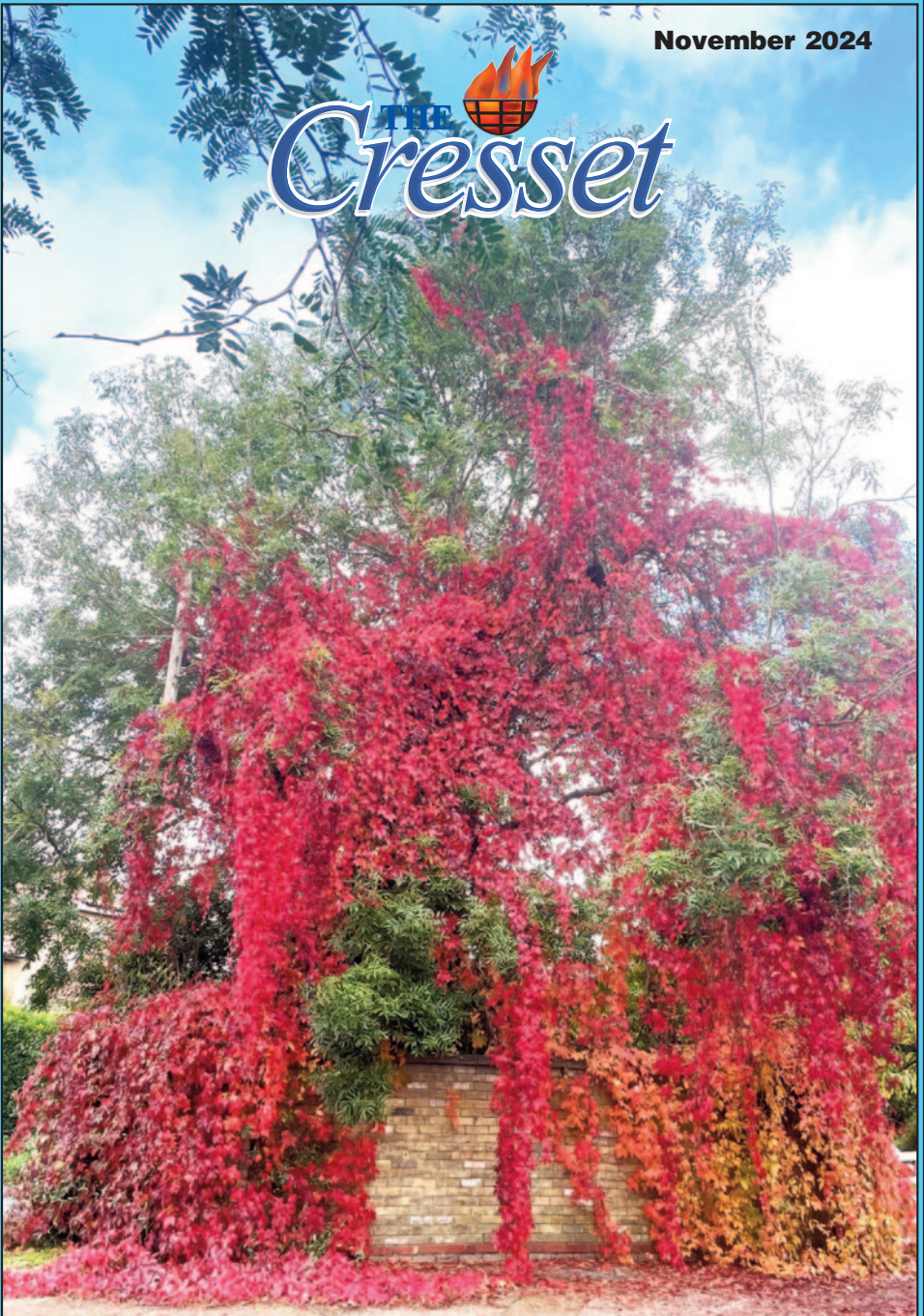


November 2024

THE
Cresset



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



Neighbourhood planning is a way for Bottisham residents to take a proactive approach in deciding the future of our village.

We need your help in creating our neighbourhood plan.

Why do we need your help?

- ♥ Simply this is your village! ♥
- ♥ Pulling together residents leads to better plans & decisions ♥
- ♥ Forward plan for a village that promotes togetherness & community ♥
 - ♥ Help protect the heritage of the village ♥
 - ♥ Build a plan to help protect green spaces ♥
 - ♥ Encourage better designed places ♥
- ♥ Bring forward housing that genuinely meets local needs ♥

If you're a resident who holds dear the best interest of Bottisham and whatever your skill set or passion we want to hear from you.

If you are interested in helping, we're really keen to hear from you.

Email: neighbourhoodplan@bottisham.pc.gov.uk

or call Sam: 07369248998



November already! Where has the year gone?

They say it gets worse as you get older and I am beginning to agree. Time seems to fly by and there are less hours in the day. It is also true that while in retirement you expect to have more time to do things, but things seem to take longer to do. It's a no-win situation!



Being editor of our magazine does not help either as there is this schedule to keep from gathering detail, through collating at the deadline date (the one you see in the magazine), getting the print completed and starting the distribution. The clock keeps ticking.

However, it is an enjoyable task, helped in no small way by the advance of technology. The use of my laptop and the transfer of electronic files and information at the touch of a button, makes the whole operation quick and easy and can be done from anywhere. This month it was all done while I was in Scotland.

The magazine this month has lots of information and good reads. Of particular note on the info side, is the detail in particular on the inside front cover. As a village there are always concerns about new developments etc, either for or against and also what this village needs by way of infrastructure.

Well, this is the way and the only way we will get our voice heard in the future as to how Bottisham develops. If you have a view and want it heard then do get involved and develop that plan.

