

January 2024



THE
Cresset

Happy
2024

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



BOTTISHAM GREENWAY INFORMATION EVENING

TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2024 at 7.30 pm

DID YOU KNOW?

...that the "Bottisham Greenway" is coming to our village soon? It is one of a number of "Greenways" being introduced by the GCP around Cambridge to ease walking, cycling and, where appropriate, equestrian access to the city. This is an opportunity to come and understand the implications for you.

COME & HAVE YOUR SAY

The project team have been consulting with your Parish Council on the design, which makes changes to the village road system.

We want to hear your views on some of the design options. So please come along and have your say.

**SUPPORTING
RESIDENTS
SERVING THE
COMMUNITY**

**Location:
Bottisham Sports &
Social Club**

**Date & Time:
Tuesday 30th January
Doors open 7 pm for
7.30 pm start**



A Happy New Year to all our readers and indeed everybody who lives in our village.

I expect that everybody is getting over the festive season and I hope you had a great time. We certainly did with the whole family getting together to celebrate.

Well, 2023 was a funny old year with loads of highs and too many lows. In this country we are almost immune to the troubles which are affecting most of the world. How long will that last?

The man-made (but aren't they all!) disasters which is Gaza and the Israeli conflict now masking the ongoing battles in Ukraine are currently the ones which are in the headlines.

But there are others which are less 'front page' due to reporting restrictions and closed states. Ethnic cleansing is an oft used word, but that is what continues in Myanmar (former Burma) with the Rohingya genocide, China with the Uyghurs, and the Tigray province of Ethiopia, to name just three.

It is a sad reflection on humanity, that nearly all these and those of history have their roots in religion. Over the decades and centuries, even millennia, man's intolerance of other people's views has led to violence and suffering. I see no point in hoping it will end any time soon, because it won't.

Yet ironically, at the root of nearly all religions, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist et al, is peace to all mankind. It is the interpretation by individuals which cause the frictions. It can even rear its ugly head closer to home when it is regarding other people's views.

This month's New Year issue brings you lots of information and interesting articles. Things you need to know about the buses and things you didn't know about Wrens. That's the little birds, not the female Naval Ratings. (Oh dear. Perhaps they can't be categorised as female anymore in this daft country.)

Your magazine is here for you to enjoy and to make use of. If you have any ideas or articles which you would like to see in print, then do send them in. If they are suitable and won't offend anybody, we can publish them.

Any New Year resolutions? I am sure that we all have them in mind, but how many will be seen in practice, that's the thing. However, if you don't have them in your mind, they will never be seen at all!

Enjoy the month and hope to hear from you soon.

Your Editor



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 January.

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

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

As I write this we are in the full swing of the Advent and Christmas Church services and celebrations. I look around the shops and most are filled with Christmas glitter, baubles and lights with sometimes music blaring out while people charge around looking for Christmas gifts. However, within our churches we prefer a quieter reflection to remember that what we are actually celebrating is God's gift to us with the birth of his son, Jesus Christ.



During December we had to manage eight different church services and events. As well as welcoming the Archdeacon of Cambridge for our service on 3rd December and Rev Keith Morrison on 17th December, Julie Bristow and her choirs filled the church for a memorable concert as did Bottisham Primary School for their Christmas Carol Concert. We anticipate good numbers at our own Carol Service and Christmas Eve Holy Communion led by Liz Caswell, while we will enjoy singing carols with the residents of Hilton Park and Oaklands care homes at our regular monthly service there.

The interview for our new vicar has taken place and while there has not yet been an official announcement we are looking to the future with optimism.

After the hectic period over Christmas, we revert to a rather quieter New Year, both in the church and the churchyard. We welcome back Liz Caswell to take the Holy Communion Service on Sunday January 7th at 10.30am while Sarah Maxwell will lead our Morning Prayer on 21st January. Looking further ahead we will welcome Rev Keith Morrison back on Sunday 4th February to take our Holy Communion service at 10.30am.

I have found the past year, while we have been without a vicar, quite challenging. However, with considerable help from members of the Parochial Church Council, services and numerous other 'day to day' tasks in the church have been covered. Many members of the Bottisham Community who do not necessarily attend church services have also helped with church maintenance, clock winding, bell ringing, flower and cleaning rotas, as well as churchyard maintenance, for which I am most grateful – thank you.

**We hope to see you at one of our services.
May I wish you all
a very Happy New Year.**

*Stuart Field,
Churchwarden*

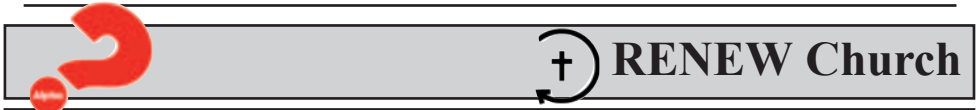
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Dear friends, - It is with real sadness that I write to let you know that Renew Church no longer uses Lode Chapel as a base for our worship and activities. You may not know, but we don't actually own the building, we have been caretakers and users of it for decades and have been blessed to let many community groups use it for their activities. We explored the option of buying the chapel, but that didn't work out. We can no longer afford to cover the day to day expenses or to carry out essential maintenance on a building that isn't ours.

