

THE Cresset

February 2014



Bottisham

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

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From your Editor

I shall not add to the comments made about the meeting which was held at the BVC regarding their involvement with the Bottisham community, but those who attended will have their view, and a very varied view it is.

It is clear and well known the excellent job that the College does for the pupils of both Bottisham and the rest of the College's catchment area. It is the use, or not, of the grounds that seems to be the issue and needs to be resolved. I hope the least that comes out of that meeting is a furthering of discussions between the College and the Parish Council, which I know have already started and the possible setting up of a Bottisham liaison group. This group could be established, as suggested, to develop ideas and a plan to benefit both the College and the residents of Bottisham without some of the negativity which seemed to lead the last meeting.

For my part and that of *The Cresset*, I am delighted that a closer interchange between *The Cresset* and BVC will be evident in correspondence and articles about our Village College and its part in the life of Bottisham. For your part, it would be great to hear from you of any items of activity at the college which would be of interest to other readers of *The Cresset*.

The Cresset magazine is here for all residents and organisations of Bottisham and I believe it reflects a cross section of views of life in our village. If you think it does not, then it is for you to help that balance and to say so through the same medium. My only requirement is that I will not publish anonymous letters or personal issues. *The Cresset* is here to voice the things which affect us all.

Speaking of *The Cresset*, we are about to reach a milestone. He says it is only about 25 years, but most know it is a lot longer. Ken York has organised and managed the distribution of *The Cresset* magazine with his band of helpers for many years. At the age of 94 (yes 94 this year!) he thinks it is time he took it a bit easier. Through rain and shine with his usual smile and matter of fact way, he has got the job done. He also stands in for any of his delivery team to deliver door to door at times if a deliverer or one of his reserves is unable to do it (which is rare, given that we also have a great team of deliverers). For his work I would like to say a very public thank you to Ken.

He thoroughly deserves a rest, but it leaves us with a problem as we now need somebody to take over the reins. If you like getting *The Cresset* every month, and would like to help with its distribution then please let us know. It involves delivery of the printed magazines to the 30 or so people in Bottisham who then deliver them door to door. If you would be willing to get involved and help continue the pleasant task of doing something for the village, then please speak to me or Ken if you see us, or give me a ring on 811402. Or you can e-mail me at cresset@bottishampc.org.uk. In addition, if you would like to put your name down as a reserve to be one of the 30, then also let us know.

I hope you enjoy this month's magazine and if you have something of interest or a view point to share with your fellow Bottsamites then do let us know.



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Peter Walker – Your Editor,
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Sounds Familiar ?

Just a line to say I'm living
That I'm not among the dead
Though I'm getting more forgetful
And all mixed up in the head

I've got used to my arthritis
To my dentist I'm resigned
I can cope with my bifocals
But - Ye Gods, - I miss my mind

Sometimes I can't remember
When I'm standing by the stairs
Should I be going up for something
Or have I just come down from there

I'm before the fridge so often
My mind is full of doubt
Now did I put some food away
Or come to take some out

So remember I do love you
And wished that you lived near
And now it is time to post this
and say goodbye my dear

I stand before the post box
and my face it sure is red
for instead of posting this to you
I've opened it instead!

Anon

Thank you to Janet Pearson

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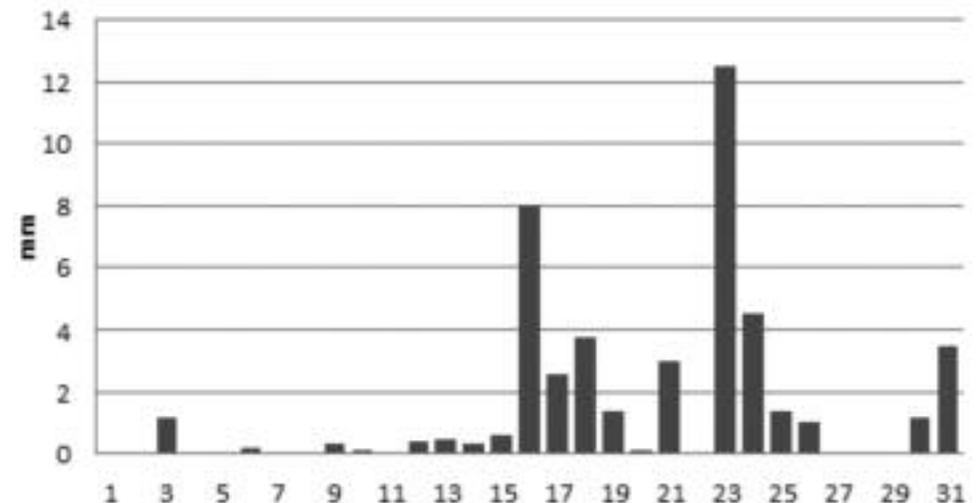
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The Rain Spot