Robert Stevens reports on some 'blue sky' thinking for a new light railway for Cambridge. I seem to remember this idea being aired some 25 years ago, but it has come round again. I suspect when the costs v benefits are reviewed, it may well go quiet for another 25 years.

I love Gerry Daish's bird articles. While I am not a 'twitcher' I do like to watch birds and I recognise many of the birds Gerry writes about. (Can you believe, 21 to date and counting!) They all have given us a real insight to the world of birds and the detail on each one is fascinating. If you have missed any of them, then you can go into the 'back catalogue' on the PC website and catch up those you have missed. www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk/the-cresset-magazine Fortunately he says he has lots more.

I asked the question about what was happening at the old garage site and have received an update from the new owners with an outline of what may develop. Peter Rank has also given me an update about what has happened to the scientific instrument side of the business, now that he has retired. Lots of changes coming, but the garage is still operating in the medium term.

Armistice is always remembered in November and this year the Service will be at Quy. Details are in the magazine. Sadly, the Bottisham Branch of The Royal British Legion is reduced so much in active numbers that it is no longer possible to mount the sort of event that has been done in the past. We have been able to retain it as county supported Branch, but that cannot last long term if Members do not get involved. I myself maintain one of the

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

two roles required, Poc's (points of contact.), to allow us to retain the standard and reform if numbers swell.

The clocks will have changed by the time you read this and the days will be dark by 5 o'clock. Gardens are put to bed and days are colder. Stay warm and enjoy a good book or *The Cresset!*

Finally, Stuart Field, Holy Trinity church warden sent me this month's cover picture which captures the colours of autumn perfectly. Like a 'burning bush' in Tunbridge Lane.

More next Month... And Christmas!

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

It was good to see the church full for our Harvest Festival Service in mid-September led by our Authorised Lay Minister Sarah Maxwell. The flowers at the entrance of the church, within the church and on the windowsills were absolutely magnificent. Many thanks to all those who helped put the displays together. Several large boxes of food were donated which were distributed via the foodbank to local needy families. In early October we enjoyed the first participation of and a sermon from our new Assistant Curate Rev Dr Rhona McEune at our regular Holy Communion Service.



Once a year the Diocese holds a 'Churchwardens' Training Day. I attended my third at the end of September. These are always most instructive, with excellent speakers although they remind one of the multitude of tasks required of a churchwarden to comply with the numerous, and it seems, ever increasing tasks required.

As part of our extended ministry, we continue to take a simple service of morning prayer in both Hilton Park and Oaklands care homes once a month. There is a team of four lay persons who rotate to lead these services, which are enjoyed by the residents and staff.

I am pleased to report that following an application, we have been awarded £250 from the Housebuilder Redrow South Midlands Community Fund. This will be used to purchase more wildflower seeds for the Summer Flower area of the Churchyard.

Baptisms are becoming more popular! Following a very well attended one in September, we had a very quiet one in October with just immediate family attending. However we have another booked at our Holy Communion Service on November 3rd at 10.30am which will be led by our Vicar Max Osborne to which all are cordially invited. Following that, on Sunday 17th November at 10.30am Sarah Maxwell will lead our Morning Prayer. Sarah will also lead the short contemplative service C by C at 8pm on Wednesday 6th November on Zoom. The link can be found by contacting: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

There will not be a service in Bottisham on Remembrance Sunday 10th November. The Bottisham congregation will be joining those from Quy for a service starting there at 10.50am. The names of the fallen from Bottisham will be read out at this service.

Our Tuesday morning Toddler group and Thursday morning 'Prayerful Art Group' continue.

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

Stuart Field, Churchwarden

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Armistice and Remembrance Sunday

This year, the service of remembrance will be taking place in Quy Parish Church. In years past the Bottisham branch of The Royal British Legion have had the numbers of active members to mount the traditional parade and organise the church service.

Unfortunately, today, the number of members has diminished to the point that the branch has had to become a 'County Supported Branch'. This position, short of closing has allowed us to retain our standard and to reform in the future if the situation changed. The lack of numbers restricts what we can do.

You are welcome to join the service in Quy, as are the local guides, cubs and scouts. Service will start prompt at 10.50am.

Peter Walker - PoC, The Royal British Legion, Bottisham & District Branch.

TRBL BOTTISHAM & DISTRICT BRANCH AGM

Notice of the AGM of The Royal British Legion, Bottisham & District Branch, which will take place on Thursday 28th November at 7.30pm in the Poppy Lounge of the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club 31 Downing Close . All Branch members are invited to attend.



Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 November.

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



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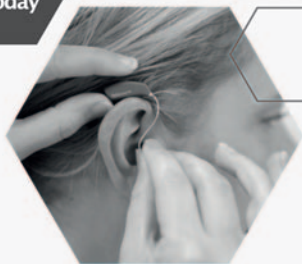
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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sun 3rd Nov	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion , Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship , Quy Village Hall
Wed 6th Nov	8pm	C by C, a contemplative service , online via Zoom
Sun 10th Nov	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.50 am	Remembrance Service , Quy (with Bottisham)
		Remembrance Service Swaffham Prior
		Remembrance Service , Swaffham Bulbeck
Sun 17th Nov	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer , Quy
	10.30am	Communion , Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer , Bottisham
Sun 24th Nov	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion , Swaffham Prior
Each Thursday	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.

Bottisham Community Library Association

Did you celebrate National Libraries Week in October? Sadly there was very little to celebrate. With over 180 public libraries having closed in the last eight years and the equivalent of 2,000 full time jobs being lost, nobody was breaking open the bubbly. There is no easy way to measure the importance or success of a library, but ask yourself, why have so many communities taken it upon themselves to run their libraries after closure? It doesn't happen without determination, dedication and the hard work of many volunteers, so that must prove something.

The next Lego Club and Storytime will be on Saturday 2nd November. It's a lovely session for the younger children and we have lots of Lego for them to be creative with.