Renew Church has really enjoyed making the chapel our own again, post-covid, but the time has come to leave the building again (having done so at Easter 2010 to move to Bottisham Primary School).

We are exploring a city centre venue where we can host inclusive gatherings, eat together and explore life and faith. A new season approaches.

I will still be living in the manse on Mill Road in Lode, my contact details will remain the same, please do get in touch if you would like to know more about what emerges over the coming weeks and months. This is not the end of Renew Church, we are excited for the future.

With my love and best wishes for a blessed 2024,

YARD SALE (due to relocation)

LODE CHAPEL - January 6th and 13th 2024, 11am-1pm

Comfy chairs, dining chairs, coffee and dining tables. Kitchenware and miscellaneous items.

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

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

Church Services: Zooming along nicely!

The Covid lockdowns were a challenge for our five village churches. We should be all about people gathering together, and suddenly we could not. However, very soon we discovered Zoom, and we were up and running pretty quickly with on-line services.

The lockdowns are gone, and the ‘physical’ church services are running. There is something special about being in church. You get to meet people in the flesh, enjoy the atmosphere of a ‘holy’ place, feel part of a congregation, and you can take Holy Communion.

Yet we are still running a Sunday 9a.m. Zoom service.

Why? Well, if you’ll excuse the pun – we do it as a service! It’s for anyone, especially those:

- who cannot get to a church, whether sometimes or at any time.
- who prefer to stay at home in bad weather, yet not miss Sunday worship.
- who need an earlier service, regularly or occasionally.
- who are away from the area, but would still like to join in our local worship.
- who find church buildings unfamiliar yet want to know more about God.

We try to emulate ‘physical’ church as best we can, so the services will seem familiar to churchgoers. For technical reasons we have to ask everyone to ‘mute’ during the service, but people can chat before and after – and they usually do!

You are welcome to join us, any Sunday 9 a.m. via your internet browser or the Zoom app. The joining link is on the weekly church notice sheets, or you can request it by emailing zoom@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk. We can also help you get started if you are not sure how.

Liz Butler & Mike Procter (Licensed Lay Ministers)



Village Litter Picks

Fresh air, friendship and looking after our wildlife

Bring your gloves and suitable clothes for the outdoors!

Starting Location	Date	Month
2024		
Bottisham Village College (<i>sports centre car park end</i>)	13 th	January
Queens Court Care Home	10 th	February
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	16 th	March
Bottisham Village College (<i>sports centre car park end</i>)	20 th	April

Further Information: All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am for approx. 1.5 hours, refreshments 11:15am (donations welcome!)

Ways to keep in touch with updates:

- ✓ Join the Bottisham Village Litter Pick WhatsApp Group
- ✓ Visit the Bottisham Events Facebook Page
- ✓ Visit the Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page

Parish Council Report

I trust that all our residents have had a good Christmas and some rest over the holiday period. After a busy year councillors also welcomed the opportunity to take a break, but come back knowing there are some significant matters ahead of us this year.

We have all been very pleased at the way Sam Chambers-Turner has settled in as our new clerk, bringing with her a wealth of experience that has been invaluable to the Council. She joined us at a particularly frenetic time end March, with end of year audits etc. Now she has found her feet, I am grateful that she will be writing these notes from next month - so you will no doubt see some change in style.

I would like to thank all of you who filled in the BUS SURVEY - which came to an end on 15th December. The results are being analysed and will be used to help argue the case for improved services for Bottisham. There is a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes, and we are grateful for all the work the B1102 group are putting in on our behalf.

Now on to matters discussed at the recent Council meeting.

BOTTISHAM GREENWAY INFORMATION EVENING

Many of you may be aware that the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is developing a number of "Greenway" routes around Cambridge to encourage pedestrian and cycling access into the city and within the surrounding villages. One of these is the "Bottisham Greenway", which will be coming to our village soon.

A broad outline of the project can be found at the link below:

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/active-travel-projects/greater-cambridge-greenways/bottisham-greenway> or
<https://tinyurl.com/bottishamgreenway>

However the detailed plans have moved on some way from what is on the web-site and we would like to share these with residents. This will take place at the following date and time.

DATE: Tuesday 30 January,

LOCATION: Bottisham Sports & Social Club (Main Hall) Time: 7.30 pm

The GCP project team have been consulting with the Parish Council through this year - with both on-site and several online meetings. As your elected representatives we have attempted to bring a balanced response to the proposals - and feel we have been able to obtain improvements to the original plans. These include reductions in mandatory speed limits on the High St from Beechwood Avenue (just east of our brick bus shelter) all along past the College to just beyond 133 Lode Rd.