The December rainfall amounted to 46.6mm – close to my estimate from last month of 50mm. This gives us a yearly total of 537.4. Last year's total was 834.9mm. Our figure for this year of 537.4 is considerably below the average for the last 19 years 1995 to 2013 which works out at 631mm. considering the amount of rain that we will remember; we are about 100mm below average. For the Imperialists amongst us that is just under 4 inches.

Terry Chapman

Bottisham Rainfall for Dec. 2013



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Bingo every 1st and 3rd Sunday

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(Sunday may close at 10pm with the discretion of the staff on duty)

All live premier league games & Sky sports are shown at the club

Saturday 15th February

Brian Roy Evening with Fish & Chip Supper

£7.00 Book your place at the Club

Saturday 22nd February

Quiz night in aid of the Bottisham British Legion Branch

£2 per head 8.00pm Start. Your quizmaster Colin Barker
Bottle of Wine for winning team members

Are you having a celebration?

Are you looking for a business meeting venue?

Is your society or Club looking for a friendly place to meet?

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The Royal British Legion, Bottisham & District Branch,
31 Downing Close, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9BA
Tel. 01223 812063 www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham

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Holy Trinity, Bottisham - Services in February 2014

Sunday 2nd 11 a.m. **Service of the Word** led by *Dr Mike Young*
Wednesday 5th 8 p.m. **Compline by Candlelight** led by *Dr Sarah Maxwell*
Sunday 9th 11 a.m. **Holy Communion** *Revd Sue Giles*
Sunday 16th 8 a.m. **Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)** *Revd Lawrie Marsh*
11 a.m. **Morning Prayer** *Dr Sarah Maxwell*
Sunday 23rd No service in Holy Trinity
10 a.m. Benefice Communion in *Quy Village Hall* – with pancakes!

Details of other services in the Benefice are on the notice board in the church

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 February.

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Bottisham Patients' Group

Walking Group

The wet weather and muddy footpaths have not deterred our Health Walking Group during January. **Two more walks are planned for February: Wednesday 5th and Thursday 20th meeting at 11.00 am at the surgery.** All patients are welcome to join the group for access to the best medicine – fresh air and exercise!

You are invited to

“Heart Start”

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The Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

Our programme for 2014 began with a Service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Sue Giles. Copies of the programme are available in each of our five Parish Churches. Our meetings are held every third Thursday in the month at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel, and should you wish to join us, you would be most welcome.

PROGRAMME FOR 2014

Feb 20th	Rita Lane and companions	Hearing Dogs for the Deaf
March 20th	Ros Wright	Beads of Prayer - Their use in different cultures
March 25th	Lady Day Deanery Service	2.30pm St. Peters Church, Fordham.
April 10th	“Spring” Social	– with Bring and Buy Stall A week early due to Easter
May 15th	Wendy Lovell	Fostering
May 20th	Deanery	Coffee Morning
June 19th	Arwen Folkes	Life in training at Westcott House TBC
July 17th	Rev Simon Goddard	Man on a Mission
Aug 21st	SUMMER CREAM TEA	3pm.
Sept 18th	Rev. Sue Giles	Every picture tells a story
Oct 16th	Beryl Waterson	Sinai Reflections plus “Autumn” Bring and Buy Stall
Nov 20th	Helen Banyard	Mothers' Union - Faith and Policy
Dec 11th	CHRISTMAS LUNCH	1pm.

