

May 2024

THE   
*Cresset*



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



# Village Litter Picks 2024

Fresh air, friendship and  
looking after our wildlife

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Starting Location	Date	Month
Queens Court Care Home	11	May
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	15	June
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	13	July
Queens Court Care Home	10	August
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	September
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	October
Queens Court Care Home	16	November
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	December

Further Information:

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

Ways to keep in touch with updates:

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

I will start this editorial with a sincere thank you to everybody who was involved in, or made their feelings felt about the retirement village plan. Despite the overwhelming objective, subjective and practical views expressing their rejection, it has been passed by remote bureaucrats with no understanding of the impact this will have on this village and ECDC effectively washing their hands of it.



Many people who have lived here for a while may think that the 'Park Estate' was the biggest change we have had, but there must have been more than twice that development since and now with the same again to come.

Over the decades, indeed centuries, Bottisham's population has grown and shrunk, but it is now the biggest it has ever been and growing. Perhaps we could apply for city status if we could get Holy Trinity designated a cathedral!

However, we are not alone in seeing development and expansion. The sight of the new 'village' called Springstead by the airport, sees Cherry Hinton heading East, shortly to merge with Teversham. Once the whole of the airport site is developed that will then be joined up with the Marleigh development and so it goes on. Who knows where it will end.

For our small part, the work now being done, by the Village development plan group will go some way to allowing us to have more say and influence in future plans.

The next big thing for this village is on a much happier note. You will see in the centre section of the magazine, notice of the Village Summer 'event' on the 8th of June.

Influenced greatly by the success of last year's KC3 event, celebrating the King's coronation, it has been decided to mount a similar series of events for the village to enjoy. From morning with breakfast being hosted at Queens Court to music and dance in the evening at the Social Club, there is a full day of interest and fun for everybody. You will see outline detail in the pull-out centre section of this month's magazine. There will be more details next month.

Lots of other useful articles and reports this month for you to enjoy and keep up to date with what is going on in Bottisham this month.

Bird Brain as usual makes a great interesting read and Transport matters has details of great value trips further afield making use of the current £2 cap on ticket prices.

Talking of value there is also detail of what Newmarket community cinema has to offer.

Have a great month and enjoy the couple of long weekends that we will have, remembering that the bins will be on the Tuesday of those weeks.

I am writing this before we go off up north for a couple of weeks, visiting friends and family back in the old homeland, but will be back again probably before you read this.

## *News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham*



As I write this we are in full preparation for the Induction and Installation of our new vicar The Rev. Malcolm Eric (Max) Osborne which will have taken place on Friday 19th April. The Service will be led by The Rt Revd. Bishop Dagmar Winter who is the Bishop of Huntingdon and acting Bishop of Ely, and the Archdeacon of Cambridge the Venerable Dr Alex Hughes. We are expecting large numbers of worshippers both locally from the Anglesey Benefice as well as those who were involved in the six rural parishes around Horringer where Max was previously the Rector. In addition, it is customary to invite all those clergy who have been helping us out during the vacancy as well as those clergy from the wider Fordham and Quy Deanery of which we are part. Prominent people from the wider Diocese as well as those locally such as Chairpersons of Parish Councils and Headteachers of local schools are but some examples of others who will be attending. Unfortunately, due to a delay in maintenance work being done on the new vicarage in Beechwood Avenue, Max will not commence his activities locally until the first week of July, finally moving to Bottisham at the end of the school summer term.

The Benefice Easter Day Service, led by Rev. Liz Caswell, saw a packed church with, once again, a magnificent display of flowers put on by our dedicated team. Liz will also lead our Holy Communion worship on Sunday May 5th, with Sarah Maxwell leading our Morning Prayer on 19th May. We had a massive church clean in the week prior to Max's induction and thanks are given to the many people involved. However, we are looking for one or two more people to help with the regular church cleaning. If we can recruit, then duties would only be once every eight weeks with a more experienced partner. Please contact Helen Cole if you feel you could help: 01223 812573.

Immediate problems with the church structure are being managed. The damaged rendering on the north buttress of the chancel will be repaired by a local expert. The leaking roof over the east side of the south aisle has been inspected by a drone and roofing contractors are in the process of giving an estimate for its repair.

Two statutory church meetings are held each year. A Vestry meeting was held prior to our service on April 7th and at this, those on the Electoral Role of the church elected me as Churchwarden for my third year. The second – the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – will be held on Thursday 18th April when all Parishes in the Benefice, including our own, will discuss their reports for 2023 and elect the other officers who will serve on the PCC during the coming year.

Many thanks to those of you who generously contributed to our Easter Gift Day, your financial support is really appreciated. The amount raised is being counted at the moment and I will lead on this in the June Edition of the Cresset.

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

*Stuart Field, Churchwarden.*

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## BOTTISHAM PARISH VILLAGE EVENT

We are pleased to announce that following the success of last year's coronation event the Parish will be holding a similar event this year.