However, the area we have found most challenging is knowing how to respond to proposals for changes around the Bell Rd T-junction and the Triangle. We have witnessed over the years how sensitive residents are to any changes in this area and/or disruption caused by road-works. So we feel it is important to ask YOUR opinion as a resident.

At our December Council meeting we identified three alternatives that we would like to discuss with you and on the 30th will offer you the chance to comment on the options - to

Continued on page 9

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help guide us in our discussion with the GCP. We want to ensure we have the village “with us” in any changes made (or not).

So, could I please encourage you to make it a priority to join us on the 30th? This is your chance to have your say.

NOTICE BOARDS

I am sure many of you will have noticed our elegant new blue Parish Council notice board - that should give us good service for many years to come. We plan to also replace the notice board on the wall of the Pharmacy in due course.

A question raised at the Council meeting is what to do with the “map” on the Triangle, as the current frame is in need of repair. Before we carry out any renovations we feel we need to give some thought as to its future. We are aware that a lot of work by residents went into creating this map (and the one by the village sign) to celebrate the millennium. But the maps are now inaccurate, as there have been a lot of changes over the last 23 years. The question was asked, in this day of Smartphone maps, how valuable is an out of date map? It was suggested, for instance, that a less time-sensitive historical introduction to the village might offer more for visitors. We would like to hear resident’s views. So, if you have any thoughts, please do write to us at: clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk.

PROJECT PLAY

In the Cressets of April, May & June 2014 Tony Jolley in his "Jolley Old World" provides a comprehensive history and explanation of why we do not have a recreation ground now - even though we did once have one!! You can read these on the Parish Council web-site - an interesting peruse. Over the years, the Parish Council has tried time and again to find land to rectify the deficiency. Our most recent foray has confirmed again that it is very difficult to access land locally for amenity use (unless you are offering developers planning permission to build homes). Which is why the Council insisted that the new Lindum Homes site off Bell Rd should offer a play facility (and allotments).

Members of the Project Play working group and the Council were pleased last month to visit the development with the project manager. There are plans for a quite a nice playground and, importantly, there is opportunity for the working group to have some input into the design. So we plan to meet again next spring with the project manager to discuss the final design shortly before construction commences.

I am pleased to report that there will also be 10 allotments with parking on the site. While the play area will be managed by ECDC, the allotments will be handed over to the Parish Council. So, over the next year, we will be working out how to manage these appropriately. We do not expect the allotments to be in operation until 2025.

SIX OAKS RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK

Some of you will be aware that the Six Oaks Renewable Energy Park (to be located just south of the A14) received planning consent in November. Albeit the route for connection to the grid has still to be finalised and we do not expect construction to be completed for 1-2 years.

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As part of their contribution to the local community, the developers (Ridge Clean Energy) have offered a Community Benefit of £30,000 to the surrounding Parishes (namely Bottisham, Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom). This to be paid annually during the 40 years that the project has permission to run. This triggered a rather lengthy negotiation among the Parishes. However, I am pleased to be able to report that we have now achieved what we feel is a fair and amicable agreement between us. In broad terms, we have agreed to allocate the Benefit in line with the 2021 population census figures for the Parishes. But, as the Wilbrahams will be most impacted by the construction phase, they will receive a more beneficial allocation for the first two years.

For the first two years of payments (commencing from the start of energy production) Bottisham will receive a benefit of £15000/annum. For the remainder of the contract, we will then receive £20910/annum. These amounts are index-linked. These are significant sums of money and will make a valuable contribution to our community in the years ahead.

PARISH PRECEPT

The Finance Working group presented a draft budget for 2024/5 at our December meeting. Based on this the Council approved our Parish precept for 2024/5 to be submitted to ECDC at the beginning of January. This needed to take into account the possibility that, after hopefully gaining ownership of land for our new cemetery next spring/summer, we may have some significant construction expenses in the year - necessitating a loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

The Council has also approved a £500 grant towards a “Summer Event” promoted by the Social Club and a £1000 grant towards the Cresset. The Cresset has seen its publication costs rise significantly and it could cease to function without this grant. The Cresset makes an invaluable contribution to the community and we are very grateful to all those who give their time freely to ensuring its publication and distribution. It was considered that a donation of £1000 out of the precept represents good value for us all.

We do not expect to receive any of the Ridge Clean Energy Community Benefit next year, so we have had to factor in covering all costs fully from the precept. To that end the Council approved a precept that represents a 27% increase over this year. This may sound a lot, but is a rise on not very much. We have one of the lower precepts in ECDC - in large part because of the Council owns so little. Now that we will become owners and managers of a significant bit of extra real estate, our costs are going to rise. In reality it is only an extra £1.40/month for a Band D property and our precept will still remain below average for East Cambs. In the years ahead, one hopes that the prospective Community Benefit will assist with the costs of the new cemetery.