We have already pencilled in a date for our annual quiz night. So put the 22nd February 2025 in your diary and watch this space.

How about reading something to bring back memories of the summer. "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett is set in America during Covid, when three daughters are restricted to being on their parents' farm helping to harvest the cherry crop. Naturally, skeletons will come out of the cupboard!

Happy reading.

Margret Coles

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Parish Council Report

The next full council meeting will be held by on 4th November 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. Details of upcoming meetings and Councillor Details are available from the Parish Council Noticeboard and from the website bottisham-pc.gov.uk.

LOCAL HIGHWAYS SCHEMES

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that they have been successful in both their applications to Highways for improvements in the village. Firstly, the Parish Council applied for additional double yellow lines to complement the lines already in place around the Bell Road/High Street area. Secondly, an application was made to reduce the speed limit to 20mph village wide. Both applications scored highly. As part of the process a public consultation will be held via a survey, where all residents will have the opportunity to voice any opinions on the proposals. More details will be shared with the community as soon as we are advised on the full process.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

- At their last meeting the Parish Council approved the purchase of an additional noticeboard to be placed on the Triangle. The board will be identical to the blue Parish Council board and will replace the current white community noticeboard on the Pharmacy wall - which is very tatty. Details will be available in due course on how members of the community are able to gain access to the board. In addition, the map of the village will be redesigned and contained in one half of the board. Anyone wishing to be involved with the development of the new map should contact the Clerk in the first instance.
- The Site Manager of the Lindum Homes development on Bell Road has successfully completed a triathlon to raise funds for the community defibrillator. The new unit will be located on the Pharmacy wall where the white noticeboard is currently located. The Parish Council wishes to thank Lindum Homes and the Pharmacy for their generosity in benefiting the community with such a valuable device.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Parish Council have now received notification from the External Auditor, that they are satisfied that the Parish Council have fulfilled their obligations for the Financial Year 23/24 and that audit is now concluded. Details of the closure are displayed on the website and the noticeboard.

PRIDE OF PLACE GRANT

The Environmental working group have been looking at ways to improve the triangle area at the shops. Plans include additional seating, planting and the placement of the community noticeboard. The Parish Council will be making an application to ECDC's Pride of Place scheme to seek help with funding of the redevelopment. In addition, this year

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 7

the Parish Council have approved the purchase of a decorated Christmas tree for the triangle. A preliminary date of the 7th December has been set for the lighting of the tree. More details will be displayed via posters and on Facebook and the website in due course.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan working group is seeking new members. The Plan is a critical document that will influence future development of the village and we need the input of a wider range of residents to bring it to fruition. No experience is necessary, just the interest in wanting to make sure the communities' opinions and knowledge is considered for the future of Bottisham. Anyone who would like to lend a hand in delivering such an important piece of work is welcome to get in contact with myself to discuss in more detail.

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

District Councillors' Report

Operational Services Committee agreed that the Council implements the Waste Collection and Street Cleansing proposals, to wit:

1. collect food waste in a separate container, on a weekly basis by 31 March 2026,
2. the collection of residual waste in a 180lt wheeled bin fortnightly,
3. a free fortnightly garden waste collection service and the possibility of a second garden waste bin for free,
4. fortnightly collection of recycling as at present,

The aim is to increase the re-cycling by residents; we pay for waste taken to the waste depot, but receive a rebate for that which is re-cycled. Exceptions will be made for larger households and those houses that have no storage facilities which will be given coloured bags as for now. Provision has been built into the budget to pay for the extra bins. Comprehensive information will be disseminated to all residents well in advance to help with a smooth transition.

It was also agreed to retain the current street cleansing service specification, and review it in one year's time, and to proceed with using East Cambs Street Scene Ltd (ECSS) even though it was still not performing to target.

FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE

The following decisions were made at the meeting on Thursday 26 September:

- introduction of a £70 fine for misdeclaration of Council Tax discounts,
- Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme was approved; £150,000 to be allocated to villages for improving community premises; applications for up to £30,000 to be sent in by the end of the year,

Continued on page 11



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Continued from page 9

- Council Officers now predict an ‘overall increase in costs’ for the planned crematorium at Mepal, and an attempt by Liberal Democrats on the committee to refer the cost rises to a Full Council meeting next month was rejected by a block vote of Conservative Councillors;

The details of the increased costs were in a confidential report, but the published papers state that the rise is ‘largely made up of a gap in the projects contingency budget and an increase in build costs’; the escalating costs for the crematorium, already predicted to cost over £9 million, have substantial implications for the project, and further work is being undertaken and further costs are being incurred without this coming back to the Full Council for consideration of the new information; Charlotte pointed out that the tight timescale and restricted times of year for working on a biodiverse site would also lead to cost increases; John said that changing the scheme to keep it within the budget would not deliver the graceful project the Council had approved.

At the forthcoming Council meeting the creation of the new Local Plan (the document that defines where new housing, industrial and recreational buildings can be built within the District) is proposed. Our current Local Plan is almost ten years old, and it must be replaced by an up-to-date version within two years.

The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund will be open to applications between the 28 October to 9 December 2024. The aim of this small community grants scheme is to support local community groups to provide new or develop existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents living in East Cambridgeshire. For further information, on the link below.