**This will take place on  
Saturday 8th June.**

**Events will start form 10am so save the date and bring your  
friends & neighbours.**

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## *Services in the Anglesey Benefice*

<b>Wed May 1st</b>	<b>8pm</b>	<b>C by C (a short contemplative service) – online via Zoom</b>
<b>Sun May 5th</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service on Zoom</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion – Bottisham</b>
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Village Worship - Quy Village Hall</b>
<b>Thur May 9th</b>	<b>Ascension Day</b>	
	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion – Lode</b>
	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion with Cambridge Voices - Swaffham Prior</b>
<b>Sun May 12th</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service on Zoom</b>
		<b>Holy Communion - Quy</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship – Swaffham Prior</b>
<b>Sun May 19th</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service on Zoom</b>
		<b>Morning Prayer - Quy</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck</b>
		<b>Morning Prayer – Bottisham</b>
<b>Sun May 26th</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service on Zoom</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP) - Swaffham Prior</b>
<b>Every Thur</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion - Lode</b>

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**Please check the Church notice board for any changes to these details; or email [admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto: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 WI*

We held our Annual Meeting in March (back to normal dates after Covid) and had a very good report from our Secretary Jenn White on all that we did in the past year. The financial report was given by the Treasurer Jean Turney and she reported on a surplus for the year and that funds are healthy. Pat Howard our President thanked all members for their support.

Jean Coxall from Lode WI then chaired the meeting. Nominations for the new committee resulted in the appointment of Sue Spaxman together with the majority of the 2023 committee members being reappointed. An election then took place for the position of President and by a small number of votes Sandra Clark was duly appointed.

Pat Howard was warmly thanked for serving a 5 year term covering the difficult Covid period involving changes of venue and change of meeting nights. Meetings had to be cancelled and speakers rearranged.

**Our next meeting is on Tuesday 21st May when Angela Saunders will come with her dog to tell us about Hearing Dogs.**

**Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room and visitors are welcome.**

*Sylvia Overton*

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# *Parish Council Report*

**The next full council meeting will be held by on revised date of 16th May 2024, 7.30pm at the Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club. Due to the late meeting in May, there will be no Parish Council meeting in June 2024, but matters will be attended to in the absence of a meeting under delegated authority. 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.**

## **BOTTISHAM GREENWAY**

The Parish Council held a meeting with Peter Blake, currently Director of Transport and soon to be Interim Director of the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (GCP) at the end of May 2024, when the current Chief Executive, Rachel Stopard retires. The Parish Council were given the opportunity to speak frankly about our concerns for the Bottisham Greenway and the inadequate communication with residents by the project team. Mr Blake acknowledged that the GCP could have liaised more effectively with villages and expressed a desire to co-operate more fully with the Parish Council and residents in developing a scheme that best meets the needs of the village.

The village has now applied for 20 mph throughout the village under the Local Highways Initiative. Mr Blake acknowledged that this calls into question the need for a further, very similar, Greenway scheme through the middle of the village – with potential confusion for road users. He had also noted how heavily the area around the shops is used and careful thought was needed if the Greenway were to go past the Triangle.

In light of the above, the Parish Council requested that the GCP consider ending the Greenway at the back entrance to the village college on Bell Rd (just before Wisbeach Ave) – which is used by nearly all pupils accessing the school from the A1303. The Parish Council also asked for consideration of a spur off the Swaffhams Greenway, from the Lode Road crossroads down to the village college. It was felt that an upgrade to the footpath and cycleway here would be well supported by surrounding parishes – with many pupils using this route to get to school.

Mr Blake expressed willingness to explore the suggestions that the Parish Council had made and would respond in due course. Mr Blake further committed that the GCP would hold a face to face consultation with Bottisham residents, before any works commenced in the village.

## **RETIREMENT VILLAGE**

After an extra ordinary meeting on 14th March, the Parish Council organised a resident's petition that highlighted public concern to East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) about the Planning Inspectorate's approval of the proposed retirement village in Bottisham, requesting they apply for a Judicial Review (JR) of the decision. Cllrs Ogborn and Cundell

*Continued on page 9*

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**Continued from page 7**

had a constructive meeting on Tuesday 19th March, with Director of Operations Isabel Edgar and District Cllr Cane. Isabel had a good understanding of the case and our concerns. Letters and all the petitions (at the time 700 which is around 30% of our village!) were handed in along with supporting documents. ECDC had engaged a King's Counsel (KC) to review the Appeal decision and, at the time, were awaiting his feedback.

Unfortunately, we heard from ECDC on 20th March that the KC had concluded that there were insufficient grounds to successfully pursue a JR. The KC advice was shared in confidence with the Parish Council, who had resolved on 14th March that we did not have the resource to separately pursue a JR without the full support of ECDC.

ECDC itself is unable to make public comment on the matter, as we are in the run up to an election. However, we are grateful for the following comment from Cllr Cane, that she is happy for us to publish.

