

# THE *Cresset*

December 2014

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



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## *From your Editor*

Your Cresset comes to you courtesy of many volunteers who turn out every month in fair weather or foul to deliver your village magazine. Too many to list here, but they and I know who they are and at this time of year I would want to express my thanks to them for all their help over the year and I speak on behalf of the Cresset committee as well. It is only with your help that this operation works.



Having said that, there is a couple who we must particularly thank for their dedication to the Cresset over many years. Pam Latchford has been involved in the distribution and collation of the magazine for more years than many can remember. From the days that the team gathered round Pam's dining room table collating, to Pam and Derek sorting the bundles for distribution, their dedication has been outstanding. We thank them both for all their hard work.

We have some new helpers this year, both in delivering and in organising which is very welcome. If you would like to make yourself available to help, then drop me an e-mail or contact Ian Cole. Ian leads our distribution team and whose details are in the useful information page and I am sure he would be able to add you to the team or as a reserve for holiday cover. Delivering takes only an hour or so a month in your local area. Magazines are delivered to you by the organising team (who also need volunteers time to time). Everyone I know who does it really enjoys it.

The festive season is upon us and it seems, certainly as I write, that we have yet to get any decent cold weather. It will come I know, but next season's bulbs are already getting confused. Our damson tree has only recently dropped all its leaves and there are already new branch shoots and leaves emerging! I think it may be on the way out.

These days we should take nothing for granted. We live in a world full of trouble and tension and we need to count ourselves lucky with our lot. They say, no matter how bad things seem, there is always somebody worse off than you. And that can mean a lot worse.

As we head towards Christmas it is worth thinking about those others. The Rev. Sue Giles's article is well worth noting. I also think that we all could do something extra at this time of year right here in Bottisham. I am sure we all know somebody who could do with a boost. Whether that is offering to do some shopping, make a cup of tea, or more likely just call for a chat and some company. It takes no effort and is rewarding.

Your Cresset this month has its regular items and some seasonal reports. Our 'sports reporter' Gerry Daish gives us his informed view. Tony Jolley raises several topical subjects and Paddy James keeps us well informed on transport matters. It is to them and all our other contributors, regular and occasional I say a very big thank you. Without contributions to publish we would not have a magazine, so thanks to all.

One of the topical subjects Tony covers is also covered in a letter from BVC. It refers to the changes that are being made to the swimming pool and sports centre. It is a clear example of unrealised changes that happen in one area when decisions are being made in another. Those in the past who may have congratulated the changes being made in education at BVC, at best may not have appreciated all the implications, or chose to ignore them.

The truth is that while the pool and sports centre was built with local funding and volunteers, the responsibility and the costs involved were passed to the college. It costs money to run it and the college have to prioritise. I hope a solution can be found to suit all

*(Editorial continued on page 2.)*

**(Editorial continued.)**

parties and users, but it will take input from the village to do that.

I would also like to take this seasonal opportunity to wish all our readers a very merry Christmas, when it comes. I am sure we will all eat too much and many will probably drink too much, but whatever we do, have a thought as to what we can do to make Christmas a bit better for others, both in Bottisham and elsewhere. Be that family, friends, neighbours or somebody we know would appreciate it. So....

**“Nadelik looan na looan blethen noweth” “Nadolig Llawn”,  
“Nollaig Shona Dhuit” “Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath ùr”.**

That’s “Merry Christmas” to you, in Cornish, Welsh, Irish and Gaelic.  
(Don’t say we’re not educational!)

PW



# LET’S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings  
in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

**13th December**  
**Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm**

We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing. The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site. For further information please contact: **Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159** or check out our website: **[www.letsdanceclub.org.uk](http://www.letsdanceclub.org.uk)**

\*Let’s Dance Club is a “not for profit” organisation established to provide dances for the community.

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**Copy deadline for next issue is 10 December.**

*Please send material to the editor at [cresset@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishampc.org.uk)*

Have you thought of advertising your business in ***The Cresset?***

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## Holy Trinity, Bottisham - Services in December

- Wednesday 3rd 8 p.m. Compline by Candlelight (C by C) led by Dr Sarah Maxwell**
- Sunday 7th 4 p.m. Christingle Revd Sue Giles**
- Sunday 14th 11 a.m. Holy Communion Revd Sue Giles**
- Sunday 21st 8 a.m. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Revd Lawrie Marsh**  
**6.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight Revd Sue Giles**
- Christmas Eve 4 p.m. Carols round the crib Revd Sue Giles**  
**11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion**
- Christmas Day 10 a.m. Benefice Communion in Swaffham Prior**
- Sunday 28th 10 a.m. Benefice Communion in Quy**

*Details of other services in the Anglesey Group of Churches are on the notice board in the church.*

Saturday 6th December 10am-12pm @ Saplings Playhut

# CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

Let your budding artists  
have a go at making their  
own cards and decorations  
for Christmas!

£3.00 per child All ages welcome  
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## Saplings Pre-School Playgroup

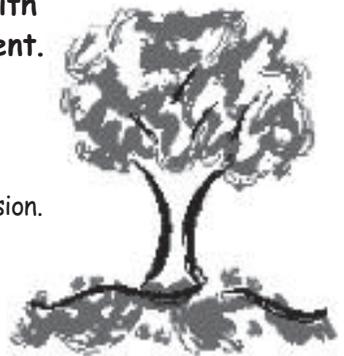
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their mums, dads or childminders every Wednesday  
morning 9.15 - 11.15am. £6.50 per session



Places now available, please call 01223 813226 for more information!

## *Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen*

At the beginning of November around 1000 revellers held an illegal rave on Burwell Fen. To access the fen, they cut fences and broke gates and bollards causing significant damage, both physical and financial. The party goers left a large amount of waste (including human waste as there were no toilet facilities on site) leaving a particularly unpleasant task for our Rangers and volunteers who spent several days clearing-up the mess. If you're out and about in the Vision area and suspect a rave maybe about to take place, please call the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 or Cambridgeshire Police on 101.

Essential maintenance work on the access ramps to Reach Lode Bridge is scheduled to take place in December. This will require the bridge to be closed for a period of five consecutive days between sometime between 4 -18 December - the exact date being very weather dependent. The dates will be posted on our website and Facebook pages when known, or please call the Visitor Centre for up to date information.

As Christmas approaches we have our popular Father Christmas at the Fen over three weekends from Saturday 6 – Sunday 21 December. Tickets £6.95 per child are available from the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 – advance booking essential.

Tickets for Winter Lights at Anglesey Abbey are completely sold-out for all nine nights. Sorry if you missed out this year - please remember to book early when tickets for next year's event go on sale in the summer.

In the New Year we will be running Volunteering Open days at Anglesey Abbey on Saturday 10 and Tuesday 13 January, 10am -1pm. There are lots of ways you can get involved from welcoming visitors and sharing stories, to helping run our watermill or volunteering as a family. Please e-mail our volunteering team on [angleseyabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:angleseyabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk) to find out more or to let us know you're coming.

Finally, if you fancy some fresh air and a walk over the Festive period, Wicken Fen is open every day, (except Christmas Day) from 10am – 5pm; whilst Anglesey Abbey is open from 10am – 4.30pm (closed 24 -26 Dec).

Have a great Christmas.

## *Saplings Pre-school Playgroup*

This half term will be our playgroup leader Pat's last with us at Saplings. After 14 years at the Play hut, Pat has become almost like part of the furniture, but she has decided it is time to leave us and enjoy some well-earned free time with her family. I'm sure many of children in the village (some probably now studying for their A-levels!) will have spent time at Saplings in the care of Pat. Speaking as a parent, I know what a lovely rapport she develops with all the children who pass through Saplings' door. Whilst we are sad to see Pat go, we are sure that Saplings will continue to grow from strength to strength under the watchful eye of Clare, our new Play leader, who will be joining us in December. We wish Pat all the best for the future and thank her on behalf of all children and parents, past and present.

You will have spotted our advert for the Christmas Craft Workshop on Saturday 6th December. We hope you will be able to join us for some festive fun from 10-12pm at the Play hut. Bring the kids along to make their own cards and decorations to take home with them.

The Saplings' Christmas party is on Wednesday 17th December this year - an exciting time for our little ones, made more special by a visit from Santa! A big thank you to The British Legion Social Club for allowing us to hold our annual party there.

*The Saplings Committee*



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## *Anglesey Group Mothers' Union*

Beryl Waterson took us on a delightful journey to Sinai, describing a tour that was led by the Revd. Stephen Earl.