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To the Editor

Dear Editor,

How many attendees at last night's meeting heard any of the speakers clear enough to follow the presentation by BVC and Q&As afterwards? Held in the hall of the multi-million pound new extension, it apparently has no public address system. Was this by design or lack of forethought? What little I did hear (half way back), we were spoken to as if we were naughty children imposing on the speakers' time!

Anyway, having spent a few weeks in 1943 at BVC, which I thoroughly enjoyed, before returning to London, which I didn't like, it is obvious that the BVC authorities and governors have a lot of work to do before they restore the harmony between us that existed only a decade or so ago. A self-congratulatory screen projection presentation and constant harping about costs etc. did not do the trick for me.

BVC governors and co., you "need to do better".

Yours, Alfred Laister

Dear Editor,

I write following the meeting between BVC and the village last Tuesday evening.

I came away feeling that a golden opportunity to improve the relationship between the two had been spurned by the Governors. Surely, given the criticisms of the College over the past several months, it would have been preferable to adopt a tone of conciliation rather than confrontation. Instead the Governors chose the latter and less was achieved that may have been the case.

One of the catalysts for this meeting was the suggestion that land could be made available on which the Village could build a playground. Surely the response should have been one of, "We like the idea, let's set up a working party and see if this can be achieved". In a very round about way, I believe that's what we were told but it was not very convincing.

Unfortunately, we heard more about what the College cannot do rather than what it can. I felt sympathy for Kate Evans' efforts to be upbeat. But, the air of negativity prevailed and I feel that many left the meeting feeling little if anything had been achieved.

If you think you are going to fail, you probably will. If you believe you will succeed, you may be amazed by what you can achieve. So, let's be positive, please.

I do hope that another, private, meeting is arranged so that representatives from the village can meet with the College to look at the various ways we can work together to mutual advantage.

An update, through The Cresset would keep all interested parties informed and misunderstandings could be avoided.

Yours sincerely, Eddie Clark

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday 14 Jan 2014, I attended the meeting at the Village College called to discuss the opportunities to develop the relationship of the college with the local community beyond the education of the pupils attending the school.

The meeting dealt with a number of issues and I came away feeling that the cricket club might get a lease on the pavilion if they talked to the college but I don't know the background as to why the cricket club folded and whether it had any bearing on the availability of the pavilion. We were also told that there *(To the Editor continued on page 13.)*

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(To the Editor continued.)

was little chance of any land being leased to the village for a children's play area because "soundings" at the Department of Education were negative about leasing land and the college would be responsible for health and safety issues if there was such a designated area. On a third issue Kate Evans, the Principal, stated that people could use the playing fields as long as the activity was lawful, didn't cause a public nuisance and/or didn't damage college property.

The cost of hiring a room or hall was aired and a comparison with other colleges in the area suggested that BVC costs were cheaper or comparable with other colleges. Providing evening classes for adult education was clearly something that has to pay for itself as there is little or no subsidy for such classes from the school budget which was one of the lowest per pupil in the country. There was a suggestion made that money could be raised through the parish councils in the catchment area to subsidise adult evening classes. Any such funding from the parishes to facilitate adult education should be ring fenced for that purpose in my view.

Having never looked at the BVC website before I see that it has copious information about what's on. I wonder whether a diary page in the Cresset might provide regular reading for those less enthusiastic about "surfing the net".

Martin Ibbitt

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 February.

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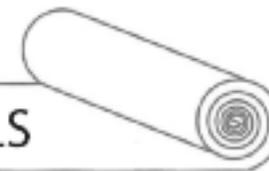
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From 1st January 2014 our website will be www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk and we can be contacted by e-mail on enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk. Our telephone number will remain the same 01223 416141

Cambridgeshire Hearing Help Charity Registration No 1154071

Bottisham Community Library

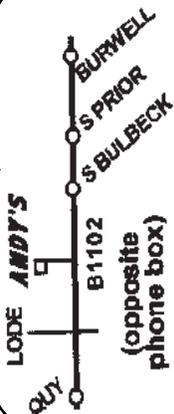
I am sorry to tell you that Sandra Laccohee has reluctantly had to resign for family reasons as the coordinator liaising between our Association, the Village College and the Public Library Service. She has been involved with the Library since we became a LAP over 10 years ago and has worked hard in dealing with all the administration and working several sessions normally on a Tuesday afternoon. We shall all miss her and hope that her family problems will soon improve.

