Stroll down memory lane with music from a Roy Orbison Tribute Singer

Saturday 26th October - Children Fancy Dress Halloween Disco

PLUS, do not forget we have an Open Mic Night on the last Friday of each month.

Come and listen to the local talent.

Please refer to the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk for the latest information. If you wish to be updated with the latest news, please email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com
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