Jon Ogborn, Chair of Council

Check out our website for the latest news, minutes, agendas, and reporting features at bottisham-pc.gov.uk.



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CONGESTION CHARGE

The Mayor, Nik Johnson has voted through the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan at the latest Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority meeting (CPCA) the County Council representative and those parties who have been pushing the imposition of, which continues to include references to congestion charging. I will continue to press against the Congestion Charge tax.

MORE TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

The ruling administration at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) have made permanent some current temporary features within Cambridge City, including the plastic wands down East Road, restricting traffic at Trumpington Road mini roundabouts, which is causing delays for buses, thus not encouraging drivers to use public transport.

CCC have a stated aim of getting people out of their cars and use public transport, which is admirable, but it must come with reliable services otherwise that will not happen. The artificial congestion that is being caused around the City is not conducive to achieving that aim and works against it. Coupled with the chaos caused by the GCP, Cambridge deserves better.

A complete rethink is required, but the ruling administration refuse to listen to constructive comments. The ruling administration voted down at the last County Council meeting a Conservative group proposal to have a cross party working group to look at the issues and try to resolve them. Working together for all residents.

I have ideas on how we can solve traffic issues within and outside the City and will continue to put those forward and welcome any suggestions from residents.

BUSES

The mayor is increasing the mayoral precept by 200% from £12 to £36 for a Band D property, which will apparently be spent on bus transport including Demand Responsive Transport, one scheme that will be in East Cambridgeshire towards the east of the district.

However, despite my lobbying, the mayor is not prepared to change the route of the number 11 to divert into Bottisham. This is disappointing, as even diverting every other service would have helped residents from outside Bottisham with access to the GP surgery and the Village College facilities and give Bottisham residents access to Anglesey Abbey and the other villages.

POTHoles AND HIGHWAY REPAIRS

The recent wet and cold weather has exposed the weakness of some of the previous pothole repairs. It has become more difficult to get repairs done, as the ruling administration are trying to save money or spending it on other projects, which leaves less money for essential repairs.

CCC BUDGET

The CCC has a budget gap for 2024/2025 of £28m and this is with the various pressures that CCC have. My colleagues and I will be challenging them over the coming weeks to try to ensure that the best choices are made for residents.

Continued on page 15



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I came into local politics to get things done and it is disappointing that the ruling administration reject all of our proposals believing that they have the only solution, which based on the current underperformance on congestion, buses and highway repairs and finance, they definitely do not have.

I am here to represent you, so if there are any issues that concern you, please contact me. If I am not aware of an issue, I am not able to solve it.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to continuing to serve you in 2024.

Alan Sharp Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Woodditton Division

Tel: 01638 507485/ 07794292941

E-Mail: Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

District Councillors' Report

Happy New Year!

If you had a real Christmas tree, you can dispose of it during January by leaving it by your Green/Brown bin, cut into pieces that are not higher or wider than the bin. If you had a plastic tree, please use it for as many years as possible, give it away or take it to the recycling centre.

The district council is working on a new 'environment chapter' for its now very outdated Local Plan. This would at least fill some of the obvious gaps in the council's planning framework. Consideration has begun of what the contents of this chapter might be, and also what it would exclude.

Following a local public vote on which animal residents would most want to save, the council will also be producing a supplementary planning document on hedgehogs. If you want ideas on how to help hedgehogs, there is a really useful booklet on-line - <https://tinyurl.com/WildaboutGardens>

We are still asking questions about the finances of East Cambs Street Scene, the Council's waste collection and street cleaning company, which is still overspending and not meeting its key performance indicators.

At the Council's Operational Services Committee meeting in November, it emerged that the accounts were not being reviewed in the form laid down by the Memorandum of Agreement; and that the October Management Accounts would not be considered by the Company Board until January. We expressed concern that the report to the Committee did not give reassurance that the overspending could be resolved by the year end, and at the apparent lack of urgency to resolve the situation. A strategic review of the waste and recycling service has been established.

Continued on page 17

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Some months ago the Council announced that it would be moving to the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil to fuel its waste collection vehicles. It then said this would be too expensive due to the current cost of the oil. The waste fleet is the single biggest contributor to the Council's carbon footprint. We supported a proposal that as there had been a net underspend of £33,000 on fuel by East Cambs Street Scene in the first six months of the financial year, and as a further underspend was likely for the remainder of the year, this underspend could be used to run the fleet on hydrotreated vegetable oil for the rest of the year, even at the higher price. This proposal was defeated by six votes to five.

The Council has approved new policies on Supporting Residents Experiencing Domestic Abuse, and Employee Abuse.