The adult biographies are shelved to the right of the door behind the display panels and the adult non fiction there at present are to be merged shortly into the main non fiction section.

We have negotiated a new contract with BT for our telephone rental and will not be purchasing a mobile phone in the near future.

Make a note please that our next Triangle Book Sale will be on Saturday 26th April. We should be very pleased to receive the books you received for Christmas and have now read and any good quality books you can spare.

Sylvia Overton



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Parish Council Notes

Wendy Hague from East Cambs District Council came to our January meeting to talk about the completion of the Masterplan. As most of you will be aware David Wilson Homes had stopped work on the Masterplan as they sought additional development on the site. Wendy confirmed that David Wilson Homes have now written to the District Council to say that their decision to cease work on the Masterplan had been rash and they are not going to proceed with plans for 150 homes but were sticking to the original plan to build 50. This news was greatly received. There are still decisions to be made, for example the line of the greenbelt needs to be set and also access for allotments needs to be discussed. Wendy confirmed that there will be another public consultation after these things have been agreed.

After discussions at our December meeting County Councillor Shuter has enquired with Highways regarding the traffic flow on the Quy roundabout coming off of the A14. It was felt that the proportion of traffic using the left hand lane to go through Quy was small and, especially at peak times, traffic was queuing back onto the A14 to use the right hand lane going to Bottisham and into Cambridge. They said that this was originally based on a survey approximately 8 years ago. It was agreed that the priority and the number of vehicles has changed in that time and C/Clr Shuter will ask them to look at this again.

The kerbside electronic recycling collection day in December proved to be a great success for a first outing so thank you to everyone who took advantage of the scheme. Wisser Recycling have written to us to say that they had collected nearly 5 tonnes of electronic equipment and collected from an estimated 15% of properties in the village (137 dwellings) which they were really pleased with. This generated an income to us of £178.64 and we will be discussing ways to spend this money at the next meeting. Another collection date will be set for May/June time so please keep any old electrical equipment until then. Date to be advised.

The Parish Council precept has been set at £23000 again for the financial year 2014/15 so there will be no raise in council tax payments from Parish Council.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 3rd February, 7.30pm in the Poppy Room at the Royal British Legion. There is an open forum at the beginning of our monthly meetings which are held the first Monday of every month where residents can speak and ask parish councillor's questions. We look forward to seeing people there.

Claire Fullwood – Parish Clerk

PLANNING NOTES

13/99777/CLE 17 Howlett Way. Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of garage converted to additional residential accommodation

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East Cambs District Councillors' Notes

NOT ONE HUNDRED EXTRA HOMES

In last month's report, we stated that David Wilson Homes had requested that 150 homes should be built on the land south of Ox Meadow in Bottisham, rather than 50. This was greeted with dismay by the councillors and officers at the Development and Transport Committee. The Committee's Chairman has since written to David Wilson Homes, voicing the Committee's displeasure and the reasons why this would not be acceptable. A reply was received from them stating that they will continue to engage in work on the Masterplan for 50 homes and withdraw their request for more homes than this in the Local Plan.

NEW RECYCLING SERVICE A GREAT SUCCESS

The recycling service with the new wheeled bins and vehicles has been well received. Some residents have mentioned that the bins are too small to take all their waste. Some items may be flattened before putting them in the blue bins and our village recycling banks may help with excess amounts. Cans may also now be put in the plastic bottle banks. Excess garden waste may be taken to the Milton Recycling Centre, but residents may prefer to have a compost heap in their garden for this. Cardboard should now go in the blue bins for recycling rather than composting. However, cardboard (eg cereal packets) or sheets of newspaper may be used to wrap food waste to put in the green bin. The Council is considering offering an extra green bin, but there would almost certainly be a charge for this, and also to cover the extra collection and transport costs.