The first night the Group stayed in a 5-star hotel overlooking the Pyramids in Cairo. They visited quite a number of monasteries including St. Anthony's where there is a waiting list to join of 100 young men. In the old part of the Monastery they attended a Holy Communion Service. They met a Bedouin Tribe and rode camels all day.

At St. Catherine's Monastery at the base of Mount Sinai they decided to join a group making the journey to the top at 2a.m. in the morning. They rode camels and to Beryl's amazement they were left on their own to make their way up, being assured that the camel knew the way! The party had never seen so many stars and a trainee Vicar from Manchester took Holy Communion on the Plateau. At the top there is a tiny chapel where there is a wonderful feeling of calm and peace.

The following day the Bedouins took the Group further into the dessert, this time in four-wheel vehicles. Some of them asked to leave the camp on their own to experience the silence, this was very special. They ate with the Bedouins and then slept out under the stars.

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month starting at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel. On December 11th we will be holding our Christmas Lunch at 1pm. in Lode Chapel. You are most welcome to come along and join us.

*Jill Jenyns*

## *WEA News*

Members are enjoying Maureen James's series of lectures on **"Myths and Legends of Cambridgeshire and the Fens"** even though it is proving difficult to sort fact from fiction. Gog and Magog (whoever they were?) are associated with Wandlebury but who could possibly believe that the ancient city of Troy was located there and that the wars were fought between groups of Celts?! We have also heard stories about Hereward the Wake and Tom Hickathrift. Unquestionably both existed, but will we ever know who they really were!

More complete information will be available about the garden designers featured in Andrew Sankey's series of lectures commencing in January entitled **"Great Gardens, Famous Gardeners"**. Andrew will be looking at 8 famous gardens and their influential gardeners. We'll consider design, style and what each garden was trying to achieve. Gardens looked at will include Hidcote, Chateworth, Blenheim Palace and Levens Hall. For more information and to book a place please contact Shirley Ellis on 811891

*Gerry Cowley*

## **Charles McCartney**

Pauline McCartney and her family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, love, support and prayers over the last few months during Charles' illness and subsequent death.

Pauline is continuing with her treatment and although life his very difficult at times, is most grateful for the friendship, encouragement and offers of help shown by many.

*Kind regards, Libby Fox*

# *Royal British Legion - Bottisham & District Branch*

This year has seen a lot of reflection on the centenary of WW1 and I think without exception it has made us all in this country more aware of how lucky we are and how much sacrifice has gone before to make it possible. Anybody who saw the moat of poppies at the tower of London, live or even on TV could not be moved to reflect on those sacrifices.

It also was reflected in the increased number of people who turned out for the Armistice Sunday parade here in Bottisham, over 100 on the day and also the large number who attended the 11th hour ceremony at the village sign on the 11th day.

One person, deserves particular thanks for the organisation of these events over the years. Ken York has for more years than many can remember, organised the parade and liaised with the churches to organise the services. At the age of 94 he has decided he would like to step down and relax a bit and he has commanded his final parade this year. His successor was in attendance and I am sure will carry on the same standards

There is an irony however in the fact that The Bottisham Branch of The Royal British Legion has a dwindling number of involved supporters as people here have less and less direct connection with the services.

The Social Club has a large membership, and joining the Club also enrolls you in the branch. However that is where the crossover tends to fade. The problem arises that without a functioning branch committee the branch will fold and if the branch folds the Social Club will not be able to continue as a Royal British Legion Club, with the benefits that brings. Which would be a shame.

If you are a member of the Club and therefore a member of the branch or even if you are not a member (you can join the Branch without joining the Social Club) and would like to be involved in the Royal British Legion, then do come along to our meetings which are on the last Monday of every other month from January. You will be most welcome.



## POPPY APPEAL

I am grateful to all who have helped with the 2014/2015 Poppy Appeal - the volunteers, clubs, schools and businesses in Bottisham, Lode, Longmeadow, Quy, Great and Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom. You have again given invaluable and enthusiastic support to the work of the Royal British Legion.

Provisional details of the amount collected in Bottisham and surrounding villages since the launch in October are that £5240 has been raised. We are on course to exceed the final figure for the year ended 30th September 2014 which was £7156.

Thank you all.

*John Overton, Poppy Appeal Organiser*

*SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH ALL WHO SERVE*

**Copy deadline for next issue is 10 December.**

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# *The Royal British Legion Social Club*

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AT THE LEGION SOCIAL CLUB

Line Dancing every Tuesday and Wednesday  
(except the first Wednesday in the month.)  
Bingo every 1st and 3rd Sunday

----  
**SUNDAY 7th - TACKY DANGLEY Decorating Day**

Charity Event and this year the chosen Charity is The Air Ambulance.  
11 o'clock until 2 o'clock.

Santa will be in his Grotto from 12 until 1pm. and children will have the opportunity to write their letters and hand them to him. • Cup Cake Decorating, Craft Stalls, Tombola, Raffle. Light refreshments will be available in the Poppy Room.

*If you would like to donate a prize for the Raffle or have items for the Tombola - collection boxes will be located in the Lounge Bar. Alternative if you telephone The Club on 01223 81063 we can arrange collection if you prefer.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MONDAY 15th - NEWMARKET TOWN BAND.7 pm.**

Come along and listen to the Band and join in the Carol singing. Everyone welcome.  
The Christmas draw will take place during the course of the evening with prizes to be won.  
Draw tickets available in the lounge.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY 20th - THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ.**

Get a team together and test your knowledge of current affairs, sport and more!  
Entry £3 per person, to include Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. Teams of up to 8.

Prize - a bottle of wine for each member of the winning team.

*Contact Kate on 812063 before midday Friday 19th Dec. to book your team's table.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**WEDNESDAY 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE DISCO**

8 until midnight. Free Entry. Everyone and all ages welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WEDNESDAY 31st - NEW YEARS EVE DISCO 8 until Late!**

Entry - Members £5 Non Members £7, OVER 18's ONLY

Tickets will be available for purchase from The Legion from Monday 15th December.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY 3rd JANUARY 2015 - Children's Christmas Disco**

4 pm until 8 pm

Free Entry - Open to Members and Non Members.

\*\*\*\*\*

Following the successful Poppy Appeal Meal and Raffle, Bottisham Royal British Legion would like to say THANK YOU to the following people and organisations for the generous donations of raffle prizes.

Bottisham Stores / Cambridge United Football Club / Chivers Hartley, Histon / Crafty Beers Brewery  
DB Photographic, Burwell / Green King Brewery / Hayden The Cleaning Specialist / Scotsdale's Garden Centres  
Imperial War Museum, Duxford / Mr J Carswell / Mr P Walker / The Marshall Group, Cambridge  
The evening was enjoyed by everyone and the raffle raised £167.00 for The Poppy Appeal.

----

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 for the community

## WW1 REMEMBRANCE, DUXFORD

For the Remembrance Day on 10 November the Imperial War Museum, Duxford laid on several events including a Spitfire aerobatic display to remember the fallen of WW1. The BBC did a live broadcast from a mobile studio on a BBC bus, which was parked next to the replica of a WW1 trench. Visitors with family memories of WW1 were interviewed, and visitors were also given a chance to be filmed whilst reading the news from WW1. Two other volunteers and I were given a crash course on how to work the knobs and switches to bring up the BBC regional programme 'Look East' news introduction and work the auto cue from which everyone read the news. They saw themselves on screens in front and on the side of the bus.

At 11am there was the silence to remember the dead. Since I was standing close to the WW1 trench I could not help thinking about those who spent months in those trenches, enduring the daily attacks during which many of their comrades were either injured or killed. This was unlike any Remembrance I had attended before.

Later in a live radio interview I was asked what this meant to me. Since I was born in India the only family connection with WW1 that I am aware of was through my grandfather's brother, who was a chaplain in the Indian Army in Basra, Iraq and who died 3 weeks before the war ended. His grave is still in Basra, but he is also remembered at India Gate in Delhi.

More than 1 million Indians volunteered in WW1, and many who left their villages never came back. Some of those injured were treated at the Royal Pavilion at Brighton, which was converted into a hospital, and in 1921, near Brighton was erected the Chattri Memorial (meaning umbrella), which was unveiled by the then Prince of Wales, in memory of some of the Indian soldiers who were either cremated or buried there.

There was a Service of Remembrance in the chapel at Duxford. Sitting in the BBC control room it occurred to me that even though we now get news of fighting from around the world in an instant, the suffering from war is exactly the same for the soldiers and their families as it was 100 years ago.