East Cambridgeshire Community Fund | East Cambridgeshire District Council
(eastcamb.gov.uk)

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp

Planning Notes

a) New applications:

None

b) Planning Applications approved by ECDC:

24/00861/FUL: 1A Jenyns Close Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DS. Single storey side extension and replacement UPVC windows and door.

c) Planning Application refused by ECDC:

24/00840/CLP 19 Jenyns Close Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DS



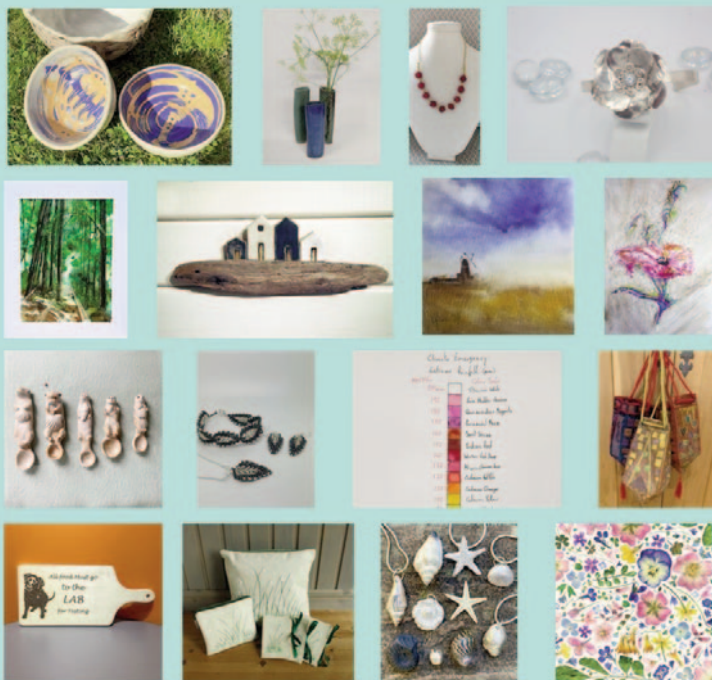
Copy deadline for next issue is 14 November.

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

Swaffham Prior

Pop up art gallery and café

Sixteen artists living in Cambridgeshire have gathered their work together to help you find some unique and wonderful Christmas gifts, along with delicious home made cakes.



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Highways and Byways: A Cambridge Light Rail System

The organisation 'Cambridge Connect' is asking the Government to help fund a detailed design for its proposal for an electric light railway system in and around Cambridge. This 'Cambridge Light Rail' may be the only hope left to improve public transport that would not get held up in road traffic, which will only get worse. Light railways use standard rail track but their lighter carriages can negotiate bridges, tunnels and sharper curves more easily, such as those in Croydon and Nottingham.

A line is proposed from the relocated Newmarket Road Park and Ride, then across the forthcoming Airport Development, with stops there and at Coldhams Lane. It would then go under ground to Cambridge Station. Another line would be from Cambourne, Madingley and the Science Park via another tunnel, starting west of Grange Road, to Cambridge Station with stops at Mill Road, Parkside and the City Centre. Only 4km of tunnelling in total would be needed. Overground routes to Trumpington and towards Haverhill would use old railway alignments and there could be an extension from the Newmarket Road Park and Ride running east of Bottisham and the Swaffhams to Burwell.

The north-south connection would use the stations at Waterbeach, Cambridge North, Cambridge, and the new Cambridge South. Complementing this eastwards would be two new stops before Dullingham, the line re-doubled to Chippenham Junction, and the curve reinstated to link to Soham and Ely.

Obviously, this will cost a large amount, but with funds from the City Deal, high-tech industries, Cambridge University and levies on new housing developments, surely something could be done?

Robert Stevens

Gwen Barnard

Gwen died on 08/08/24 - Dave and all the Barnard family would like to thank everyone for their very kind calls, messages and cards.

We were overwhelmed that so many people attended her funeral service at Cam Valley (and apologies to those who had to stand at the back). Thank you all. It was the greatest comfort to have you there.

We would especially like to thank the staff at Queen's Court Care Home for looking after Gwen so well in her final months and for supporting us at this difficult time.

Donations received in Gwen's memory have totalled £823.94, and will be shared by MAGPAS, East Anglian Air Ambulance and Queen's Court.

*Thank you all again,
Dave and all Gwen's family*

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 November.

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





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**REMEMBER, REMEMBER TO CELEBRATE SAFELY!**

Bonfire Night is a very popular fixture in the calendar where people come together to enjoy fireworks. While it can be fun for all of the family to enjoy, there are lots of potential hazards so it's really important to keep you and your family safe. Help support your local community this year and go to an organised firework display instead of holding one at home.

While most people enjoy fireworks responsibly, in the wrong hands they can cause injury and damage to property. Fireworks are explosives and as such should be treated with respect and only used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the firework safety code.

Also lighting bonfires in back gardens presents significant risks to residents, so would encourage residents across the county to think twice before having their own displays and lighting bonfires.

FIREWORK SAFETY TIPS

- Only buy fireworks with a CE mark
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper, stand well back and never go back to a lit firework
- Never throw fireworks or put them in your pockets or clothing
- Light sparklers one at a time wearing gloves, and place used sparklers in a bucket of water
- Never give sparklers to children under five
- Keep your pets indoors throughout the evening
- It is illegal to sell fireworks to someone under the age of 18 or to light fireworks in a public place
- Respect your neighbours – don't let off fireworks late at night and remember there are laws to follow.

Visit our website to see what organised fireworks displays are happening around the county.

BONFIRE SAFETY

We would urge people to think twice about having a bonfire.

Lighting a bonfire in a garden presents significant risks to residents if they get out of hand. Not only this, but the smoke can also aggravate neighbours with respiratory problems.

If you do decide to have a bonfire, please follow our top five tips:

1. Build your bonfire well clear of buildings, garden sheds, fences and hedges
2. Never use flammable liquids to start a bonfire, and never burn dangerous items such as aerosol cans, paint tins, foam furniture, or batteries
3. Don't leave bonfires unattended. An adult should supervise it until it has burnt out. If it has to be left, damp it down with plenty of water
4. Always keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe nearby in case of fire
5. Check the weather - avoid lighting bonfires in high winds.