SHARED-OWNERSHIP HOMES

It has been pointed out to us that some shared-ownership homes, which were built together with open market homes, may become fully owned by their occupiers. To do this, they may increase their share in their homes to 100% over time. However, should they wish to move, the Housing Association may have the right to buy them back. If the Housing Association does not have this right (which is the case for the Circle and CHS homes in Bottisham), or it does not wish to do so, they may be sold privately. However, current Council policy for further shared-ownership homes built in parishes with less than 3000 residents (which are built with open market homes) is that the residents' share is limited to 80% and the Housing Associations must buy them back. In this way, they remain as Affordable Homes for new applicants in perpetuity. This policy would apply to all parishes in this Ward.

Dist Cllrs Robert Stevens and Kevin Ellis

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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Our Christmas meeting, held on 17th December, started with a very enjoyable talk by Sylvia Overton, with much input from the floor, on 'A Medley of Houses around the World'. We were shown an assortment of early dwellings, from the 3,200 year old Skara Brae complex on the Orkneys and the cave dwellings in Puglia, 9,000 years old and lived in until as recently as the 1950s, through Pompeii and Herculaneum and Mandela's cell on Robben Island, to the modern-day £150 cob house.

We then moved on to the social side of the evening, with mulled wine and mince pies for all our members and guests, finishing with the Christmas Raffle.

The Seed Exchange will take place on 8th February 2 – 4pm and on 25th February we have Margaret Nimmo-Smith telling us *How to Make the Most of a Small Garden*. Arrangements are currently being made for the evening visit to a local place of interest, and make a note of 16th July in your diary for the very popular summer outing.

Visitors are welcome to come along to our meetings held at the British Legion at 7.30pm, further details of our programme for 2014 can be found on the website at www.bottishamgardeningclub.co.uk

Bottisham & District Gardening Club

Seed Exchange

Saturday 8th February 2-4pm

Poppy Room, Bottisham Royal British Legion

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Thank you

We would like to say thank you to everyone who supported the Tacky Dangly Charity morning at The British Legion Club on 8th December.

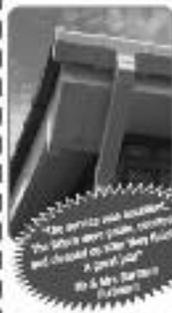
Because of the many generous donations of prizes for the tombola and raffle, together with people's participation in the day, a total of £413.28 was raised for Cancer research.

Thanks go to Katy, Dave and Linda for giving up their time and providing refreshments. Also to Ines from Cottage Cupcakes of Great Wilbraham for the cup cake decorating which I know the children enjoyed. To Father Christmas (Mr. Mike Rutherford of Longmeadow) and his Elves (Angela & Rebecca).

Lastly a thank you again to all who supported the event on the day.

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Public Transport Matters

My New Year present from Stagecoach was a large box of 10/10A timetables for the changes to the service from January 5th 2014. Please check the times of your buses as some leave earlier. There are new reference letters, e.g. SH for School Holidays only. Also new is the announcement of the over £4m improvement scheme for Cambridge railway station. This should be completed by December 2014 and is through the National Stations Improvement Scheme which involves a partnership between Network Rail and Greater Anglia. Enlarged ticket hall, new ticket office, more exits and entrances, additional ticket gates, renovated toilets and new retail facilities, new customer information systems. Nick Clegg visited the city and has signed up to a funding deal that could include an underground transport system and also better transport links for Cambridge's second railway station, including an extension to the guided busway.

The Campaign for Better Transport says that cuts to bus services are now reaching critical levels. 47% of local councils had reduced their funding in 2012/13 and 2014 looks to be a difficult financial year. Other areas like us have lost their evening and Sunday buses and report the difficulty of accessing jobs. Not everyone works 9-5 Monday to Friday or has a car. At the time of the Beeching Report it was said that the arrival of railways in the villages improved the national gene pool by breaking the centuries old habit of intermarrying within rural communities!