New postal and proxy vote regulations have come into effect as a result of the Elections Act 2022.

Electors wishing to vote by post will now need to reapply for their postal vote arrangement every three years instead of every five. The number of people a person can act as proxy for will be limited to four, of which no more than two can be 'domestic' electors (ie not overseas or service electors).

A National Insurance Number (or other relevant data) will now be required on applications for postal or proxy votes, but it will now be possible to apply online for these.

Our next Councillors' surgery will be on Wednesday 25 January 6:30-7:30PM at Westley Waterless Village Hall. Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email, or phone.

Planning Notes

a) New applications:

23/01006/FUL, 19 Pound Close Bottisham. Alterations to ground floor layout, a roof lantern, solar panels on flat roofs, alterations to NW elevation and construction of a cycle store

b) Planning Applications approved by ECDC:

22/01291/ESF, Installation of a Renewable Energy Park between A14 and A11

23/01061/FUL, 33 Jenyns Close Bottisham. Single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory, rear box dormer to create 2 bedrooms at first floor

23/00930/FUL, 20 Pound Close Bottisham. Demolition of existing single storey side extension and porch and the erection of single storey side and front extensions, internal alterations and associated works

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 January.

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





DRAIN-PLUMB

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SPRING TERM COURSES 2024

We are looking forward to welcoming back Julian Sedgwick for a new 5-week course. This course on Japan: Japanese History and Culture: A Deeper Dive will explore 5 specific threads – Japan now, history, film, the role of women and literature with the aim of understanding more deeply key elements of modern Japanese society. Illustrated with many images and video clips and presented by an expert on Japan.

THE COURSE WILL START at 10.00 on THURSDAY 18th JANUARY and run until THURSDAY 15th February – the last session will be followed by a short AGM

The cost of the course is £20 for members with an additional one off £5 charge for non-members. We meet at Bottisham Sports and Social Club in Downing Close. We take a break midway through the session and ask that you bring your own tea and coffee - we provide the biscuits.

STARTING at 10.30 on THURSDAY 29th FEBRUARY for 5 weeks

A return visit by Stephen Poulter to present a course entitled Becoming a House Detective – Researching the Story of Historic Buildings. A local historian, Stephen will reveal the research process he followed when uncovering the 350 year story of his 17th century cottage in Norfolk and how he explored the lives of owners and tenants who lived there. Illustrated by various maps, resources, deeds and documents involved in investigating the background of any historic property using online and archive sources Stephen will help us to set out on a journey of historical discovery.

We look forward to seeing you again. New members are always welcome. For more information email Bottishambala@btinternet.com

Helen Cole

Bottisham WI

We collected a wonderful amount of Christmas gifts for young, old and those less fortunate than ourselves for the Salvation Army Cambridge Christmas Appeal at our November meeting. We also donated cash or cheque or gave wrapping paper.

We then proceeded at small tables to prepare a personalised Christmas Card. Pat Howard our Chairman had worked long and hard in preparing a package of card, holly and leaves, beads and sticky bits for each of us and had cut several red poinsettia leaves in different sizes. It was surprising how different our cards were at the end, and all looked good when we added the Christmas Greeting motif and had the inner greeting stamped message.

A pleasant social occasion when we had a chance to sit and chat.

I will write next month about our Christmas Party meeting as it is after the submission date for this issue.

Our first meeting of the New Year is Tuesday 16th January when Jason Middleton will speak on Pearls – a famous gemstone

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room.

Sylvia Overton

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Public Transport Matters

If you've passed by bus stops in the village recently, you'll have seen that Stephenson's have posted little notices on the blank timetable case (if the stop has one) or attached them to the pole if there is no case. These notices firstly thank us for our custom and then show two QR codes, which can be scanned on a smartphone. The left QR code gives a link to Stephenson's main timetable page on its website, which, once opened, you need to scroll down on to get to the correct page for the timetables for the 11 or the 12 services. The right QR code gives a link to Stephenson's daily update page which lists all the bus journeys across its whole network which, for various reasons, are not going to run 'today' (i.e. the date that you're standing at the bus stop scanning the QR code). Thankfully, this list is usually not very long, and usually neither the 11 nor the 12 have cancelled journeys.

The final piece of the information jigsaw, if you do have a smartphone, is the myTrip app, which can be downloaded from whatever App store that your smartphone operating system uses. In my experience this app doesn't always show your bus on it (as it should), but when it is working properly you can see the actual location of the bus that you're waiting for, so you can see how far away it is from your stop. This therefore gives you an idea of when it is likely to arrive at your stop.