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NAAFI Break

Every Veteran was born a civilian, growing up through childhood and being educated for life in the big wide world that lay ahead for him or her, and upon signing up to their chosen service, Army, RAF or the Navy, none of us truly knew what we would endure in the days, months and years ahead.

One fact that every Veteran will tell you is this, civilian life was no more, our civilian thinking removed from our young minds and our minds were brainwashed, our bodies pushed to extremes of physical and mental fatigue, but we got on with it, not realising until we served our time that our civilian brain was forgotten about and no one thought about trying to get us back to the civilian way of thinking, the growing up years a distant memory, civvy street becomes bewildering.

Many Veterans make the transition ok whilst many find civilian life daunting and alien and for many of these unlucky Veterans, life just spirals with little to no hope of a bright future.

I'm limited for space so I will finish with this. Reaching out is very difficult, It can be difficult for anyone but Veterans find it extremely difficult, difficult to ask for help and perhaps not even recognising they need help but help is on our doorstep.

NAAFI Break is a coffee morning where there are no barriers and peer support is available without shame or judgement so whether you're a sufferer or not, we welcome you to come along because we get it, we understand each other.

No Veteran should feel alone within their community, my small step has gone a long, long way. Coffee morning 1st Wednesday of every month 10am at Angelsey Abbey. Brew and cake, what's not to like?

Bottisham Broadband Relief as Village Connected

Broadband relief for around 1,800 rural residents and business owners in Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck, Stow cum Quy and Lode is now a reality with engineers set to complete work to extend a full fibre connection to them next month.

Work to connect the villages began in spring 2023 when engineers from telecoms company Gigaclear began extending its network using fibre optic cables. They have been going street-to-street either digging new trenches or using existing infrastructure such as poles and ducting in order to reach each property.

Senior Project Manager Ben Robertson said Gigaclear is working hard to ensure rural, often hard to reach villages such as Bottisham as well as its smaller, neighbouring communities can access the same fast and reliable full fibre broadband enjoyed by larger urban areas.

He said: "Taking our full fibre to rural communities that might otherwise have copper or an inferior part fibre broadband connection fundamentally changes them for the better because it creates choice for the people in those communities about how they work and how they live their lives."

To find out if you are able to access Gigaclear's full fibre broadband, go to www.gigaclear.com and click on 'Check Availability'

Billingsford and The Old Garage

It seems there has been a lot of interest in what is happening at The Old Garage on the High Street, therefore we would like to introduce ourselves as the new owners.

We are Billingsford, a family run company which started out as a traditional building company, but now focuses on providing good quality commercial accommodation for the use of small businesses or individuals.



The Old Garage, formerly owned by The Rank Family, has been part of the village for many years. It stopped being a petrol station some time ago, but the canopy has remained as a significant feature on the High Street. It seems some people like it and some people have different thoughts! Whilst EC Autocare are still doing MOTs on site the buildings are not only for garage use. They were also home to Peter Rank making some very special scientific instruments and Geoff Rank servicing local mowers. Over the years the buildings have become run down and have many issues which mean they do need some significant works to bring them up to current standards and this has now started to happen.

With respect to its heritage, we are carefully updating the existing buildings and ensuring the buildings comply with current regulations while trying to maintain the appearance. The space will be divided into small business units, creating opportunities for new enterprises to thrive while retaining the traditional architecture of the site.

From retail and offices to workshops and creative spaces, each unit will offer modern amenities, including kitchenette, w/c, allocated parking, hot and cold air-conditioning and high-speed Wi-Fi.

These spaces are designed to foster local entrepreneurship and provide a vibrant place for small businesses to grow within the heart of the village.

We believe this development will not only provide a space for local businesses to flourish but is also likely to bring new jobs and services to Bottisham, contributing to the overall vitality of the village community.

For those with an opinion on the garage canopy or if you would like to enquire about renting a space, please contact Olivia on 07980 841 916 or olivia@billingford.com. We are looking forward to being a part of Bottisham's community and can't wait to see the businesses that will call these spaces home. Thank you for your support!

Rank Brothers Ltd -The end of an era?

As many of you will have seen, my brother Geoff and I have sold the site at 56 High Street and we are now both retired.

My father Edmund and my uncle Albert had the garage built in 1957 on the site of a row of five cottages. Dad was a machinist and Albert a mechanic. The original building finished at the back of the current MOT bay with the front part for the garage and the MOT bay was a machine shop. The garage sold Esso petrol for most of the time but switched to Murco fuel for the last few years the filling station was trading.

The building has had two extensions during its life, the first ending roughly where the rear double green doors to the machine shop ended, then a third part which was where we had the machine shop. The last building work was the erection of the machine shop at the rear used by Geoff for his mower repair business.

Many of you may not have been aware of the business we ran behind the garage workshop. Rank Bros. manufactured and exported scientific instruments mainly used in research by universities and larger multinationals. We also carried out precision machining for many local companies both large and small. We had a well-equipped machine shop with two CNC (Computer Numerical Control) milling machining centres and one CNC turning centre, plus several manually operated machines. Using the latest CAD/CAM software (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture) we were able to machine parts for local customers from their three-dimensional computer models.

We first started making scientific instruments in the 1960s when a professor from USA was at MRC Babraham doing research for a year and wanted a copy of the instrument MRC had made in their workshop to take back with him. After contacting several local companies to no avail somebody suggested speaking to 'Ed Rank'. Dad agreed to make a replica and then agreed to pay a royalty on every instrument Rank Brothers sold. The instrument was a 'Microelectrophoresis Apparatus' to enable the surface charges of blood cells to be measured. The research was looking into the possibility of early detection of illnesses. We then started producing a whole range of instruments for research.

The company name has now been purchased by BWB Technologies and they are producing our instruments while retaining the Rank Brothers Ltd name, so our instruments and the Rank name are continuing to be sold worldwide. While quite technical, I'm proud that we manufactured these in our small rural location.