Corinne of Lode post office has kindly alerted me in the Lode Star to the fact that you can now buy National Express coach tickets from your local post offices, including Bottisham. Useful services in Bottisham village continue to increase.

For those interested in railway history, Christian Wolmar has published a new book entitled 'To the edge of the world: The story of the Trans-Siberian Railway'. It has been well reviewed. A reprinted edition of Bradshaw's Railway Guide has become a bestseller due to Michael Portillo's TV programmes.

Some people set themselves unusual tasks - a chap has driven to visit every station - 2,548 - in England, Scotland and Wales. It took him 4 years, averaging 12 a week.

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Harry Pearson

Stephen, David, George and Margaret, together with the rest of Harry's family would like to say a big thank you to all his friends who came to say farewell to him at Bury St. Edmunds crematorium and also who came back to The Royal British Legion Club afterwards.

A big thank you also to all the staff at Queens Court for looking after him so well over the last 18 months. It was like home from home for him.

Harry had so many people who looked out for him and passed the time of day with him during his walks. It made his life so much better and he really appreciated it.

Once again, thank you to all. Bottisham really is a great place to live.

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I have volunteered to support the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service as a Community champion. This means that my task is to help spread the word about the dangers of fire in the home and how risks might be minimised, or avoided altogether.

Now retired, I have decided to do this for two reasons. Firstly we had two harrowing experiences of fire many years ago. Secondly, and as a consequence of this, I became a retained fireman and participated in the good and oftentimes dangerous service which the 'brigade' provides.

Having a good understanding of what constitutes good home fire safety practice is vital. It's for this reason that Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) have volunteer Community Champions to promote home fire safety messages across the county of Cambridgeshire.

I am your local Community Champion and have been fully trained by CFRS to offer information and advice about keeping safe from fire in your home and am happy to attend groups or events to talk about fire safety. Alternatively if you know someone whom you think might be at risk of a fire, or may have difficulties escaping from a fire, in their home please get in touch and we can talk it over. I am able to refer individuals to the Fire Service for a home visit if necessary.

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- Faulty electrics cause around 7,000 house fires across the country every year.
 (Source: DCLG: national statistics)

I can be contacted on 01223 811600; Email: mrandjw@btinternet.com

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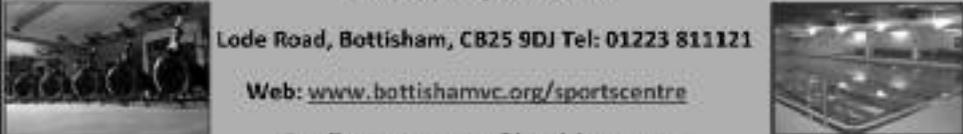
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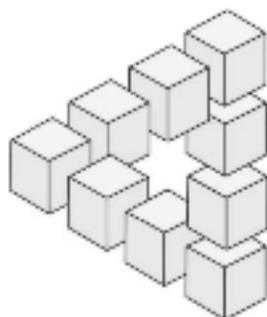
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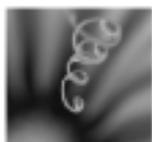
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

I've been thinking about teamwork lately. The holy grail of creating a 'whole' that is greater than the sum of its parts. That unseen force which can bind individuals with complementary skills together to exceed even their own expectations. The wonderful pressure of relying on and being relied upon by colleagues, with all notions of personal glory completely set aside for the good of the team. It is a concept that comes in all shapes and sizes, with the capacity to create surprising outcomes at both ends of the spectrum of fortune.

Take England's now catastrophic Ashes tour for instance. How can a squad of players and management that looked virtually impregnable entering the previous series have disintegrated so completely over the course of the last ten matches? First there was the astonishing departure of Jonathan Trott from Australia due to a 'stress related illness', then Graeme Swann's sudden retirement from all cricket just as the selectors were contemplating dropping him for the 4th Test. These events beg many questions!