*Nas Latif*

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**Christmas Blues.**

As I write this there are six more weeks until Christmas. Why does that thought give me a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach? Am I alone in that? What have we done to Christmas?

It all seems to have got out of control somehow. For many it has become the most stressful time of the year. Every year I seem to hear more and more people saying how much they dislike Christmas.

‘Peace and goodwill’ has a hollow ring to it.

And all those cheery, sentimental Christmas songs just make it seem worse.

The lonely feel even lonelier. The depressed feel even more depressed. The poor get poorer. Those in debt get even further into debt. Those who already have plenty want even more. Many of us spend far more than we need on food and drink and frivolity.

We and our children are bombarded with advertising whose sole purpose is to make us feel dissatisfied with what we have and to want something bigger or better.

Whilst a majority of people agree that Christmas is about spending time with family and friends, and a smaller majority feel that it is a time when we should be generous to people less fortunate than ourselves, a survey taken before Christmas 2013 found that 18 million people were worried about how they would afford Christmas. Many people expected to start the New Year in debt and many were still paying for the previous Christmas in November. Surely this is not how it was meant to be?

The true meaning of Christmas is simple. We remember, and celebrate, that God came as a new-born child to live among the people he created. Yes, I find that mysterious and difficult to understand. But I believe it. One of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel. It means ‘God is with us’. He came to be with us in this world, to show us how to live a fully human life, and to give us a hope and a future. The real peace and joy of Christmas are to be found in this Jesus. He is still with us amid all the hype and superficiality of our modern Christmas. He is here to be found among the tinsel and the trimmings; the loneliness and depression; the poverty and extravagance.

Why not try to find a quiet space in the midst of it all to think about who Jesus really is and why he came, and whether it ought to mean something to you? Throughout Advent there are churches near you where people will be meeting to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Why not come and try it out for yourself?

We at RE:NEW do wish you all a truly happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Peter Wells*

***RE:NEW Services in December 2014.***

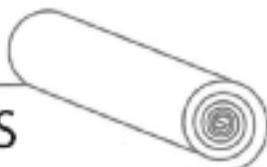
7 December	10.30am	– RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Primary School) With Holy Communion
14 December	10.30am	– RE:NEW Café style (at the School)
14 December	6.20pm	– Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)
21 December	10.30am	– RE:NEW Carol Service (at the School)
25 December	10.30am	– Christmas Day Service (at the School)
28 December	10.30am	– RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)
28 December	6.20pm	– Traditional service. (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact  
Rev. Keith Morrison on C.813055 or Peter Wells on C.812388.

Email: [pandawells@cheerful.com](mailto:pandawells@cheerful.com) Or visit our website at [www.re-new.me.uk](http://www.re-new.me.uk)

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Do you have electrical items that you no longer use or want? WISER Recycling can help You, and You can help your Parish Council...

WISER Recycling are a local recycling company based in St Ives and will be conducting a collection of household Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in Bottisham! Electrical items will be collected on **Thursday 4th December 2014** by WISER vehicles. We will collect any electrical item (including non-working) from hairdryers, videos, microwaves, to televisions and fridge/freezers - basically, anything with a plug on. WISER Recycling will collect from right outside your house! All items will be taken to our fully licensed treatment facility in St Ives for Reuse, Refurbishment or Recycling.

WISER has partnerships with many local and regional charities including Emmaus, Lighthouse, i-Trust and Eco-Computer Systems through which it sells working items back to social groups and low income families. We are full permitted and authorised by the Environment Agency and operate to international standards; ISO 9001 (Quality), ISO 14001 (Environmental) and OHSAS 18001 (Health & Safety), ensuring a professional recycling and recovery service, second to none.

Please make use of this free service, as everyone benefits! In the meantime, if you'd like to find out more about WISER's services, please visit our website: [www.wisergroup.co.uk](http://www.wisergroup.co.uk)

Copy deadline for next issue is 10 December.

Please send material to the editor at [cresset@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishampc.org.uk)

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## DECEMBER BULLETIN FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

It is the time of year when we're enjoying a tipples (or two) with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decorating our homes.

Cambridge Fire and Rescue has these messages to make sure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke:

- Kitchens are fire hotspots, so please take care whilst cooking Christmas meals and festive fancies. Never leave cooking unattended, and turn off appliances when not in use.
- Much decorative material, even artificial trees, is combustible so keep away from heat sources
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure that they conform to the British Standard, and never overload plug sockets.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol whilst cooking - or smoking.
- Finally, do make sure you that have a working smoke alarm which is correctly fitted and works – test it now. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @cambsfrs. CFRS wishes everybody a very Happy Christmas!

*Michael White*

**Volunteer in an Oxfam shop** and you can learn new things, meet new people and help lift lives for good. • *The Oxfam Bookshop in Newmarket currently needs volunteers. If you would like to help, call the shop on 01638 666060.*

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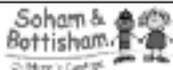
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Activities and support for families with children under five



### BOTTISHAM CHILDREN'S CENTRE

**Stay and Play** Mondays 10.00am-12.00pm  
**Well Baby Clinics 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** Tuesdays 12.30-2.00pm  
**Little Movers (0-2)** Wednesdays 12.30pm-2.00pm  
**Childminder Drop-in** Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am

### BURWELL AREA

**Well Baby Clinics 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>** Tuesdays 1.15-2.45pm at Mandeville Hall  
**Stay and Play** Thursdays 9.30am-11.30am at Burwell Sports Centre

### SOHAM AREA

**Stay and Play** Mondays 9.30am-11.30am at St Andrew's Primary School

*(During school holidays sessions are at Soham Children's Centre)*

**Nightly Time** Mondays 2pm-3pm at Soham Children's Centre  
**TOTS** Tuesday 9.30am-11.15am at Soham Children's Centre  
*(For late parents, or those who spend a lot of time on their own)*  
**Little Movers (ages 0-1)** Wednesdays 1.00pm-2.00pm  
**Little Movers (ages 1-2)** Wednesdays 2.00pm-3.00pm  
**International Storytime** 10am-12pm at Soham Children's Centre

**Star Date** 3rd Sunday 12.00pm-12.00pm Burwell Sports Centre

**Walk On The Wild Side** Alternate Mondays and Thursdays 1.15-2.45pm in various outdoor locations. For walkers only. (Call to find out more)

For more information call us on 01223 567152 or email [bottishamchildrenscentre@soham.bottisham.gov.uk](mailto:bottishamchildrenscentre@soham.bottisham.gov.uk) or to see our full timetable and other services visit [www.cambridgeatnearlychildrenscentre.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeatnearlychildrenscentre.org.uk)

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## ***Bottisham And District Gardening Club***

At our annual meeting we learned that we had had another good year (our 38th) and plans were being made for our 40th Birthday. Our finances were in a good position mainly from our very successful stall at the Triangle in May. We had enjoyed good speakers and outings and a Spring Lunch at the Newmarket Golf Club.

Vouchers and letters of thanks had been sent to Jennifer Clark and Pippa and Poppy Corbet who had masterminded the Show earlier this year. Certificates were given to Angela Humphreys and Carol Kitson who had been successful in the Show in place of the relevant Trophies as non-members.

The member's competition for the best begonia was awarded to Julie Bard.

The evening ended with three quizzes of varying complexity and the winners were Eve and Tony Cassidy and Helen Cole and Angela Humphreys.

Our Christmas meeting is on Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm when Sylvia Overton will show slides of a recent holiday in Sri Lanka. We will finish the evening with mulled wine and seasonal nibbles.

New members are welcome, subscription is only £12 a year and we have a good programme arranged for 2015.

*Sylvia Overton*

**Copy deadline for the next issue is 10 December.**

*Please send material to the editor at [cresset@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishampc.org.uk)*

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## *Bottisham Sports Centre*

It is with great regret that the governors of Bottisham Village College have taken the decision to shorten the hours that the Sports Centre will be available for community use from January 2015.

For a number of years the income generated by the community use of the Centre has fallen short of the amount required to cover the proportion of costs relating to community use. During that period the Village College has met the greater proportion of the costs of the centre, in recognition of its own use of the facilities. In addition it has met any shortfall relating to community use.