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Bottisham Bird Brain

My last two articles featuring large birds of prey got me thinking about another large predator that can often be seen flying over our villages and fens, but is perhaps more often observed waiting patiently at the edge of a dyke or shoreline: the Heron (or Grey Heron), *Ardea cinerea*.

Our Heron, native throughout Europe, Asia and temperate parts of Africa, is one of 72 species in the family Ardeidae, which also includes the Egrets and Bitterns. A resident bird in the UK (as opposed to a migrant), the Heron is a creature of wetlands, lakes, rivers, ponds, marshes, margins and the coast. It has even been known to fish in garden ponds when food is otherwise particularly scarce!

Heron is perfectly physically structured for their lifestyle and diet. Standing a metre tall, they wade in shallow waters and watch mainly for passing fish, frogs or invertebrates, but will take any creature that isn't fast enough to escape its strike, including eels, voles and other rodents. Once picked-off in a single lightning strike, small prey will be swallowed whole, head first, but larger creatures may need to be stabbed repeatedly with the Heron's fearsome, dagger-like bill before being taken to the bank to be devoured piece-meal.

Ardea cinerea has been pretty successful in the UK over the last half a century and currently number up to 13,000 pairs, a population swelled in the winter months by perhaps 50,000 European migrants seeking the milder climate. And it seems to be setting the pace for a number of distant relatives to establish colonies in the UK. Already the Little Egret is common enough in the fens to warrant its own Bird Brain page in the near future; Great White Egrets are seen every winter now within East Anglia; Cattle Egrets are becoming more frequent visitors and showing signs of interest in breeding; Spoonbills are now breeding at a number of RSPB sites around the country; and Bitterns – driven out of the UK by the draining of marshes in the 19th Century – are again booming in carefully managed reserves, particularly in Suffolk and Norfolk. I wonder how long it will be before we can enjoy breeding pairs of Purple Herons around here...? This stunning bird - *Ardea purpurea* – is currently resident in France and Holland and is hotly tipped to follow in the wingbeats of their relatives mentioned above!

Back to the Grey: one of the most surprising – and impressive – sights in birding is the heronry. You might think a wading bird of this stature would be out of place in a tree, but they have the same ability to perch as smaller birds and build their nests, in noisy colonies, in deciduous trees – favouring elms and oaks. I understand the UK's largest heronry is at RSPB Northward Hill in Kent, which houses up to 200 pairs. A pair will use the same nest year on year,



(Continued on page 23)

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(Continued from page 21)

repairing and adding twigs and foliage until it eventually fails through the weight of its own construction. Herons will be seeking to breed at two or three years old and, once paired, will indulge in formal greeting displays to their partner on arrival at the nest. There is a protracted breeding season with an almost three-month fledging time and two broods of 3-4 eggs are common. The first eggs appear in mid-February and the last young fly in September, many of which head south after fledging, returning when it's time to breed. British ringed birds have even been known to reach Morocco.

The Heron's plumage does not sport much in the way of colour, being largely grey with a light, speckled throat and yellowish legs and bill, but one cannot deny it's a handsome creature and, in flight, you may be forgiven for thinking 'bird of prey', such is the Heron's menacing size, long wings and languid wing beat. With its neck tucked in and its feet extended beyond the tail, even other birds are uncomfortable with its presence and Corvids, in particular, will chase off Herons just as they would Buzzards or Kites. I'll always remember, as a kid in the 1960s, when introducing my Dad to the delights of birdwatching in Woodbridge, Suffolk, he took in the magnificent sight of a Heron flying low over the Deben towards us, exclaiming "Wow, this one looks like a four-engined bomber"! Not a description you might expect to hear these days, but he was a man of his time and I am forever grateful for his encouragement of my new-found – and now life-long – passion.

TTFN - Gerry Daish

Come run the hidden pine trails of the forest
Come taste the sun-sweet berries of the earth
Come roll in all the riches all around you
And for once, never wonder what they're worth
The rainstorm and the river are my brothers
The heron and the otter are my friends
And we are all connected to each other,
In a circle, in a hoop that never ends

From the song 'Colours of the Wind' from Walt Disney's animated film 'Pocahontas'

Sales, Wants and Swaps



IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL OR WANT TO BUY OR EVEN TO SWAP, THEN THIS PAGE IS YOURS TO USE. Send details of Item, price and Phone Number to BottishamCresset@gmail.com. Max. 5 Items. Entries by 12th of the month for next months issue.

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We welcomed Philip Baker from Burwell Mother's Union to our meeting on 19th September. Philip talked about 'Life and where it can take you' – with reference to his own life experiences, from early childhood memories, marriage, moving to Cambridgeshire and his involvement with many local groups. Philip warned us to be wary of people who ask you to help! He was asked to help with Burwell village fete and did so for 53 years!

Philip had also been a PCC member for 45 years, was involved in setting up a local charity shop/fellowship group, supporting Sunday School and Youth Club, and 'Sweaty Church' - a noisy, active group for older children upwards (no upper age group) who enjoy good games and pop music!

Philip's Christian faith has led him to continue to trust that God knows what is going on and what is best for us, and to listen to God through life's noise, making adjustments and carrying on. This he has managed to do since the death of his wife, Susan.

Philip and his family set up the Susan Baker Family Memorial Fund, which makes grants to local families who are in desperate need of financial help.

Philip is now embarking on a one-year course studying theology; his final piece of advice was to try new things- certainly a case of Philip practicing what he preaches!

A vote of thanks was given for a very interesting talk.

The meeting on Thursday 21st November will include a visit from Rob Needle who is the Diocesan Ambassador for the Children's Society. You are very welcome to join us to hear about current activities.

Alison Martin

Newmarket Community Cinema

The Stable, High Street,
Newmarket.