*“Following legal advice, both the Parish Council and the District Council decided not to pursue a Judicial Review. I know this is disappointing to many people, but their decisions were based on legal advice which considered the case in detail.*

*Now we need to turn our attention to mitigating the development and getting the best we can out of it for the village. One way to do this in the Planning System is through a Section 106 Agreement, which sets out the developer's obligations. This agreement is binding on future owners of the site, so remains relevant even if the site is sold on. Following normal practice, the S106 agreement for this development was drawn up and signed before the Appeal was decided. This is a public document, available on the Bottisham Parish Council website and the East Cambs Planning Portal - 23\_00205\_OUM-S106\_Decision-1562007 (eastcambs.gov.uk). The S106 gives some reassurance, in that they are tied to delivering the open space and the affordable housing:*

*P26 They can't occupy more than 50% of the retirement housing until they have transferred 50% of the Affordable housing and can't occupy more than 75% of the retirement housing until all of the Affordable housing has been transferred.*

*P30 They can't occupy more than 50% of the units until the Public Open Space has been transferred.*

*There is also some one-off funding for the surgery and the ambulance service, as well as for education. I realise this will not resolve the on-going pressures, but S106 agreements are limited in what they can require of developers.*

*The Appeal allowed outline consent, the developers now need to draw up detailed plans, with design details, access details etc and submit them to ECDC for approval. When the Parish Council presented their petition, the District Council explained that they were still awaiting the legal advice and would consider it carefully and share it, in confidence, with the Parish Council. They further committed, that if they did not go to Judicial Review, they would engage closely with the Parish Council when the application for detailed consent is received, and I will hold them to this.”*

**Continued on page 11**



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*Continued from page 9*

## **YEAR END ACCOUNTS**

The Parish Councils year end accounts have now been closed and are awaiting Internal and External Audit. The Parish Council came in under budget for the year ending 23-24. The period of public rights to inspect the accounts will commence on 10th June 2024. Anyone wishing to inspect or require further information should contact me during this period. More detailed information will be displayed on the noticeboard and on the website in due course.

## **PROJECT PLAY**

The Parish Council are pleased to announce that work on the play area in the new development off Bell Road is well underway. It is expected that the adjacent woodland to the east of the development will also be transferred to ECDC shortly. There is potential there for development of a woodland play area and installation of appropriate play equipment for older children. ECDC are keen to involve the Project Play group and other local residents in developing this area.

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 you can either email [clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk) or phone 07369248998.

*Sam Chambers-Turner - Clerk to the Council*

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## ***Planning Notes***

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### **a) New applications:**

24/00271/FUL: 41 Beechwood Avenue Bottisham. Single storey front extension

24/00182/FUL: 19 Pound Close Bottisham. Alterations to the ground floor layout to create an enlarged kitchen and study. Extension to porch. Replace flat roof with pitched roof over the altered and extended spaces. Install solar panels and rooflights

### **b) Planning Applications approved by ECDC:**

24/00025/FUL: 28 Beechwood Avenue Bottisham. Entrance porch, single storey extension, extension to the kitchen including alterations to existing and proposed windows and doors and internal alterations

23/00421/FUL: Howgar House 41 Bell Road Bottisham. Construction of 1 No. 3/4 bedroom, two storey dwelling, with off-street parking for two vehicles on garden land

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**Copy deadline for next issue is 14 May.**

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# *District Councillors' Report*

The Council is advertising for an independent person to serve on its Audit Committee. The independent person will work alongside the elected councillors on the Committee. Appointing a robust independent person to the Audit Committee is the first step to creating an Audit Committee which can ensure strong governance and risk management. If you are interested in the role, more detail can be found at - <https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/job-vacancies/independent-person>

Charlotte, John and colleagues asked some robust questions about increased agency costs, unrealistic fuel costs, and other elements of the ECSS budget. In 2023/23 East Cambs District Council paid East Cambs Street Scene an annual fee of £3 million to collect waste and recycling, and clean the streets. Two years later the council administration has just signed off a £4.6 million payment to deliver exactly the same service—an increase of fifty-three per cent. Mark and colleagues voted against the business plan.

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

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

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

The Climate change and nature restoration chapter is the first step in the replacement of the council's increasingly out of date local plan. This piece of work is somewhat hampered by the Government's announcement that council local plans will not be allowed to be more ambitious for carbon reduction than current building standards.

Charlotte proposed that the council should ask officers to update us regularly on how far other councils are able to move the dial on this, and that we should ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister pointing out the short-sightedness of his announcement, but we were defeated.

Consultation on the new chapter will take place in due course.

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

Consultation on the new policy will take place for a minimum of four weeks after the Police & Crime Commissioner elections in early May.

Our next Councillors' Surgery is **Tuesday 14 May 6.30-7.30** at The Passage Hall, Lode.



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## *Lucy Frazer MP for South East Cambridgeshire writes*

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Community Sports & Social Club for my open meeting at the end of March. I held the meeting to give residents an opportunity to raise issues of national and local importance with me, and those that came asked plenty of excellent questions.

Having met with the parish council just weeks earlier, I knew that the application for a retirement village would form much of the discussion. I explained to residents that I have written to the Planning Minister, Lee Rowley MP, to point out that the application has been accepted by the Planning Inspectorate despite lacking substantive difference to the previously refused submission. I also asked him what recourse might be available and I will be communicating this to the parish council.

From our meeting, I also know that some are concerned about the level of bus services in the village, especially after Stephenson's pulled the Bottisham stop from the Number 11 route. I have been working closely with the parish council and the 'A to B1102' group to explore the potential for a new bus service to serve the villages along this stretch, which includes Bottisham. You may have filled in a survey on this in recent months, and I look forward to working on a resolution which best reflects local opinion.