That position is no longer sustainable. The shortfall is predicted to increase significantly in 2014/15 to a level equivalent to 40% of the entire College spend on curriculum resources. In the light of the poor funding position faced by Cambridgeshire schools (the worst-funded schools in the country), the College can no longer justify subsidising community use of the Sports Centre with funds intended for the education of the College students. It has also been made clear to the College by the DoE and its auditors that to do so would breach its funding agreement.

Immediate action is required. The only option that offers the possibility of avoiding the predicted losses is to reduce the hours when the centre is staffed and available for community use.

**From 2 January, therefore, the new opening hours will be,  
Monday to Friday 4 pm to 10pm, Saturday and Sunday 8 am to 4 pm ,  
Bank holidays 8 am to 4 pm, School holidays 8 am to 10 pm**

The governors are very grateful to all who informed their thinking, through contributions to the public consultation in writing, face to face, or by attendance at the two open meetings

Other ways of clearing the shortfall were considered, especially additional income generation. Previous attempts to do this through increasing usage have been unsuccessful. Professional advice from the charity, Nuffield Health, who manage a number of similar sites, has indicated that the centre's rural location and local demographics mean that there is no likelihood of generating sufficient additional business to bring the community use of the centre back into financial balance. Sources of grants have also been investigated, so far without success. A review of current charging levels, compared to our nearest competitors, suggests that there is little scope for raising them and governors are committed to ensuring that the changes to be implemented do not make the facilities unaffordable. There will, though, be a streamlining of membership options to make use of the centre more attractive.

Nuffield's advice is that, even within the reduced opening hours, there is potential for greater use of the centre. Any surplus generated would be reinvested to replace ageing facilities and equipment or to developing new activities. Governors and the College will be pursuing this in parallel with the cost saving measures.

To provide an excellent experience for current users and to successfully attract new ones, significant improvements are needed to the management and operation of the centre. Governors have appointed Nuffield Health on a one year contract to advise and help the College implement the required management, operational and marketing changes. Governors expect this to address many of the day to day issues raised by users in their consultation feedback. As part of these changes, the Centre will also be establishing a community user group, to meet monthly and consult about the running of the facilities. The first meeting will be in January 2015. *(Bottisham Sports Centre continued on page 32.)*

**(Bottisham Sports Centre continued.)**

### **If you are directly affected**

Governors are very conscious of the potential impact of these changes on some users and groups whose sessions are currently during hours that the centre will not be staffed from January. The Governors have asked the College and its advisers to meet with these groups and investigate whether any mechanisms can be found to allow continued use. Those meetings will be arranged as soon as possible. Current members of the centre will be contacted to discuss the options available to them. However, if you are directly affected and wish to make contact, please email [Keith.Osborne@nuffieldhealth.com](mailto:Keith.Osborne@nuffieldhealth.com)

**Further information** The slides used at the two community open meetings are available online at [www.bottishamvc.org](http://www.bottishamvc.org). Details about operation of the centre from January are still being resolved. Further information will be made available towards the end of November 2014.

## ***Parish Council Report***

Regular users of the footpath leading from Beechwood Avenue through Ancient Meadows will be aware that the kissing gate has now been moved making the route usable for those with pushchairs and bicycles. The kissing gate has now been placed further back at the entrance to the footpath across the field towards Swaffham Road and the landowner has fenced off the field. There have been problems with motorbikes using the field in the early hours and this should remedy that problem.

It has been noticed by many that parking outside of the shops seems to have worsened of late. The PCSO states that whenever they come through the village there are no vehicles parked on the double yellow lines but we find that difficult to believe as it is flouted so often. It was agreed at our last meeting that parking was a problem and we need to look at ways that this can be alleviated. Councillors will take a close look at the area to discuss in more detail at our December meeting. The PCSO has contacted Parish Council asking for our support in recommending a single yellow line in Beechwood Avenue from the High Street and in front of the primary school all the way to West Walk. This follows a recent incident where a child was struck by a vehicle, although thankfully they were not badly hurt. This was agreed to be a sensible measure.

92 residents came to the public consultation on the proposed new development off of Bell Road. This will now go to formal planning application and residents in the immediate vicinity will be consulted which we expect to happen mid-December.

As you all sort your cupboards and garages making space for those new gadgets for Christmas please remember that we have another electrical recycling collection on Thursday 4th December. Posters will be displayed in the village nearer the time. They will take any electrical items no matter how large, please just leave them outside your house on the day. Merry Christmas.

*Claire Fullwood, Parish Clerk*

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### **PLANNING NOTES**

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- 14/00905/FUL: 83 Jenyns Close. Conversion of garage to dining room and replace utility room roof with felt; APPLICATION APPROVED
- 14/01075/FUL: 105 High Street. Construct single storey extension to side elevation and conservatory to rear elevation NEW APPLICATION
- 14/01146/FUL: 89 High Street. Erection of a garden studio; NEW APPLICATION
- 14/01143/FUL: 65 Bell Road. Two storey side extension, single storey front porch extension and single storey rear extension.; NEW APPLICATION

## *East Cambs District Councillors' Notes*

**RECENT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS** • There have been two recent meetings for all members of the Council. The Ely Bypass was added to the list of strategic projects on which the Council may in the future spend Community Infrastructure Levy, which is raised from new domestic and retail developments. The other strategic projects are in Ely, Soham and Littleport. I supported this but stated how important it was that the Council identified other projects that will benefit villages, particularly in the south of the District. There will be consultations on this during the next year. Villages are in need of better cycle links, pedestrian crossings, traffic calming, better community facilities etc, as evident from the village consultations carried out previously.

As the Member Champion for Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Generation, I welcomed the Supplementary Planning Document on Commercial Scale Renewable Energy Schemes. At the first meeting, I gave a technical analysis of the schemes required to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, to allow the country to be more reliant on locally-produced energy and to meet planning guidance under the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan. Such schemes include wind and solar farms, anaerobic digesters and biomass schemes. The document gives many safeguards about community engagement, landscapes and views, heritage assets, biodiversity, residential amenity and land use.

A draft Masterplan for up to fifty new homes off Bell Road, Bottisham was approved as policy guidance. This is required should a planning application for these homes be submitted before the adoption of the district-wide Local Plan next year.

**CRYSTAL STRUCTURES SITE, TUNBRIDGE LANE** • A new Planning Application for this site has been received and was issued for consultation on 10th November. Details may be found on the yellow notice posted outside and on the District Council website under application 14/01239/FUM. This application will be considered by the Planning Committee next year. Responses up until the end of this year will be considered, and even up until the meeting.

**PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE WHEN PARKING** • There are continuing complaints about parking. Please be aware that it is illegal to park on single yellow lines during the times shown on notices and on double yellow lines at any time. A vehicle displaying a Blue Badge is allowed to park provided the badge holder has been the driver or a passenger. Parking on roads is otherwise allowed provided it does not cause an obstruction or a danger. This may include near a school entrance, near a bus stop, opposite or within ten metres of a road junction, on a bend, on a cycle track, or obstructing a dropped kerb or pavement so that pushchairs and mobility vehicles cannot pass. Also, if insufficient space is left for the Emergency Services to pass. If seen by the Police, they may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. If there is an accident, the person who parked the vehicle may be held partly or wholly liable. Details of vehicles (registrations, makes and colours) may be reported to the Police by ringing 101, and they may visit the location or contact the owner.

*Dist Cllr Robert Stevens*

### BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL **COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

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Christine Bryant – Chair Tel: 811767  
Or Claire Fullwood – Clerk Tel: 07914 219732  
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**Bottisham Village College and Swaffham Bulbeck Primary** are lead schools of the Anglian Gateway Teaching School Alliance. We are leading the way for more school-led teacher training. This is really important to us because it means we can choose the most talented and dedicated people and develop them as teachers. Being able to choose who we train as teachers helps us to deliver the best outcomes for the students and pupils in our alliance. You can find out more about the Anglian Gateway Teaching School Alliance through our website [www.angliangatewaytsa.org](http://www.angliangatewaytsa.org).

We have vacancies now to start training from September 2015 and we would be very interested to hear from you if you are thinking of becoming a teacher, or know someone who is. We're looking for people who have (or will have) at least a 2.2 degree, have a passion for education and teaching and want to inspire young people to fulfil their potential.

Take a look at the information on our website about the different training programmes on offer.

We'd welcome an opportunity to discuss with you the exciting teacher training opportunities available. Don't hesitate to contact Anne O'Reilly at Bottisham Village College who leads the work on initial teacher training across our teaching school alliance. She can be contacted at [ao'reilly@bottishamvc.org](mailto:ao'reilly@bottishamvc.org) or 01223 811250 ext. 236.