November 18th: The Old Oak (15)

December 16th: A Good Woman (2004) (PG)

Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £6 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats, please email richardjbowler@outlook.com or phone 01638 666810.

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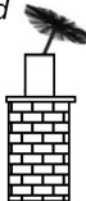
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Starting Location	Date	Month
Queens Court Care Home	16	November
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	December

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](#)

Dear Editor

I would like to say a big thank you to the staff, committee and all who organised the Roy Orbison Tribute Night at the Social Club. I think that everyone who was there had a fantastic evening. The music and the ploughman's dinner was excellent.

We are so lucky in the village to have the social club. it is open for all age groups, if you have never been, you should go, it needs your support.

Once again, thank you to the club.

Jacky Cameron



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 November.

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

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?
Well you can and very easily too. Come along to Meeting point on a Wednesday and have that cup of coffee with like-minded company



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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

WERE YOU A DNA: DID NOT ATTEND YOUR APPOINTMENT?

In August and September, 83 patients did not attend their appointment which is 21 HOURS of clinicians time. Numerous appointments were not attended from patients who had only booked it that day! Please call to cancel your appointment so it can be offered to others. In dispensary 214 prescription items were not collected. Although you only pay £9:90 (or nothing if you are exempt) some items cost the Practice hundreds of pounds.

Flu vaccinations: are now in progress, please book yours at the surgery if you have not had this done

Covid vaccinations will be provided via the NHS vaccination hubs and not at the surgery this autumn.

Sight and Hearing Community Research National Study: This is being conducted by Professor Rupert Bourne. Patients will be picked at random from Bottisham and Lode and offered the chance to have their sight and hearing checked.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 23rd 2025 at 6.30pm in the waiting room. All patients of the practice are welcome to attend.



Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)

On Sunday 6th October the Museum held its third and final Classic Car Show for 2024. After a bad weather forecast some car owners cancelled but after a few spots of rain the day improved, and cars started arriving. We finished with approximately 180 classic cars.

A great success with the café selling out of food and at one point needing five staff to keep up with the demand. On Wednesday 9th October another helicopter day was held, and we had a visit from Ron Rissler, author of "The Blood of Stonewall". Ron spent eight years writing a book about LT General Stonewall Jackson and his grandson Colonel Thomas Christian, commanding officer of the 361st Fighter Group at Bottisham.

Ron was amazed to see the progress at the museum since his last visit 6 years ago. He enjoyed a helicopter ride, a guided tour of museum and a jeep ride to Bottisham Hall. He was welcomed at the Hall by Roger Jenyns who showed them where Col Christian lived during his time at Bottisham.

On Saturday 12th October the museum opened specially for the visit of eighteen USA WW2 Military vehicles from the Northampton Group. After a talk and tour from Jason Webb, they had lunch in the Flying Tractor Cafe. They intend to come again next year.

We will be holding a Remembrance service on Sunday 10th November at 10:45AM, our last open day this year. All are welcome.

Charles Cook - Museum volunteer



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We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Join us for an adventure this Christmas at Anglesey Abbey with Wild in Art's Bear Hunt trail from 19 November 2024 to 5 January 2025. Wrap up warm and enjoy splish-splashing and tiptoeing through the woods, gardens and (maybe even) snow in search of the ten life-sized bear sculptures.



The trail, with grrr-eat games and challenges, is inspired by Michael Rosen's beloved children's story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury and published by Walker Books. Each massive bear has been painted creatively by ten national and international artists. The trail is free; normal admission to Anglesey Abbey applies.

A Christmas to treasure

Step inside the house at Anglesey Abbey to discover a treasure-trove of history and admire the themed Christmas decorations in each room. From 1 November until 22 November, the house will be open for tours only at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm while preparations are underway.

The house will be fully decorated for Christmas and open for visitors to explore from Saturday 23 November, any time between 11am and 3pm, with last entry at 2.30pm.

Save the dates! It wouldn't be Christmas at Anglesey Abbey without some live music and festive tunes, so we'll be joined by Cambridge Harmony Chorus on Sunday 1 December and City of Cambridge Brass Band on Sundays 8, 15 and 22 December.

Father Christmas is making his way to Anglesey Abbey for the first time this winter! There are still some spaces left on Fridays for anyone wishing to visit with pre-schoolers. Children will enjoy making a wish to hang on the tree as well as having a story time with Father Christmas and will receive a present.



Santa's reindeer will also be stopping by at Anglesey Abbey from 21 to 23 December. Come and say hello to the reindeer and learn some fascinating facts about them. Meeting the reindeer in the gardens is free; normal admission applies. Head to the Anglesey Abbey website to find out more and to book your Father Christmas tickets.

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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Our speaker at the September meeting was Colin Smith, who talked to us about Yuccas in the garden. He has held a Heritage National Collection since 1993 and his passion for yuccas started when he moved to Burwell.

Coming from the tropical climes of Devon to rain starved East Anglia, other plants he had grown in the West Country were quick to show their dislike of our local climate. There was nothing for it but to ship them back to Devon and look for more drought tolerant ones. The result was his passion for yuccas which hate to have wet feet and prefer sandy or gravelly soil. Yuccas are native to North America and can be found from the southern tip of Canada down to Mexico. They range from alpines to tall trees and larger specimens such as the Joshua tree and can live for 100 years.

It is not unusual for a yucca to take 20 years before it flowers and most appreciate a sunny position. Nearly all of them have sharp spines and weeding around them needs to be done with care. They are easy to propagate but rarely set seed in this country as they rely on the yucca moth for pollination, which is only found in America. Colin opens his garden in Burwell under the National Garden Scheme and ensures that he cuts off the lethal spines on his yuccas before the visitors arrive.

The Club had a very successful plant stall with Lode WI and the Community Library which added £57 to our funds.