If the selectors knew, as has been indicated, about Trott's frailties beforehand, what on earth were they doing sending him into the cauldron in the first place? And how can Swanny, for so long the smiling face of England cricket, suddenly find himself unable to bear another moment in the company of his team mates? Either he is at loggerheads with someone, or it's an act of extreme selfishness. Either way, there is clearly something wrong with the spirit in the camp. Individually and collectively players are way below par, making poor decisions and mistakes galore. The Legion's Men in Lycra were trying to make sense of all this over Christmas and the only conclusion we could reach was that any team containing the uber-ego known as Kevin Pietersen would have a problem with team spirit! I suppose we'll have to wait for the publication of Graeme Swann's inevitable book before we can understand the whole story of this embarrassment.

Talking of egos, there was a fascinating programme featuring boxers Chris Eubank and Nigel Benn on TV in December. Have you noticed how often boxers talk of 'we' when describing their tactics and moves? The relationship between boxer and trainer is so intense that the fighter feels that everything he does is a team effort, I guess including - like many other 'solo' sports these days - his whole entourage! But it goes deeper than that. Eubank and Benn were chalk-and-cheese, bitter enemies - the poseur versus the brawler - but, as they re-introduced themselves to each other, twenty-odd years after their classic bouts, they hugged warmly and Eubank said to Benn, "Thank you, I could not have been who I was without you.", and something to the effect of giving the public a hell of a show... Thus it dawned on me that they were in fact a team of sorts: two top professionals coming together to provide entertainment to the sporting public whilst making an excellent living for themselves. Epic teamwork!

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, in the news in January for taking the vacant manager's job at Cardiff City, is remembered as a strong team player from his days at Manchester United. He was something of a 'super-sub', spending many matches mainly on the bench without complaint and never short of a smile. His reward was scoring the winning goal in United's European Cup triumph in 1999, but does anyone else remember his other defining moment, 'taking one for the team' against Newcastle the previous season, when he sprinted 60 yards to hack down Robert Lee who had sprung the Manchester offside trap for a goalscoring opportunity that would have won the game? "Disgraceful!" some would say; but there is no doubt that Solskjaer selflessly condemned himself to a certain send off and suspension purely to save his team a point.

In recent years, I have found a new type of teamwork in football... in refereeing: the 'third team', i.e. referee, two assistants and, sometimes, a fourth official. You don't really think about this aspect when you're a player, but part of the satisfaction of refereeing is working together with your colleagues to give the best you can. We often talk *(Sports Nut continued on page 49.)*

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(Sports Nut continued.)

about the officials each having a part of the picture of an incident, especially in a situation like a mass confrontation, where things happen thick and fast. We put the various pieces together to complete the jigsaw before making the, hopefully correct, decisions. "It's all about angles", as they say.

With a tear in my eye, I must finish this column on a sad note following the passing of Eusébio, 'The Black Pearl', on 5th January. It feels as if a little piece of all sports fans died this day, such was his legacy of excellence, power, grace, sportsmanship and friendship that transcended all national barriers. Who can forget him collecting the ball from the North Korean net after each of his four goals in the 1966 World Cup quarter final? Or shaking Alex Stepney's hand after Stepney's outstanding save in the 1968 European Cup final? Eusébio da Silva Ferreira, thank you. RIP.

TTFN

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The un-seasonably mild winter meant that the start of Anglesey Abbey's **Snowdrop Festival** was brought forward to late January as many species were flowering early (some even before Christmas). There's over 240 varieties in the snowdrop collection and this year there is a new swath of snowdrops to enjoy along the Jubilee Walk, which was planted by an army of staff and volunteers last spring. During the festival the gardens open an hour earlier at 9.30am – the property can get very busy during the peak periods (Thursday - Sunday) so it maybe better to come on one of the quieter days if you can. You can join our Gardener's for a tour of the snowdrop collection at 2pm on weekdays from 3 February - 7 March, - a number of tickets can be pre-booked by calling Visitor Reception on 01223 810086, with the remainder of the tickets available on the day.