Others shared concerns about anti-social parking in the local area. This is an issue that has been reported to me across the constituency, particularly on high streets, like in Soham and Ely. I have reported this to East Cambridgeshire District Council and am currently liaising with the leader of the council, Anna Bailey, about a volunteer enforcement team pilot commencing in the coming months. This is also an issue I have raised with the police, who continue to monitor it where possible.

If you were not able to make it to the open meeting, or have any practical issues or questions that you would like my help with, please do not hesitate to contact me on [lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk) and I would be more than happy to help.

Best wishes,

*Lucy Frazer - MP for South East Cambridgeshire*

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Members had an afternoon of enjoyment at our Spring Social in March, making flowers with air-drying clay. Member, Marion Jackaman demonstrated how to make some lovely blooms, which we all tried to copy. There were some very artistic results as you can see in the photograph. Focusing on our floral creations filled us with the joys of Springtime. The Bring & Buy stall raised £45.



Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month at 2.30pm in Fassage Hall, Lode. Wendy Lovell, will be guest speaker at our next meeting on 16th May. She will be talking to us about 'Preparing for Annual Church Flower Festival'. You are most welcome to join us.

*Ann Langran*

## ***NAAFI Break***

All serving Men and Women and their families of our armed Forces understand what NAAFI is and the important role it plays within service life today. On the 9th December 1920 the Government combined the Expeditionary Force Canteens and the Navy and Army Canteen board to run recreational establishments needed by the Armed Forces and to sell goods to servicemen and their families. To this day NAAFI provides a valuable service at home and abroad including the conflicts in the Falklands, NATO obligations during the Bosnian conflict, the two Gulf wars and Afghanistan.

Our NAAFI Break (coffee morning) on the 1st Wednesday of each month also plays an important role for Veterans and their families within our local community. We don't talk about any horrors of the past but laugh and joke about the here and now. It's our moment to escape and chill amongst friends, so if your free to come along you will be made to feel very welcome indeed.

At a date to be confirmed in May Bottisham outdoor Bowling Club have accepted our request for some expert tuition and our Veterans are looking forward to win the day but whatever the results may be, we are all looking forward to the event.

Anyone wishing to find out more about who we are and what we do, please email Gary at [korum694@gmail.com](mailto:korum694@gmail.com)

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## *Wicken Fen*

We are looking forward to our big anniversary celebrations this May as we celebrate 125 years since the National Trust first acquired two acres of land at Wicken Fen in 1899 as well as 25 years of the Wicken Fen Vision Project. Since 1899 the nature reserve has expanded to over 2,000 hectares and is now home to more than 9,000 species. We've already had our first sightings of swallows in April.

You are warmly invited to a day of celebrations and activities on **Saturday 4 May** at Wicken Fen from 9:30am – 8pm. There will be dragonfly, birdsong and deep listening walks, pond-dipping, pizza in the evening and the opportunity to meet some bird ringers. The visitor centre and nature reserve will be open from 9.30am - 8pm. Drop by at any time for a walk, chat and some refreshments. Please head to our website for more event details and to book your place. We will also be launching some projects at the start of May including a creative project that will enable visitors to experience the sounds of Wicken Fen in new and exciting ways – more details to follow!

Our celebrations extend beyond the 4 May with a **dusk chorus walk on 16 May**, crafts in the visitor centre, evening talks and more! Every Thursday from May to August, we will be keeping the visitor centre and boardwalk open until 8pm so that you can enjoy Wicken Fen in the evening too. Every Thursday to Saturday, refreshments will be available on site until 8pm and throughout the summer we will be running some evening boat trips on the Mayfly. Do head to our website for more details and come and enjoy some warm summer evenings at the Fen.

In **May half-term** we're looking forward to some pond dipping on 27 May as well as a cuckoo clock workshop on 28 May and a brand-new building bricks wetland workshop using everyone's favourite building bricks on 30 May and 1 June. What might you find at Wicken Fen in another 125 years' time? Come and have fun building future windpumps, wildlife and wetland artefacts – let your imagination run wild... Please book on our website.

## *Anglesey Abbey*

We've enjoyed welcoming young visitors to Anglesey Abbey over the school holidays for the Easter Adventures trail, bubble shows and facepainting. We'd like to say a huge thank you to our volunteers\* who helped put a smile on faces over the Easter holidays and to our student volunteers from the Green Team at Cambridge Regional College who helped create the giant bird boxes on the trail.

The gardens are bursting with spring colour at the moment as the 'Little beauty' tulips appear under the silver birches and the Formal Garden boasts rows of hyacinths soon to be replaced with African marigolds. We are delighted to announce that we are extending our Rose Garden at Anglesey Abbey by 20 new rose beds on the south side of the garden to create an even more impressive display in the summer. David Austin Roses have generously donated 180 roses including 'Emily Bronte', 'Bring Me Sunshine' and 'Queen of Sweeden' – come back and see all 60 rose cultivars looking blooming lovely in the summer!