A little bit further afield, but not greatly, is Stansted Airport. Recently I had cause to go there and had some spare time while there to visit the Airport's bus and coach station. Before the pandemic this was very busy with lots of bus and coach services to different places all over Essex, East Anglia and much further away as well. Of course, the pandemic meant that public transport use sharply declined, but it was recently announced that nationally bus travel is now back up at the level it was before the pandemic. And the experience of Stansted Airport reflects that. There are now a large number of different express coach services to various different areas of central London, and recently Stansted Airport has returned as a major public transport 'hub' with many regular bus services to surrounding villages and small towns, and some regular fast bus services, throughout the night, to Chelmsford and Southend.

Stansted Airport also has regular direct train services from Cambridge Station.

Enjoy the Christmas / New Year break, and remember that there will be no buses on the 11 or 12 on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day

Happy travelling in the New Year!

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

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 January.

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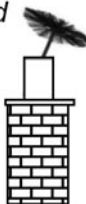
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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR CLUB

WHAT'S ON?

Monday 15th January Club - AGM - 7:30pm start

Are you interested in helping to run the club - Join the committee!
We need new people and new ideas.

Friday 26th January - Open Mic Night - 8pm start

Our regular monthly event, a great night not to be missed.

Saturday 10th February - Bowling Club - Valentines Cheese & Wine Event

The bowling club is holding a fundraising event, join them for this tasty event.

Saturday 17th February - Library Quiz Night

The library is holding a fundraising event. How clever are you?

Friday 23rd February - Open Mic Night - 8pm start

Our regular monthly event, a great night not to be missed.

Saturday 2nd March - 'The Numbers' 8pm start

This band will get you moving on a cold winter's night.
Bring your friends just £5 for members and £10 for non-members.

Saturday 23rd March - Bowling Club - Race Night

Fancy a little flutter, join this fundraising evening. You Could win!

Friday 29th March - Open Mic Night - 8pm start

Our regular monthly event, a great night not to be missed.

Saturday 30th March - Easter fun for the children

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 bottishamcsac@gmail.com
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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

NAAFI Break: The next get together is 10am 3 January 2024 at Anglesey Abbey restaurant. The meetings will then continue to be on the first Wednesday of the month at 10 am unless otherwise notified.

Meeting Point: Coffee, Biscuits, and a chat held 10.00am – 12.00 every Wednesday morning in the Poppy Lounge at the Bottisham Sports and Social Club.

Well-Brahams Warm Mornings: These are held in the Memorial Hall, Great Wilbraham 10am -12.30pm monthly. Next one 11 January 2024 for games, coffee, cakes and conversation. All welcome.

Health: We hope you keep healthy in 2024 and are up to date with the vaccinations for which you are eligible.

The Patient Participation Group: As usual we are inviting new members to join the committee, all patients of this Practice are eligible. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved.

Change of Meeting: We have postponed the next meeting from December. This will now be at 6.30pm 25 January 2024 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meeting, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com.. Or speak to reception.

Bottisham and District Gardening Club

For our November meeting we were treated to a demonstration on wreath making by Simon White. Simon is the Garden Centre Sales Manager at Peter Beales Roses in Attleborough so we also had the benefit of his wealth of knowledge about roses.

Simon is self-taught, so some of his methods are unique. He started making wreaths as a hobby, but his pastime has now got seriously out of control as he produces about 300 every year. He buys most of his material from horticultural suppliers, particularly as it is illegal to harvest moss from forests, and he can use the time saved to make more wreaths. He starts with a metal ring to which he binds copious amounts of moss to form the base.

Next he introduces evergreens which could be anything from the garden and not just the traditional holly. It doesn't have to have berries as rose hips or other berries can be added. The finishing touches can be sourced from a vast array of materials such as dried citrus slices, cinnamon sticks, pine cones, medlars and even the occasional silk flower.

He showed us how to wire up the more difficult accessories such as pine cones, citrus slices and medlars. For the festive season a red bow is also a must. The result he achieved from an eight inch metal ring was impressive and several members made a purchase immediately. According to Simon, if they were hung on doors after the meeting they should still be looking good now.

Our meeting on the 23rd January is titled "The Fen Boy who became a Cambridge Detective" by Denis (Digger) Moules. Non-members are welcome for a small fee.

Margret Coles



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I will start with a report on our 2023 Remembrance service on 12th November.

We expected it to be low key this year as the museum was unable to find vicar or military personnel, but it turned out to be the most moving service we have ever put on at the museum.

A formation of three aircraft gave three flypasts, the first just before 11 am. After the two-minute silence a poem was read, then Jason Webb and Suzanna Bone read out a list of the fallen as the formation of aircraft flew past again. And, as the words "We will remember them" were said, the two WW2 USAAF Piper Grasshoppers and a WW1 RAF S.E.5 Biplane did one



final flypast leaving a lot of people close to tears being on the airfield where fifty airmen had lost their lives so long ago.