We can also provide you with support and guidance on your application form and offer you school experience if you just want a taster of what teaching would be like.

For any further information on what becoming a teacher might involve more generally you can visit <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-info-teaching>. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Kate Evans

Principal of Bottisham Village College

Donna Cornwell

Headteacher of Swaffham Bulbeck Primary



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## ***Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club***

The club is now in its 41st year and continues to attract new members who are always welcome.

During October 2014 several members of the club attended a photography competition at Bishop's Stortford organized by the ICON group. Six clubs from the Eastern Region were invited to take part - Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club, Cambridge Camera Club, Chelmsford Camera Club, ICON, Upminster Camera Club and Ware & District Photographic Society. Each club submitted 8 prints which were judged by Paul Radden LRPS DPAGB AFIAP of Harlow Photographic Society. Paul is also the Judges Officer for the East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies (EAF). The competition was won by Ware & District, second, Bottisham & Burwell, with Chelmsford in third place. Only one mark separated the first two places.

This was the last event organised by ICON which was formed in 1997 from members in a club who had issues regarding the introduction of digital cameras! They decided to form a separate group for about 5 years to see how the new cameras would perform. Now seventeen years later and all much older the group has decided to disband. The President of the EAF Bob Norris EFIAP APAGB stated that they will be greatly missed by the photographic community in the Eastern Region as their work was always of a consistently good quality. In the coming weeks we have the following events taking place: • **Tuesday 2 December** 'The Art in Photography' A Workshop with audience participation led by Adrian Stone, of Peterborough. • **Tuesday 9 December 2014**, 'Quiz Night' led the Chairman Gerry Metcalfe. • **Tuesday 6 January 2015** - 'PAGB Inter-Federation Print Exhibition Portfolio' Recorded DVD of prints exhibited throughout the United Kingdom in 2014 from the 15 Federations. • **Tuesday 27 January 2014** - 'Jpeg-vs-Raw' Ian Wilson ARPS of Cambridge CC delves into the pros and cons of capturing images in both genres.

In the following weeks there will be a varied programme of events that may, if wished, be attended by guests. Further details are available on [www.bottburpc.org](http://www.bottburpc.org). Guests are welcome to attend any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel CB25 9EW on Tuesday's from 7:30 pm to 9:30pm. Fee: £3.00, including refreshments, refunded on joining. Annual subscriptions: Adult: £40.00, Joint Membership: £67.00, Student: £21.00. Refreshments 50p. New members joining now will receive a pro rata rate.

Lastly we would ask guests attending the club not to **double park** in the vicinity of Lode Chapel, as there is local concern regarding access for emergency vehicles.

For further details contact: **Mrs Daphne Hanson** DPAGB APAGB T: 01638 741106

*Barry Coles, Publicity Officer*



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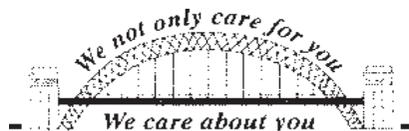
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## *Sales, Wants and Swaps*



**IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL OR WANT TO BUY OR EVEN TO SWAP, THEN THIS PAGE IS YOURS TO USE.** Please e-mail details of item, price and landline phone number to the Editor at the Cresset. E-mail details to [Cresset@Bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:Cresset@Bottishampc.org.uk). Entries by 12th of the month for next month's issue. Max 5 items.

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## *Bottisham Community Library Association*

We were delighted with the donation made by Fran Platten following her Jumble Sale in Lode on October. £276 is a welcome addition to our funds.

We hope that our stall at the **College Christmas Market on Sunday 30th November** will also be successful.

Please come to our **Library Quiz evening 31st January 2015** at the Royal British Legion. More details in the next issue.

The **Christmas Quiz** is now available from the Library. Cost £1.

**Closure dates** for the **Christmas Period** have been agreed. **We shall finish after our session on Saturday 20th December and re-open for the session on Saturday 3rd January 2015.**

Do you know what a “lexophile” is? It is a word used to describe those that have a love for words and a few examples are

“A thief who stole a calendar and got 12 months”

“The batteries were given out free of charge”

“A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail”

**Copy deadline for the next issue is 10 December.**

*Please send material to the editor at [cresset@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishampc.org.uk)*



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## *Public Transport Matters*

Arguments for and against the guided busway rumble on. The county council claims that passenger numbers have hit the 3-year target with 3,457,354 passengers in the past year while a representative of Cast Iron points out that not all those will have been on the busway section and that many passengers will have had free bus passes. He also points out that they spent 3 years developing plans to buy the mothballed St. Ives railway line from Network Rail to reopen it for passengers, using private money. Oxford in contrast is set to get another new rail line as plans are on track to further reverse the Beeching cuts around the university city.

Chiltern Railways is unveiling plans to reinstate passenger services along the Cowley branch line to the south and east of the city and to connect it directly with London. A science park and business park and big housing estates would all benefit. The Varsity Line to Cambridge is also under consideration. Another ongoing argument is the question of returning to state-owned railways. As a letter-writer in the Cambridge News points out three out of four railways are state-owned but by foreign states – Deutsche Bahn, for instance. GTR (Govia Thameslink) has taken over locally from First Capital Connect - a franchise to run for seven years with a promise of £430 million of investment – new trains, improved reliability, increased capacity, better connections, improved stations. Stephen Hawking is one of the suggestions for the name for the new North Cambridge station.

More people are using their local buses due to the problems with the new method of payment at the park and ride sites. ‘Use it or lose it’ is quoted by a local CN letter writer regarding the new Bikebus service on Sundays and Bank Holidays from Cambridge station to the southern villages with a trailer for bikes and wheelchairs. Explore the countryside, visit a village pub! See the South Cambs. website.

Another excellent service is the Stagecoach X5 to Oxford via St. Neots, Bedford, Milton Keynes but also picking up all along the route in smaller villages. Why struggle with the busy road when you can just relax or read in comfort. It is a coach with leather seats and a toilet. It departs from Parkside but also connects to our services at Victoria Avenue and Maids Causeway. It can get full so we depart from Parkside and alight on the return journey at Maids Causeway to link with the 10,11,12. National Express seems to have dropped the ‘0’ prefix from its local services and now also has a 10,11,12! For those able to access the A1303 stop the excellent services to Ely or Bury St. Edmonds continue. Just across the road from Bury bus station is the library with a good café run by Realise Futures Catering which helps people back into work. Newmarket library has a range of timetable booklets produced by Suffolk County Council and showing the buses which run in the western part of the county and into Cambridge. The Bury to Newmarket rural services are also shown if you feel like exploring.

The Dartford toll booths are being axed from 30th November with number plates being filmed and either payment in advance by phone or online or by a system similar to the London Congestion charge. Stagecoach aims to make travel easier with its stagecoachsmart.com for regular travellers - Megarider extra and Megarider plus extra monthly tickets. This is cheaper than buying on the bus. We recently went by Brittany Ferries to stay for a week in Santander, N. Spain. While packing I discovered the smartcard for their buses which I had had 3 years before. We popped into the local tobacconists near our hotel, offered 10 euros and without any problems we were able to top it up! Would it still have been valid if it had been an English card here?! It even had 6 euros still on it!

*(Public Transport continued on page 45.)*

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With Christmas approaching there are books on travel for transport buffs available from Postscript 's travel section – Exploring Britain's Lost Railways, etc. ([www.psbooks.co.uk](http://www.psbooks.co.uk)), the National Railway Museum has over 11,000 posters and a calendar ([museumselection.co.uk](http://museumselection.co.uk)), the RNLi has A Century of Railway Travel (0 300 300 9916).

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*Paddy James*

## ***Bottisham Airfield Museum***

We would like to thank everyone from the local community and further afield who visited us on our Open Day on the 28th September and helped to make it such an outstanding success.

The Museum, which was originally housed in wartime buildings off Tunbridge Lane in Bottisham, had been facing an uncertain future, after that site was sold for development in 2012. This summer, however, thanks to the great generosity of a local benefactor, we were able to secure the future of the only remaining wartime buildings on the airfield itself by making them the museum's home. These buildings were until recently the River Farm Smokery. During the war, they were the operational buildings for the 375th USAAF Fighter squadron.

The museum group moved into the site on the 17th September and ten frantic days of clearing, cleaning and repairing ensued to enable the Open Day to take place. The former latrine and kit drying room was used to display some of the major parts of our Mustang Cockpit project, as well as a collection of the Museum's artefacts relating to the RAF and USAAF in Bottisham. The main building which housed the squadron offices, crew room, and locker room is our major renovation project and is, for now, not open but we were able to give our visitors an idea as to our vision for the site.