*Continued on page 21*



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*Continued from page 19*

We are about to launch a **new exhibition** on the ground floor of the house and in the gardens called ‘**Artists of East Anglia**’. From 1 May until the end of 2024, come and see some of the many English landscape paintings that Lord Fairhaven commissioned by Thomas Gainsborough and John Constable, to contemporary depictions of the estate by Leonard Squirrell and Edward Seago. There will also be opportunities over the summer for visitors to engage creatively with the exhibition through watercolours and photography.

In **May half-term**, there will be lots of fun for families as **ZooLab** are bringing their ethical animal encounter shows to Anglesey Abbey. Come along to meet the likes of snakes, snails and spiders and enjoy a weird woodland trail around the gardens. Please head to our website to book tickets and find out more. We are also looking forward to starting up our **Under 5’s Gardening Club** on weekdays from 3 June to 12 July. More details to follow next time! And don’t forget, The Lord Chamberlain’s Men are coming to Anglesey Abbey on 17 August to perform HAMLET outdoors. Tickets are on sale on our website now.

\* If you’re interested in volunteering at Anglesey Abbey and being part of a lively and friendly community, please get in touch. We’re currently on the lookout for a helping hand in welcoming visitors in the car park over May half-term.

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## *The end of the Adventure of a Lifetime*

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Hi - Back in the October edition of the Cresset I reported that I was to leave the adventure of a lifetime after 18 years. It was a very hard decision to make, but it was even harder to tell the Scouts and Young leaders of our Scout group.

So, the last two terms have absolutely flown past and both Kat and I have hung up our woggles for active Scouting.

Second from last meeting we had a Campfire singsong led by Skip (Philip), nobody does it better, campfire tended by me, Scandinavian log candle in the corner, Scouts and YL’s in full voice. Possibly the best we have heard from 1st Bottisham Scouts. Such an emotional evening after all that time.

On the last evening of term, we had a full house, 14 Scouts 6 YL’s, acting GSL. The young people played our favourite games all evening. I was requested to tell my “Duck joke” by one of our Scouts. Flag break and Flag down was performed by myself, strangely it was the first time that I ever did both in the same evening.

At the end of the meeting, we were joined by many parents of Scouts, some former Scouts and former Scout parents. We were given many cards and gifts, for which we are most grateful. Only at the end do I think we really realised just how much our efforts had been appreciated over the years.

It was a very emotional end to the most perfect adventure, as we were able to say goodbye properly to everyone. As the saying goes “Bosun and Kat have left the building”.

Scouting will be continuing in Bottisham due to a very small band of dedicated volunteers, but its future must be considered as precarious. Please, please, please don’t just let it fade away.

**Join the adventure.**

*Best wishes - Peter and Kat Rayment*

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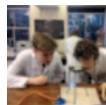
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## ***Bottisham and District Gardening Club***

We had an interesting talk by Fiona Lewis giving us a presentation of “in the Garden with William Morris” of whom she is a great fan.

We have all heard of the many accomplishments of William Morris, artist, architect, his interest in the Medieval period, a social reformer, a supporter of the true craftsman, very interested in Nature and the natural world but not a garden designer in the true sense of the word. He had the Red House in Bexleyheath a (National Trust property) designed for him by Philip Webb and had a series of “rooms” with wattle fences laid out with many trees, definitely - no rock garden, colourful carpet bedding and certainly not scarlet geraniums! He subsequently bought Kelmscott Manor (another NT property) and later moved to Hammersmith creating another Kelmscott which as it was on the river he thought of it as Heaven on Earth. Both of these properties featured garden room enclosures. We saw pictures of his wallpapers and tapestries, many of them featuring plants and wattle fencing.

We shall be holding our Spring Lunch at Newmarket Golf Club on 5th May and our summer outing is on 19th June. Make a note of the dates.

Our speaker for 28th May will be Tim Sparks “Spring forward, Fall backward. Our changing Seasons” Sounds interesting.

Meetings are held in the Poppy Room at 7.30pm and visitors are welcome.

*Sylvia Overton*

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14.00-16.00 **CAFÉ IN THE SOCIAL CLUB POPPY ROOM.**

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14:00 onwards **THE BOWLING GREEN WILL BE OPEN**, you can play nearest the target or nearest the jack. Your chance to try bowling.



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15.30-17.00 **MAGICIAN AND CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER.**

If you like magic this is for you. The show is outside in The Social Club car park.

16:30-19.00 **BBQ.**

Time for tea. Hot dogs and burgers.



18.00-20.00 **INSTRUMENTAL BAND**

to entertain us as we relax with a drink at The Sports and Social Club.



20.00-24.00 **ROUND THE DAY OFF**

listening and dancing to the sounds of 'MIGUEL AND THE SHIPWRECK CREW.'



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# Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club.



## OPENING HOURS

Weekdays – 5pm to 11pm

Saturday - 12 noon to 11pm

Sunday - 12 noon to 9pm

Come along and enjoy!  
Our outside games – Jenga- Connect 4, Quoits.

We also have lots of new board games to entertain the family, just ask at the bar.

We also show sporting events on BT/TNT Sport.

**HALL HIRE**  
Do you need a venue for a party or a meeting in our newly refurbished Poppy Room?  
Contact the club for details of our facilities for hire.

## WHAT'S ON?

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Eurovision Song Contest**

The contest will be shown as the club.