A good crowd was in attendance including a motor bike club and residents from Hilton Park Care Centre. Later, the pilots drove from Duxford and had hot drinks and cake as a reward. The Museum would like to thank Paul Ford and the other pilots for their help.

During the last two weeks of November a small band of volunteers led by Mark Easey prepared and laid a temporary floor in the hangar. This is made of ex-military plastic clip fit tiles which are normally used for helicopters to land on.

On 1st December we moved our P51 Mustang into the hangar where it will now be kept most of the time and only moving out on event days. See photo above. We intend to move other Mustang exhibits which have not been on public display before into the hangar, so creating a whole new display for the new season that starts on Easter Sunday 31st March 2024. I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope to see some of you at the Museum.

Charles Cook - Museum volunteer

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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Bottisham Community Library Association

Thank you to all who supported our stall at the recent Craft Fair at the Bottisham Sports and Social Club. We raised £77 for our funds from the sale of books and jigsaws.

Sorry for having a moan but I recently borrowed jigsaw 246 (Grandad's Attic) from the library and found 1 piece missing, 4 pieces broken in half (did the dog chew them or did they find their way into the cleaner) but 3 extra unrelated bits. These jigsaws (and we have a large supply for both adults and children) are free to borrow) but we do ask that you return the puzzle with all pieces back in the bag and advise the volunteers if there are any bits missing. No 246 has been sent for recycling.

The first Story telling time and rhyme time sessions are on 6th January.

Lego Club dates for the New Year are:

Saturdays, 13th January, 10th February, 9th March and 13th April.

Our Annual Library quiz has been booked for Saturday 17th February at the Bottisham Sports and Social Club. Please make a note of the date.

Sylvia Overton



Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

Our programme for 2024 begins with Holy Communion Service, which again this year will be combined with the weekly Thursday morning Holy Communion in St James' Church, Lode. This will take place on 18th January led by Rev. Roger Bowen. After the service Mothers' Union members will be serving a soup lunch.

Copies of our full programme of meetings for 2024 can be found in all five parish churches. Please help yourself to a copy, and you are most welcome to join us.

A Happy New Year to all readers.



Ann Langran

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB

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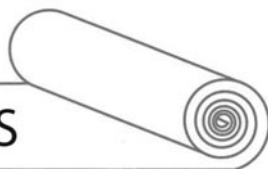


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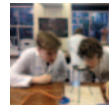
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CFRS is keen to assist the population stay warm and live safely, not just this winter but always. With continuing cost-of-living rises to endure, especially energy, many people are looking at ways to reduce their usage and find alternative ways of heating their homes.

Here are some general tips to help save safely this winter:

- Check that all heating appliances are in good working order and not subject to outstanding recall – check the ‘Office for Product Safety and Standards’.
- Keep all flammable furniture and clothes well away from heaters and fires.
- Ensure appropriate fuels are burnt in fires and stoves to avoid chimney fires.
- Keep escape routes clear of clutter – parcels, heaters, shoes etc.
- Keep up servicing routines on gas boilers and appliances to prevent leaks and potential CO poisoning – Homeowners check your energy provider’s website re their Priority Services Register (if eligible you may qualify for a free annual gas safety check) – Landlords must arrange an annual gas safety check !

Key areas and advice to try and help save on costs –

Open fires and chimneys – the Service attends around 100 fires a year involving chimneys, most of which could be avoided by following some simple safety tips:

- Appoint a skilled and technically competent chimney engineer – search HETAS.
- Keep flue shafts clear, well maintained and swept annually before winter lighting to ensure no accumulated debris might cause a fire. Inspect the brickwork and beams.
- Always use a fireguard to protect against flying embers.
- Make sure that embers are extinguished before turning in.

Portable electric heaters

Many may not have been recently used, perhaps kept for emergencies, so check that yours works safely and is plugged into a wall socket – NOT an extension lead or, even worse, an adapter! They must be cooled and switched off before moving, and not across a passageway.

Do not use them, gas or electric, in bathrooms or too near to wet drying clothes.

Candles!

Whether being used for cooking (heaven forbid!), lighting (to save electricity), decoration, scent or as a religious symbol, these popular accessories can be **dangerous**.

- Use only a proper candle holder, eg a ceramic dish, on a level heat-resistant surface with plenty of space around it and away from draughts, curtains, furniture and other flammable surfaces.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets – dogs wagging tails !
- Never place on televisions or other polished surfaces
- Never attempt to move a lighted candle - or leave alight when going to bed!

**For more information or to get in touch contact us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or on 0800 9179994.
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Bottisham Bird Brain

It is now a year since the birth of ‘Bird Brain’ and, if you remember, we started off with a look at probably the most popular, and one of the commonest British birds you’ll see in your garden – the Robin. We’ll enter 2024 with another common favourite, which you might hear more often than you see it – the Wren.