Elsewhere, we had a comprehensive collection of WW2 military vehicles together with their very enthusiastic owners, a Mk IX Spitfire cockpit section, live music and many stalls including a tombola and detailed display of our plans for the future. Period costumes were also very much in evidence and we were very lucky that the Home Guard could attend to keep us safe in the event of an invasion! The day was rounded off beautifully by the appearance of some WW2 aircraft, most notably Maurice Hammond's Mustang 'Janie' which thrilled the crowds lining the perimeter of the Museum with an air display which made everyone nearby stand still to watch. Coincidentally, the return of the Mustang to the skies over Bottisham marked 70 years to the day since the USAAF left the airfield.

We were very happy to welcome so many local people to the new museum site and were amazed when several donated items for the museum, including photograph albums, personal belongings of people connected with the airfield and other artefacts which we will be honoured to exhibit when the buildings are ready.

Since the Open Day, work has continued apace to remove many of the 'modern' alterations to the large building and see what remains of its original wartime features. At the time of writing we are planning to reinstate the Nissen Hut on the south side of the main building, which was taken down soon after the airfield closed. The hut will initially house our exhibits while work continues to restore the other buildings on the site. In the future we hope the Nissen hut will be a venue for educational and social events, hosted both by the museum and the local community, set on a site with plenty of character.

One other significant development since the Open Day is that after a lot of hard work the museum is now a registered charity, which will be a real help for securing future funding.

Please keep an eye on our website for more information [bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk](http://bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk), search for us on **Facebook**, and also follow us on Twitter [@BottishamAirMus](https://twitter.com/BottishamAirMus).



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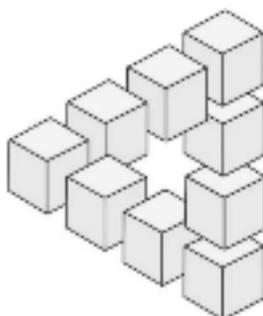
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## *Thoughts of a Sports Nut*

Firstly may I take this opportunity to thank Jolley Old Tony for his responses to my little prod on the topic of the Commonwealth. A fine, well reasoned retort, TJ, and a timely reminder that traditional British influences of loyalty, respect and fairness still have great significance and value in the modern world, never more so than in sporting matters.

I was reminded of this recently when visiting my home town of Woodbridge in Suffolk for the funeral of the 86 year old former chairman of the football club where I developed my love of sport. A player for 26 years, secretary for 13 years, and chairman for a breathtaking 37 years, Keith Dixon's name was synonymous with the club and people came from as far away as Dubai to pay their respects. A truly happy occasion ensued, with ex-players of several eras exchanging stories and memories over a few drinks, the odd tear, and an unusual number of man-hugs! And we concluded with a 'team' photo of everyone there who had ever pulled on the black and white stripes of Woodbridge Town FC. There was a lot of love in the air, borne out of respect not only for Mr Dixon, but also for each other and for the unique bonds that exist between people involved in team sports.

However, when I looked at the picture a sad thought struck me. Whilst the oldest 'player' was in his mid-80s, the youngest was 40! Which meant that not one single player from the current or recent teams had bothered to show. This, I fear, is symptomatic of a sporting landscape which has changed dramatically in recent years. There seems such a reluctance among players to really commit to a club, both during their playing days, and after. Even in grass roots football, players move from club to club without a second thought for a little financial incentive here, a promise of a trophy there, etc. And one can't help thinking that the overblown rewards at the top of the professional game, together with the globalisation of our domestic leagues, have created a culture where the old fashioned, typically British, characteristics of togetherness and working for each other through thick and thin, have all but evaporated.

Thank goodness for former prolific centre-forward David Leech and his hardcore of stalwarts from the 1970s and 1980s who keep the spirit and the solvency of WTFC alive and kicking in the face of so much apathy.

I hear much lamenting over the dearth of volunteers (perhaps it was always so?) but recently I've noticed that the social side of football clubs is rapidly disappearing too. Players used to socialise in the bar, not only after games but after training too. Pubs and clubs were a bedlam of triumphs, disasters, celebrations, excuses, stories, leg-pulls, hopes, fears, tears and laughter by 5.30 on a Saturday afternoon. Nowadays, it seems, half an hour after games, many club houses are empty, save for the few stalwarts who sweep up, wash up, cash up and lock up... the ones who have the club colours running through their veins. But, as the playing generation becomes increasingly transient, we are left wondering where the next crop of stalwarts is coming from.

And Bottisham is no exception... with the football club now joined with Lode in order to maintain The Game in both villages, we find both of the club's teams languishing at the bottom of their respective divisions and relying on a first team manager – the willing and courageous Tim Sale – to run things from his weekday job in Coventry. It seems that Bottisham & Lode FC is paying a high price now for the previous managers' preferences to bring in outside talent to maintain status, when it might have created a more sustainable future to build teams round the locals. Easier said than done, I know, but it's painful to see players from Bottisham playing for a number of different clubs in the area whilst the village team struggles for its very existence. One hopes that, in time, some may come back and take

*(Sports Nut continued on page 53.)*

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**(Sports Nut continued.)**

up the reins in order to re-establish B&LFC on the East Cambs map.

In the meantime, we owe a debt of gratitude to everyone who has stuck at it, none more so than Jim and Caroline Tideswell, without whose efforts in every conceivable aspect of running a football club, there would be no club. Thank goodness too, for the volunteers who give energies tirelessly to the development of youth football in Bottisham. These people are typified by Messrs Mark Winchester and Steve Leech who currently run the Under 14s, having nurtured them from the tender age of six.

Did you notice the Leech name mentioned earlier? Yes, there is a family connection between the Leeches of Woodbridge and Bottisham and I am proud to have served the game of football with both branches. Commitment to the cause is clearly in the Leech blood and what a wonderful example of the 'interconnectedness of all things' (as Douglas Adams liked to put it)!

Happy Christmas everybody. TTFN

Gerry Daish

## *Sue Giles Writes*

On an unusually mild October Saturday a little army of people gathered in St Cyriac's Church Swaffham Prior to pack shoe boxes. Many people across the benefice recognise that Christmas will be a happy time for them, filled with friends and family, gifts, good food and entertainment. We are blessed to live in a place where there is peace and where our children can grow up without fear. There are many places in the world where this is not so and villagers wanted to share a little of the good things of Christmas with those who will have very little joy. Over the last few months people have been collecting little gifts or making hats and gloves to put in the Christmas shoe boxes. In total 150 boxes were packed with gifts for boys or girls for particular age groups so that we could share a little of our Christmas joy with others living in difficult circumstances.

Those boxes together with boxes from several of our local schools will soon be on their way to Kazakstan and other places to spread a little happiness and encouragement. Each comes with a short greeting.

Christmas is a time for sharing love. Its what God did that very first Christmas when he came to be with us. In Jesus Christ he came to share our lives, to encourage human beings to live not just for themselves but for God and for others. One couple in Bottisham have found a different way of sharing love and happiness this Christmas. As they did last Christmas, they are donating their heating allowance to bring some warmth and joy to other local families. They know that they are fortunate to be in the position to share what they have and they wondered if there were others who might like to join with them in bringing help and encouragement to local people who are less comfortable. Any money donated will be used for local families or to support the work of Jimmy's night shelter as they care for the homeless this Christmas time. Below are their thoughts.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed Christmas.

Sue

**Parishioner's Letter** • *Are you looking forward to a happy Christmas? Not everyone in Bottisham can share that happy thought, you may ask why, the simple answer is they don't have the wherewithall (money) to do that. Last year my wife and I changed that for just 3 families by giving them, through Sue Giles our local vicar, the £200 heating allowance, which fortunately we can manage without. The joy it gave us was infinitely more rewarding than having the money. This year we plan to do the same. Why don't you join us and make someone's Christmas, happier, warmer and put food on their Christmas table. I am not asking you to donate the full £200 that is entirely up to you, but if we got together we could maybe help many more families instead of just 3. Donations can be dropped in to The Vicarage, 86 High Street. Please make cheques to Bottisham PCC.*



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### *Are 'We' Up to the Mark...*

This is not my original opening piece as having read 'Sports Nut's' article in the November Cresset I feel I must congratulate him on bringing to the fore a topic which a lot of people find uncomfortable to mention. Many of the points raised by GD represent a valid reflection of today's overbearing 'politically correct' society. The latter being so ably demonstrated by the censuring of Mike Read for his UKIP Calypso and the lady who was asked by the Police to remove a black knitted Gorilla from her window because someone found it offensive. It simply confirms the conceit of the 'synthetic outrage' of those so concerned with political correctness that they feel it their right to regulate our ability to form judgements and to think for ourselves...