We held our AGM on the 22nd October, but it's not too late to renew your membership and join us for the November meeting on the 26th when Barry Gayton will be talking about Cacti and Succulents.

Margret Coles



Wednesdays

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Baking Club	Every 2 nd Wednesday of the month
Wool & Wine	Every 3 rd Wednesday of the month
Board Games	Every 4 th Wednesday of the month

All events, start at 7:30pm, in the function room, late-comers welcome, discover new hobbies and join your neighbours in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Ways to stay connected with updates:

- Visit the [Bottisham Events Facebook Page](#)
- Visit the [Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page](#)

November meetings for Baking, Wool & Wine and Board Games temporarily moved to Bottisham Sports and Social Club while The Bell is changing ownership.

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Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club



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Saturday 12 noon to 11pm
Sunday 12 noon to 9pm

Non-Members are always very welcome.

Lots going on during November, come and give us a try.

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER?

Friday 1st November (CHANGE OF DATE) - Open Mic night
FREE ENTRY

Take part or just listen to the local talent.

Saturday 2nd November - Bowling Club Quiz Night
£5 per person - Teams of 6 - 7:30pm start

Saturday 23rd November - Drag Night with Sissy Lea
Start time 8pm - Dress to Impress
Tickets in advance £7 members, £10 non-members
Entrance on the night £10 members, £12 non-members

Friday 29th November - Open Mic night
FREE ENTRY

Plus

Monday 16th December - Newmarket Town Band and Christmas Draw

Friday 27th December - Open Mic Night

Tuesday 31st December - NEW YEARS EVE PARTY with Rendition

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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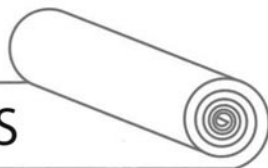


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Red 2 Green

As summer has come to an end, Red2Green has been swinging into autumn. With waterproof jackets on and muddy boots at the ready, many of our groups have been getting stuck in the natural world, from gardening to exploring local sites to arts and crafts. We find fun in any weather!

Our community garden is prepped and ready. It's been weeded, pruned, and preened and is now perfect for all of the cold-weather-friendly plants, including a vibrant selection of violas. All of them are potted and ready to go to their new homes. At £4 for a tray of 6, it's a bargain, if you ask me. Add some colour to your garden this autumn. The garden is a fantastic place; come and visit, wander around, and get involved with our community of gardeners.

You may have seen us visiting Anglesey Abbey at the end of September to celebrate some birthdays. The group enjoyed exploring the gardens, trekking down some woodland walks, and enjoying the natural art pieces. Milton Country Park is also a favourite for many of us to enjoy the cooler air and reconnect with nature. You may notice some new shoots peeking through. Come springtime, bright pinks and purples will flower thanks to our team, who put in time and care planting allium bulbs. We're looking forward to seeing them bloom in the springtime.

Hamberly Care Home has once again welcomed us in. Sara and Will, of our Aspirations group, had a great time being shown around the gardens and getting stuck in as part of their work experience at Hamberly.

Join us every Tuesday for our Coffee Mornings, treat yourself.

This is a little reminder that there are many ways to get involved through volunteering, fundraising, and even job vacancies for anyone looking to join the team.

We're approaching Christmas time and community events to keep your eyes peeled for/ The Christmas carol service is on December 10th at Swaffham Bulbeck Church at 11AM. Come and join us for a sing, followed by a Christmas Fair at the Granary Barn afterwards. Join us this festive season.

Useful Information

Bottisham Website:	www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk
Parish Council Chairman: Jon Ogborn, jon.ogborn@bottisham-pc.gov.uk	07486 372780
Parish Council Clerk: Sam Chambers-Turner, clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk	07369 248998
Holy Trinity Church: Vicar: Rev. Max Osborne max9@btinternet.com	01223 481187
Churchwarden: Stuart Field	01223 604019
Roman Catholic Priest: Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard	01223 211235
RE:NEW/Lode Chapel: Rev. Alan Brand	01223 812558
Bottisham Surgery: Enquiries and Appointments	810030
Out of Hours only - Urgentcare Cambridge	111
Bottisham Library: Library hours, <i>see advert previous page</i>	01223 812354
Cambridgeshire Police HQ:	01480 456111
Cambridgeshire Police: (NON-URGENT MATTERS)	ring 101
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Local East Cambs Policing info: www.cambs.police.uk/Neighbourhood-Policing/East-Cambs	
NAAFI Break: Gary Fairbairn	korum694@gmail.com
Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator: kevin.g.evans@ntlworld.com	01353 614892
Bottisham Pharmacy:	812321
Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club: Secretary Bev Clowes, Bottishamcasc@gmail.com	812063
Bottisham Community Primary School:	811235
Bottisham Village College, School:	811250
Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information	811372
Bottisham W.I.: Secretary - Jenn White • mrandjw@btinternet.com	811600
Bottisham Scout Group: Group Contact: Linda Jones	813040
1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies: Kay Pearce	811055
Girlguiding Bottisham District: Cambs County office • www.cambseastguides.org.uk	01223 813917
Bottisham & District Gardening Club: Secretary: Julia Green	811467
Bottisham Bowling Club: Peter Clowes, Sec., bottishambowlingclub@gmail.com	07756 431234
Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club: Nora Watson, nora@gandnwatson.uk	812121
Bottisham Cricket Club: Chairman: Will Allen, Chairman@bottlodecricket.co.uk	07713 007757
Bottisham Youth Football Club: Adam Bridgland, adambridgland@hotmail.com	07764 488599
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www.Britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham	
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East Cambridgeshire District Councillors:	
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John Trapp, 104 Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	01223 812120
Cambridgeshire County Councillor: Alan Sharp, Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	01638 507485/07794292941
MP for Constituency: Charlotte Cane, MP, charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk	
Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Helpdesk:	0845 3030666
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