Dress up if you want, watch it with your friends.

Entrance free, nibbles provided.

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June - The Village Fun Day - IT'S A BIG FUN FILLED DAY**

It all kicks off at Queens Court at 10am, followed by events on the dirt hills and at the club. Café with singer, BBQ, children's entertainer and magic show, instrumental band and finally 'Miguel and Shipwreck Crew' are back for the evening. See more details in the centre pullout of this edition of the Cresset.

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Pam is back.**

Pam will be singing some of your favourite songs.

### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Roy Orbison Tribute Night**

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

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Children Fancy Dress Halloween Disco**

**PLUS, don't forget we have an Open Mic Night on the last Friday of each month.**

Come and listen to the local talent.

Please refer to the website. [www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk](http://www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk) for the latest information. If you wish to be updated with the latest news, please email [bottishamcsasc@gmail.com](mailto:bottishamcsasc@gmail.com)

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## *Bottisham Bird Brain*

Having been approached by a neighbour recently about a Tawny Owl hooting at night nearby, I had planned to focus on Owls this month; especially as we have a healthy array of owl species in this area, and there have been two or three Short Eared Owls knocking around Burwell Fen most of the winter. However, they'll have to wait, because 19th March changed everything when, approaching Swaffham Bulbeck on my bike, I heard my first Chiffchaff of the year!

That seemed pretty early to me and I realised that, at that time, we had experienced a week or two of stiff, somewhat warmer winds from the south, which had obviously brought in the first migrants from Africa. A small number of Chiffchaffs reside in the UK – mainly in the southern counties – all year round; but they'll be extremely difficult to see because they'll be foraging silently in thick cover most of the time, and they won't start singing until the temperature rises and the summer visitors arrive.

So let us have a look at the beautiful, delicate Chiffchaff - *Phylloscopus collybita* – and its very close relative, the equally beautiful and delicate Willow Warbler - *Phylloscopus trochilus*. In fact, they so closely resemble each other that they are virtually impossible to tell apart by sight alone. Both birds are what are known as 'Leaf Warblers' (*Phylloscopidae*) a sub-family of the Warblers (*Sylviidae*) and sport a rather plain olive plumage with paler underparts and an indistinct pale eye-stripe. On close inspection, you might see that the Chiffchaff is a tad more compact, even podgy, than the Willow Warbler, which is rather sleeker and longer-winged. And if you get a really good look, you might notice the Chiffchaff's colouring is usually slightly richer, or browner than the Willow Warbler, including the bill and legs, but as they don't sit still for long and are rarely seen together, this is quite a challenge.

Less of a challenge is comparing their songs and, helpfully, they do stay perched whilst singing. As you may know, the Chiffchaff is one of the few birds with an onomatopoeic name, and its incessant chanting of "chiff chaff chiff chaff" from the tops of trees is diagnostic. The Willow Warbler, on the other hand, regales us with a soft, fluty, liquid refrain on a descending scale that peters out quietly at the end. Apparently, there are records



*Chiffchaff*



*Willow Warbler*

*(Continued on page 31)*

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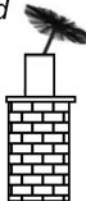
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*(Continued from page 29)*

of birds performing a Chiffchaff beginning and a Willow Warbler ending but this has been attributed to the rare phenomenon of hybridisation! There is one oddity worth listening for though... I think Chiffchaffs sometimes ‘forget the words’ or develop a ‘stutter’, because it’s not uncommon to hear two or more “chiffs” or “chaffs” consecutively, before they regain their composure and return to the traditional lyrics!

Both birds are exclusively insectivorous and will pick their food off leaves, especially the slower moving creatures like larvae or caterpillars, but they will happily pluck insects out of the air in flight too, like the Flycatchers. (But if you see a small brown bird habitually fly up to catch an insect, then return to the same perch, you probably have yourself a Spotted Flycatcher, not a warbler!)

According to the RSPB, Willow Warblers outnumber Chiffchaffs by up to 2:1 in summer in the UK, (even though they are Amber-listed due to recent decline, and Chiffchaff numbers have increased steadily over the last four decades). However, in this area – in fact the south-east overall – you will encounter many more Chiffchaffs than Willow Warblers as the populations of the latter are much denser in Wales, Scotland and the north of England. Chiffchaffs seem to be everywhere in this area at the moment, whereas – at the time of writing in mid-April – I have yet to hear a Willow Warbler. Admittedly, they do typically arrive a good fortnight after the Chiffchaffs but, personally, I never feel that summer is truly on its way until I’ve heard the serenade of the Willow Warbler!

It’s always worth remembering how special, our migrant visitors are... Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers typically weigh between seven and nine grams (that’s around the weight of a one pound coin!) and twice a year, most of them fly several thousand miles between Europe and their wintering grounds in southern Europe/North Africa, in the case of the Chiffchaff, or sub-Saharan Africa in the case of the Willow Warbler. No wonder they only usually live for about two years.

By the way, if anyone is interested in bird numbers, trends, movements or conservation statuses, the British Trust for Ornithology has an extremely informative website: [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org) which you can search, bird by bird, topic by topic, until your mind is bogged by the sheer volume of data that has been collected on these fascinating creatures!