Many 'common sense' people now cringe at the mention of political correctness in all its forms because of the positive discrimination that's usually associated with it. Policies such as those suggested in the recent study carried out by the 'Sports Person's Think Tank' at Loughborough. To my sense of fair play at least, the 'knee Jerk' reactionary thinking at Loughborough encourages mediocrity and second best because, in the pursuance of 'quotas', it side-lines truly gifted individuals. Furthermore, and probably worse still, we witness in horror the sort of political correctness that allows unlawful activity amongst some minority groups to go unchallenged. There's far too many factions' walking around this country today with a chip on their shoulder in the belief that society owes them a debt - life is far too short for it to fester in this manner of mind-set. And this applies equally to the so called 'Victim Support Groups' and Lawyers who have made the enquiry into historical Child Abuse a sham because they didn't approve of the 'social credentials' of the appointed Chair. The best policy is and will always be; to favour the person who has the most appropriate skill set, life skills and character to do what is required regardless of ethnic background, gender, faith or social standing.

Sadly today's 'career' legislators and advisers have got themselves into one hell of a mess and find themselves working in an abyss of political bunkum and unimaginable naivety. Where have the successors to the mature and level headed 'elder statesmen' of the 20th century gone and where can the pragmatism and worldly experience of these mellowed parliamentarians, particularly relating to the customs and philosophies of nations, be seen in today's political arena? Sadly most of them have been replaced by 20 and 30 somethings just entering the world of politics and external affairs who, alas, are driven by academic musings whilst sitting behind desks of 'human-less' technology. And then they wonder why the likes of Nigel Farage are so popular amongst the voters of 'Middle Britain'!

And so to matters local starting with the sad news of Wally Rayment: I'm so sorry that my last article failed to mention the passing of Wally, another true character of Bottisham who lived in the village man and boy. I had the pleasure of sitting with Wally and Phyllis and hearing about their adventures as young people in the village and listening to their recollections of 'Bottisham life' spanning many decades. I'm sure Wally will be warmly remembered as, at this time of year especially, will the other valiant folk that have left us of late.

How many went to see the recent Bottisham Players production of 'Ding Dong'? A fabulously funny plot involving two womanisers who try to get 'one over' apiece by making a play for each's wife only to find right at the end that the maid wants a bit of the action too. Tuesdays at 5pm seemed to be the favourite time for 'liaisons' to commence. To my delight there were very, very, few prompts which seem to be a problem for a lot of Amateur Dramatic Societies these days. But not so much this time for The Players who were wonderfully cast and capably guided by Graham Radford as both leading man and Director. The whole cast should be rightfully

*(Jolley ol' World continued on page 58.)*

*(Jolley continued.)*

proud of themselves for putting on a truly enjoyable and entertaining show. Can't wait for the Panto...

And to digress slightly; did you happen to listen to the Jeremy Vine show the other morning on BBC Radio 2! There was a discussion about 'dog kidnappers' and one lady, who clearly hadn't appreciated the humour, announced the police had told her that they had given up with the investigation because; "they didn't have a 'lead' to go on." JV was in hysterics but the lady still failed to see the funny side. Apparently the police further remarked that; "it was very unlikely they would 'collar' any one..."

Back to matters local and to one surely of interest must be the next tranche of 50 houses in Bell Road by David Wilson Homes (DWH). I was not at all surprised then to see that play areas for the families who are going to live there are completely off the agenda and that the proposal pays scant attention to community open space. Instead, approximately half an acre has been allocated to 'Allotments'!! "What madness is this" I overheard a young woman say – "doesn't anyone listen!" Obviously not...

Next we have the disquieting news that the Village College is reducing the hours the 'community' can use the Sports Centre due to insufficient funding. I really do wonder whether long standing 'Community' obligations were forgotten when the application for Academy status and funding went to the DfE! Many of us 50 and 60 somethings are so disheartened by the vanishing community cohesion and the gradual loss of community facilities that local people have sweat blood and tears to make possible – the Swimming Pool and the Sports Pavilion being just two examples. It seems that the younger generations in the village don't feel a responsibility to involve themselves in lobbying and campaigning to keep local amenities, groups and societies going. It really is time for 'them' to step up to the mark and involve themselves a bit more.

And finally as I write I, along with many other singers, am involved with learning new music for the build up to Christmas starting of course with Advent in a few weeks' time. It gives a lot of people quite a tingle being in the ambiance of an awe-inspiring Cathedral or Church suffused in the intimacy of soft candlelight. And there's rarely anything quite like the sound of massed voices singing some of the traditional Christmas hymns. Do make the effort to go along and enjoy the experience of a centuries old British tradition - we have a lovely Church here in Bottisham which regardless of faith really does deserve your support

Happy Christmas to all...

Oh dear! Is this politically correct??

TJ

## *To the Editor*

*Dear Editor,*

I am writing to ask for this to be put in the Cresset in memory of my father, Wally Rayment and to thank everyone who attended his funeral on the 3rd November. Also for the many cards of condolences received by both my Mum and ourselves which were very much appreciated.

Dad was well known in the village, as the amount of people at the funeral proved, having been born in Bottisham on 24th December 1925 and lived in the arches and remained in the village for the rest of his life. He worked at various farms and towards the end of his working life for Cambridgeshire County Council keeping the local paths and grass verges clean and tidy.

After he finished working for the Council he took up various small jobs in the village including working at the swimming pool and doing odd jobs and gardening for various people.

*(To the Editor continued on next page.)*



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16 GC Christmas meeting with slide show talk on Sri Lanka  
20 Library closes

## JANUARY

- 6/13/14/20/21/27/28 BRBL Line dancing  
2 Precept funding deadline date  
3 Library re-opens  
7 BBPC - Showing of EAF Annual Exhibition. CD Presentation.  
14 BBPC – Projected Image Competition No.2 Judge Peter Howsam.  
17 Bowling Club – Burns night dinner and ongawns  
28 BBPC –“ Images of India”. Digital presentation by David Steel  
31 Lib - Library Quiz night at The Legion

## FEBRUARY

- 3/10/11/17/18/25/26 BRBL Line dancing

**GC** = Bottisham & District Gardening Club meets at BRBL Poppy Restaurant at 7.30pm •  
**BRBL** = Bottisham Royal British Legion Social Club • **BBPC** = Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club meets Tuesdays at Lode Chapel 7.30pm - Non Member £2 • **WI** = Meet at the BVC Lecture Room at 7.30pm • **Lib** = Bottisham Community Library Assoc. • **MU** = Mother's Union meet at Lode Chapel 2.30pm Third Thursday ••• This list is a 'quick view one liner' with brief details and a contact number if possible. Please let the editor have details by the 11th. E-mail [cresset@bottishamPC.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishamPC.org.uk)

## ANGLESEY BENEFICE SAMARITAN'S SHOEBOX APPEAL

A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to or helped in this year's Anglesey Benefice Samaritan's Shoebox Appeal. The pack took place, as in previous years, in St Cyriac's Church Swaffham Prior, on 18th October, and a magnificent total of 164 boxes were put together ready for shipping to Kyrgyzstan. We were joined this year by the children of Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School who collected items and contributed 18 boxes to this total. Well done!

Despite vigorous fundraising to cover the £3 per box that is required as a donation towards shipping costs we were substantially short of our target, until that is an anonymous and very generous donation arrived from a resident of Quy, to whom we are hugely grateful.

As I write the packing warehouse for our area is in full swing and by the time that you read this our boxes should be on their way to some very happy recipients.

Wishing you all Seasons Greetings and thank you again for supporting this extremely worthwhile cause.

*Janet Willmott*

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## ***Bottisham Patients' Group***

**Fund raiser for the Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitor (ABPM)** • As explained last month, the Patients' Group (PG) has agreed to raise funds to pay for an ABPM for Bottisham Medical Practice so that patients can have the monitor fitted at the surgery and their GP can have quick access to the readings. The tombola at the 'flu clinics in October raised just short of £100, so we are off the mark towards our target of £1,500. Details of how you can donate are on the PG noticeboard in the waiting room where a collection box will be available on Reception. Your donations of whatever amount will be very welcome, in cash or cheque - the PG banks with Barclays Bank and cheques should be made out to 'Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group'. We don't have a deadline for reaching our target, as the sooner it's reached the sooner patients won't have to spend half a day, twice, going to Addenbrooke's to have their blood pressure monitored. If you have any good ideas about other ways in which we can raise this money please email our secretary on or leave a note for her at Reception.