The song of the Wren is quite distinctive: a sweet, chortling warble, surprisingly loud and penetrating for such a tiny bird, with a diagnostic trill in the middle. It’s often the loudest song in

parks, gardens and woodlands, although it can be tricky to locate because the Wren is fond of flitting around in thick vegetation and will often sing from an obscured perch. A little patience may be required, but the bird will nearly always show itself eventually, due to its restless foraging. When alarmed, it commonly emits a repeating “churr” or an irritated “tic-tic-tic”, so when you hear these sounds, anonymously, from the bottom of a bush, think ‘Wren’ every time!

At around 11million pairs, the Wren is the commonest resident bird in the UK, even though – due to its small, delicate constitution – it suffers heavy losses (up to 25%) during long, cold winters. It is pretty common in Europe too, ranging across the Palearctic as far as Japan. Its family tree is quite complex, though: there are 28 subspecies in different areas of the world, including the Winter Wren in the US, and even three Scottish varieties... in St Kilda, Shetland and Fair Isle!

Visually, the Wren is quite unmistakable, by virtue of its tiny size (8cms length, 9gms weight), round, almost dumpy appearance, and characteristic cocked tail. With its (relatively) long legs, and perky character, I guarantee you will smile when an individual stands still long enough for you to enjoy a few moments of eye contact. And when it goes, it will disappear quickly in a rapid whirring of its stubby wings. The plumage is a rich, streaky brown and the delicate bill gives it away as an insect eater, (larvae, caterpillars and spiders included). It won’t visit your bird table though... if you want to attract Wrens, then scatter some mealworms on the ground, preferably in more secluded, untidy areas of your garden.

Wrens will occasionally nest in manufactured nest boxes but they evidently prefer to build a nest in thick cover – a dome of grass, leaves, moss, feathers and wool with a round hole as a side entrance. They (the males) may even build more than one nest and either let the female furnish the one of her choice by lining it with feathers, or adopt a polygamous lifestyle by finding a second mate within the same territory! A pair normally raise two broods of between four and six chicks, which have a fledge time of 15-18 days, so – even with a high mortality rate – Wrens are able to maintain a stable long-term population quite easily.



(Continued on page 39)

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(Continued from page 37)

One of my favourite things about the Wren relates to its taxonomy. The name is derived from the Middle English “wrenne”, meaning “little tail”, and the Latin classification is the memorable “Troglodytes troglodytes”, which translates as “cave dweller”. This is generally thought to be because of its habit of exploring holes, nooks and crannies for insects and arthropods; but I do wonder if the shape of the nest could be an alternative, simpler reason. I understand, in ancient Greek, “troggle” is a hole and “dyein” is creep, so either or both explanations could be valid!

Incidentally, who remembers the British Farthing? (For those in their mid-60s or younger, the farthing was a quarter of a penny, pre-decimalisation, which is the equivalent of about a tenth of a ‘new’ penny.) The reason I mention it is because, between 1937 and 1960 (when it was phased out), the farthing featured a Wren on the ‘tails’ side; and it was chosen, apparently, because it was thought to be Britain’s smallest bird at the time. This was a misapprehension, in fact, the Goldcrest and Firecrest are accepted as smaller and certainly lighter, these days.

In culture, there is a seemingly strange association of Wrens with Kings, perhaps down to Aesop who wrote of the Wren as “King of the Birds” in one of his fables. The story tells of a competition between a Wren and an Eagle to see who could soar the higher. The Wren sat on the Eagle’s back until the Eagle tired, then flew upwards to victory while the Eagle plummeted... thus proving that cleverness can beat strength alone. This concept of the Wren as king has persisted in many cultures throughout the world. In Japan the Wren is “King of the Wind”; in Germany it is “King of the Fence”; in the Netherlands it is “Winter King”; and, among the Celts, the Druids called the Wren “King of All the Birds”.

At this point, my research took me on to Ireland, where there is a traditional St Stephen’s Day ceremony on 26th December in which a Wren is hunted by a gathering of “Wrenboys” dressed in straw suits! The Wren – in past centuries a real bird, but presently a model – would be tied to the wrenboy leader’s staff (a branch or pitchfork) and paraded around the residences of the countryside to collect money for charity while the boys sang to solicit the donations. This extraordinary ritual is apparently replicated in a number of European countries and has even been revived by a band of Molly Dancers in the Suffolk village of Middleton. There are various versions of the song itself, and a number of popular musicians have referenced the Hunting of the Wren in assorted songs over the past few decades, including Liam Clancy, Steeleye Span and The Chieftans! Who knew, eh?!

TTFN - Gerry Daish

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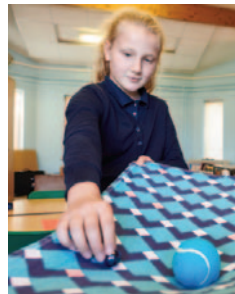
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