*TTFN - Gerry Daish*

See at yon flitting bird that flies  
Above the oak tree tops at play,  
Uttering its restless melodies  
Of “chipichap” throughout the day

From ‘The Chipichap’ by John Clare (1793-1864)

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**Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 May.**

*Please send material to the editor at [BottishamCresset@gmail.com](mailto:BottishamCresset@gmail.com)*



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## *Public Transport Matters*

Now that the clocks have changed to British Summer Time and the days are getting longer it makes sense to think about getting out more by bus, as bus travel is currently exceptionally good value because of the government-sponsored £2 maximum fare cap on single journey bus fares. This promotion lasts until the end of December 2024. So, for instance, you can get all the way from Cambridge to Peterborough or to Bedford for just £2, or from Newmarket to Mildenhall or to Bury St Edmunds just for £2.

The excellent people at the non-profit company Good Journey Network CIC, which champions car-free leisure travel, believe that everyone should have access to culture, leisure and nature, without needing a car. Their brilliant website at [www.goodjourney.org.uk](http://www.goodjourney.org.uk) features over 400 attractions to visit car-free and which enable people who get there without using a car to enjoy discounts, such as up to 50% off entry or free drinks. What I particularly like about this website is that both shows you how to get to leisure attractions by using public transport (laying it out step-by-step) but also has a Journey Planner feature.

Local tourist attractions which have done a deal with Good Journey and are featured in their website include Anglesey Abbey, the National Horseracing Museum at Newmarket, the Ickworth Estate near Bury St Edmunds and Little Hall at Lavenham.

Another really useful website, this time describing and promoting the bus journey itself, as well as the destination, is Great Scenic Journeys, at [www.greatscenicjourneys.co.uk/](http://www.greatscenicjourneys.co.uk/). This website is designed by a group of people who have been active at a senior level in the UK transport industry for many years. It is amazing what views you can see from the top deck of a double-decker bus travelling through the countryside, and this website covers a number of scenic bus routes in every rural area of England and across Wales, Scotland and Ireland too. Not only that but it also features our 12 bus route linking Cambridge to Newmarket via Bottisham. That particular page is at [www.greatscenicjourneys.co.uk/journey/12-cambridge-to-newmarket/](http://www.greatscenicjourneys.co.uk/journey/12-cambridge-to-newmarket/). I'm pleased to see that the descriptions of Bottisham on that page are very complimentary: the view from the bus of Bell Road, the High Street and their surroundings certainly impressed the website's authors.

Lastly, although bus travel is currently very cheap for most of us because of the £2 fare cap, it can actually be completely free at much of the day if you are eligible for a Concessionary Bus Pass (for OAPs and people with a Disability). So if you are eligible, make sure you apply for a Pass. The process is simple, quick and free. Go to <https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/free-bus-passes/> to see if you are eligible and to see how to apply for a pass if you are.

### **Happy Travelling!**

National Traveline Enquiries (for bus services)

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*John Austin*

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## *News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group*

**Appointments:** This Practice is in the top 14 of the area with one day wait appointments and 90.7% face to face appointments. Unfortunately, from the 1st March to the 8th April there were 61 appointments where patients failed to attend. We appreciate that there will be some circumstances beyond our patients control, but where possible, can we request that if you are unable to attend an appointment it is cancelled so another patient can utilise it.

**Dispensary:** The new Dispensary Manager Sara Harnwell is now in post. Unfortunately the Practice continues to experience delays from suppliers, particularly after Bank Holidays, so your patience is requested and as always, appreciated. We have two upcoming Bank Holidays in May, for any repeat prescriptions, please ensure prescriptions are given to the Dispensary team by the 26th April and 17th May, to ensure availability by Fridays 3rd and 24th May, respectively. To clarify, when we advise we need five working days, this is five full working days, the date of submission is not included. Please also note that the Government are increasing prescription charges from £9.65 to £9.90 from the 1st May 2024.

**Telephone System:** Our new system is due to be installed in week commencing 22nd April. Whilst full training is included in the package, your patience is requested as our teams will be learning whilst on the job. The new system has many new facilities, which over time we will use to measure and where possible improve our service but one element you will notice straight away is the automatic call back facility.

**Next Meeting:** Will be at 6.30pm Thursday June 27 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meetings, please email our chairman [s.j.gilson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com). Or speak to reception.

---

### **FRANK SHAW**

We got notice this afternoon to say that sadly  
Frank Shaw died on 2nd April.  
He was 98.

Many will remember Frank when he was the Cresset Editor for many years  
and ran the Newsagent Shop at the Triangle.

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***

Apologies for repeating the March report in the April issue. Senior moment I'm afraid. No one has remarked on this faux pas which suggests that not many read the report. Perhaps I will do this again!

Our annual quiz once again went well with a full crowd (14 tables of 6) at the Club. Thank you once again to Carole and Ian Faulkner who set the questions and acted as MC on the night. Jeff Kempster arranged the music round and George Buchanan worked hard with help from John Overton to keep the score. The winners were the Strollers the local men's walking group by 1 point. We enjoyed a ploughman's supper in the interval. Thank you to all who attended for your support- we raised just over £650 a welcome addition to our funds.