**Campaign for improvements to General Practice** • Through the Royal College of General Practitioners' campaign, many of you signed its petition calling for general practice to be given the resources it needs to care for patients. Thanks to your support, the *Put patients first: Back general practice* campaign is having a positive impact across the UK – raising awareness about the need for more GPs to be able to spend more time with their patients. It was signed by over 300,000 people. Last month NHS England said in its landmark *Five Year Forward View* that it intends to implement a package of measures to boost primary care, including shifting more NHS resources into the community and recruiting more GPs, particularly in deprived areas. The RCGP is currently writing an Action Plan to give to our leaders, mapping out the actions they need to take to deliver this 'new deal'. You can follow the RCGP campaign at [patientsgroup@outlook.com](mailto:patientsgroup@outlook.com); on Twitter using #putpatientsfirst; and on [facebook.com/rcgp.org](http://facebook.com/rcgp.org).

**'Flu jabs** • If you are reading this, and are eligible for a free 'flu jab but still haven't had it, phone the Practice on 01223 810030 to book an appointment.

**Healthy Walking Group** • There will be one PG walk in December, led by Steve Gilson, our accredited walk leader, on Friday 12th, starting from the surgery car park at 11.00 am. Anglesey Abbey walks continue weekly on Thursdays from the Visitors' Centre starting at 10.00 am. All patients are welcome on all these walks.

**Christmas and New Year** • The PG committee and the Practice staff wish all of our patients a very happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year. The surgery will be closed from 25th to 28th December inclusive and on 1st January, so the Dispensary will be particularly busy. Please try to give more than 48 hours' notice if you need to collect repeat prescriptions over the holiday period. If you need urgent medical care overnight, at weekends or during bank holidays please phone Urgent Care Cambridgeshire on 111.

*Bottisham Patients' Group Committee*

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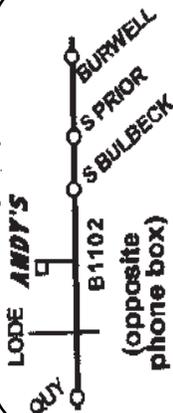
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*Please send material to the editor at [cresset@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishampc.org.uk)*



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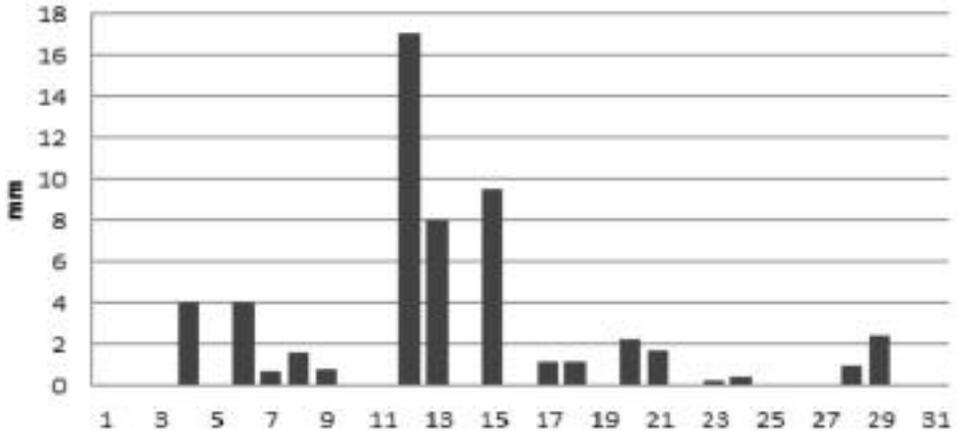
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# The Rain Spot

This October's rainfall was measured at 55.7mm. Just over half of September's effort. 15 days were without rain at all. On the day of writing this (12 Nov) we had already had 2 night frosts, so winter approaches.

*Terry Chapman*

## Rainfall for Bottisham for October



### Bottisham Parish Council

#### CHAIR

CHRISTINE BRYANT 127 High Street 811767

#### PARISH COUNCILLORS

ROBERT ALTHAM Hall Farm, Lode Road 811418  
 STEVEN ARONSON 61 Bell Road 812823  
 HILDA BUCHANAN 55 Beechwood Avenue 811689  
 MARIA DICKSON 5 Jenyns Clos 812499  
 ROS HALL 18 Spring Lane 811819  
 STEVEN O'DELL 23 Downing Close 812230  
 JON OGBORN Woodward Drive 812631  
 PAUL WHITE 65 Ox Meado 813630

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

KEVIN ELLIS 20 Peacock Drive 813034  
 ROBERT STEVENS 51 Northfields, Lode 811643

#### COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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#### PARISH CLERK

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# Useful Information

<b>Bottisham Website:</b> .....	WWW.BOTTISHAMPC.ORG.UK
<b>Holy Trinity Church:</b> Revd Sue Giles.....	812726
<b>Roman Catholic Priest:</b> Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard .....	01223 211235
<b>RE:NEW/Lode Chapel:</b> Rev. Simon Goddard.....	01223 812881
<b>Bottisham Surgery:</b> .....	
Enquiries and Appointments .....	810030
Out of Hours only – Urgentcare Cambridge .....	111
<b>Bottisham Library:</b> .....	812354
Library hours: Monday Closed; Tuesday 3-5pm and 6-8pm; Wednesday 10-11.30am Thursday 3-5pm; Friday 6-8pm; Saturday 10am-12noon	
<b>Cambridgeshire Police HQ:</b> .....	01480 456111
<b>Cambridgeshire Police:</b> .....(NON-URGENT MATTERS) ring 101 - In EMERGENCIES ring 999 Police community support officer Ian Hawkins PCSO 7274 at Ely Police Station ....Contact through 101	
<b>1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies:</b> Kay Pearce.....	811055
<b>Bottisham Bowling Club:</b> Keith Gibson, Secretary .....	811049
<b>Bottisham Boys Football Club:</b> Jim Tideswell .....	812591
<b>Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club:</b> Nora Watson .....	812121
<b>Bottisham Community Primary School:</b> Headteacher Paul Belzar.....	811235
<b>Bottisham Cricket Club:</b> Graham Barker/Charles Fletcher.....	812087 / 811039
<b>Bottisham Football:</b> John Turner/Tim Sale .....	07841592203 / 07743862836
<b>Bottisham Pharmacy:</b> .....	812321
<b>Bottisham Pool Association:</b> Manager - Jason Rye.....	811121
<b>Bottisham Royal British Legion Club:</b> Secretary - Suzy Woolley .....	812063
Branch Chairman: John Overton .....	811792
www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham	
<b>Bottisham Scout Group:</b> Group Contact: Linda Jones .....	813040
<b>Bottisham Sports Association:</b> Graham Barker .....	812087
<b>Bottisham Village College, School:</b> .....	811250
Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information .....	811372
<b>Bottisham W.I.:</b> Secretary - Jenn White • mrandjw@btinternet.com .....	811600
<b>Cambridgeshire County Councillor:</b> Mathew Shuter.....	01638 508729
<b>East Cambridgeshire District Offices:</b> .....	01353 665555
<b>East Cambridgeshire District Councillors:</b> Kevin Ellis .....	813034
Robert Stevens.....	811643
<b>Girlguiding Bottisham District:</b> Cambs East County office • www.cambseastguides.org.uk .....	01223 813917
<b>Parish Council Chairman:</b> Christine Bryant .....	811767
<b>Parish Council Clerk:</b> Claire Fullwood .....	07914 219732
<b>Queen’s Court Day Centre:</b> .....	811905
<b>MP for Cambs South East Constituency:</b> James Paice (House of Commons. London SW1).....Direct Line: 020 7219 5063 E-mail: paicejet@parliament.uk • www.jimpaice.com • Fax: 020 7219 3804	
<b>Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Helpdesk:</b> .....	0845 3030666
<b>Saplings Playgroup Playhut:</b> .....	813226
<b>Milton Road Tip:</b> Apr to Sept - Weekdays 9.00am-8.00pm; Weekends 9.00am-6.00pm..... Oct to Mar - 9.00am-4.00pm	860674
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