**Lego Club dates are 18th May, 1st June and 13th July.** Thanks to Laura Overton for running this club. It starts at 10.30am.

We have had a volunteer to run the Rhyme and Story time sessions (thank you) and we are currently seeking a DBS certificate.

**We will be selling good quality books and jigsaws on Saturday 25th May from 10.00 until noon at the Triangle. The Gardening club will have plants for sale too.**

**Please support this and use the library.**

*Sylvia Overton*

## ***The Library Presents***

### **THE RESULTS ARE IN!**

**Find out who the public said they would like to see perform in Cambridgeshire libraries this spring...**

The Library Presents has unveiled its highly anticipated spring programme, created with the input of over 570 local residents. The spring line-up is set to be one of the most exciting in the programme's six year history and features music, puppetry, dance, circus, theatre, and storytelling events.

Loyal fans will recognise a few firm favourites on the programme with hugely popular events such as The Opera Dudes, Samba Drumming and Fused Glass workshops set to return. However, the local community also expressed an appetite to try something new, so this season welcomes some intriguing new acts, including Conception Mary Shelley: The Making of a Monster, when Mary has a brutal confrontation with her creation; while families are invited to come on a magical journey into the plant world in a theatrical piece, The Greenhouse. Other highlights include music performances spanning a range of genres, a selection of workshops, as well as theatre productions and puppetry performances.

Thanks to public funding from Arts Council England, tickets are affordably priced between £2 and £10, with concessions available.

With events hosted in 19 libraries across the county, guests can look forward to a unique and intimate experience, quite unlike anything offered by a traditional theatre or larger entertainment venue.

Take a look at the full programme schedule, pick up a brochure and purchase tickets in the library and online [www.library.live/the-library-presents](http://www.library.live/the-library-presents).

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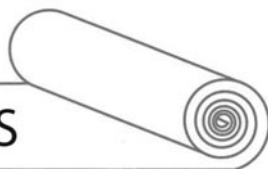


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## *Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)*

I would like to thank all those who attended the first Museum open day of the year on Sunday 31st March, which was a record-breaking day for attendance. I was privileged to meet one of our regulars, Peter Dawson, who together with Colin Marsh witnessed a midair collision over Bottisham Airfield on 18th August 1944. A P47 Thunderbolt returning to Duxford collided with a P51 Mustang, one of a number in the traffic pattern waiting to land at Bottisham. Why the pilot of the Thunderbolt flew over Bottisham Airfield as the Mustangs were lining up to land will never be known, as both pilots sadly died.

One of our new exhibits is a boy and girl mannequin dressed as evacuees from London in WW2. Some of you may remember that children were ordered to leave London to stay with foster families in the countryside towns and villages, as my father did. This exhibit is part of our revamped WW2 home front display.

The next event at the Museum is the Classic Car and Bike Show on Sunday 19th May.

Details are on our website, [www.bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk](http://www.bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk).

This is followed by our D-Day themed Sunday on 2nd June, where we will be joined by the MG Car Owners Club for a picnic. We expect between 40 and 80 cars weather permitting, so I hope many of you can join us - normal entry fee applies.

*Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer*

## **BOTTISHAM ADULT LEARNING ASSOCIATION (BALA)**

BALA is affiliated to CALL (Cambridge Alliance of Lifelong Learners) which supports Adult Learning Groups in Cambridgeshire. CALL has an interesting programme of events. Details can be found on the CALL website [www.call-ed.org.uk](http://www.call-ed.org.uk)

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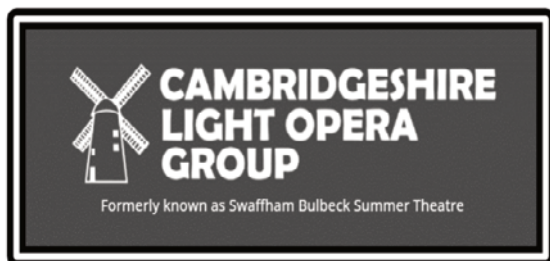
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<b>Cambridgeshire County Councillor:</b> Alan Sharp, Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk .....	01638 507485/07794292941
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<b>CRESSET Editor:</b> email: BottishamCresset@gmail.com	
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NADENE CUNDELL \_\_\_\_\_ nadene.cundell@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

**PARISH COUNCILLORS**

MARK OVERTON \_\_\_\_\_ mark.overton@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

STEVEN O'DELL \_\_\_\_\_ steven.odell@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

CAMELIA MIHAESCU \_\_\_\_\_ camelia.mihaescu@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

JAWAHAR SWAMINATHAN \_\_\_\_\_ jawahar.swaminathan@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

JOHN AUSTIN \_\_\_\_\_

SAVANNAH LAURENT \_\_\_\_\_ savannah.laurent@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

MARIA SOCEA \_\_\_\_\_ maria.socea@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

REHANA SHAKER \_\_\_\_\_ rehana.shaker@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

PARISH CLERK SAM CHAMBERS-TURNER - 41 Stow Road, Quay. CB25 9AD  
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**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

CHARLOTTE CANE \_\_\_\_\_ charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk - Tel: 07976 607512

JOHN TRAPP \_\_\_\_\_ john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk - Tel: 01223 812120

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