A quick reminder that we are on the lookout for artefacts to dress the Domestic Wing which opens in the summer – details can be found at on our website at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey/join-in/> If you have items that you would like to donate please contact Rachel Stock (01223 810090 or e-mail rachel.stock@nationaltrust.org.uk). If you fancy volunteering we are still looking to recruit Encounter Volunteers in the Domestic Wing, House Guides in the main House and Mill Stewards for Lode Mill. If you would like to learn more about volunteering at Anglesey Abbey please contact Volunteer Manager, David Craig (01223 810089 e-mail david.craig@nationaltrust.org.uk)

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Jolley Old World

Times, they are a' changing!

Of course, I keep forgetting that when you get to read these articles, assuming of course that you do, it is a month on from when it was penned so, and with apologies; a belated Happy New Year – may it be a healthy and contented one!

There has been a lot of sadness in our close community over this past year or so and for some Christmas may have been one of melancholy. Nonetheless I do hope you were all able to enjoy Christmas with the support of family and friends around you and in a manner that was befitting. On the positive side we start another year expectantly and with any luck a sensing more positive than the last. The dark evenings are gradually seeping away and new life is just 'itching' to sprout forth bestowing upon me, and I suspect many others, a first encounter of the year with hay fever! Last year our garden was fortunate to have had an abundance of 'honey' bees industriously alternating between me and the flora – obviously the 'buzz' in the air was that most pollen in the neighbourhood could be found up my nose!

And how wonderful it was to see the Church packed for the annual Carol Service at Christmas... I was delighted to have been asked to augment the choir who I thought rose to the occasion with aplomb. A couple of tricky carols but held together nicely with thanks to an unfaltering organ accompaniment and feverish counting in the choir, achieved in part by an elbow keeping time in my left ribs and a tapping out time on my right foot. In one carol I noticed an alto part missing, or so I thought, so I began to smugly sing the line - that was until I got a bit of a look, it was then I realised it was ladies in unison – oops!!

As I write, the outcome of the Public meeting concerning the Bell Road Masterplan is not known but I hear that DWH has written to East Cambs and withdrawn its revised proposal for 150 new houses. Some good news to start the New Year with at least, nonetheless we still have the issue with the 50 new houses already included in the Local Plan to be built in the Green Belt. This proposal, and those that preceded it, is intriguing because listening to the Environment Agency talk about flooding which I paraphrase; *if you concrete over open spaces that naturally absorb water then you can expect that water to amass elsewhere*. In fact what was being alluded to in my opinion was that new developments drain water into culverts rather than naturally through the soil which then discharges into streams and then rivers elsewhere – need I say more!! And even UKIP's Nigel Farage (possibly the likely winner in the forthcoming European MEP Elections) has recently suggested it is more economically desirable to have community cohesion in an overpopulated country than to have uncompromising population growth.

Neither do I have any idea as to the outcome of the meeting at the Village College at this point but I am confident that those who attended will not want the new Governing Body to forget that they have been entrusted with a cherished 'community institution' that has largely been realised through the generosity of benefactors and through community fund raising efforts and subscription! From a personal standpoint I am hopeful that three issues will be taken forward; a) the introduction of a Lay Council to include representatives of the village and of College users; b) an allocated space on the Playing Fields for the installation of village play equipment - possibly through a joint CLT and c) better communication with and between the village, the local community and the Village College.

On other matters I would like to endorse John Hutchison's comments (January Cresset) on inconsiderate and unsafe parking – pavements are for pedestrians NOT cars! Unfortunately there are many examples of 'unsafe' parking throughout the village, particularly parking at night against the flow of traffic, which is something the Police and

(Jolley continued on page 55.)



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(Jolley continued.)

PCSOs really do need to pick up on. I would like to add to John's comments other concerns particularly about the retro-fitting of high intensity lights (HIDs) to cars that do not have a headlamp self-levelling system. This was a topic which cropped up over Christmas on more than one occasion. I am told that there is an alarming increase in drivers being momentarily blinded and even reports of drivers having had fits at the wheel due to the strobing effect these ill fitted lights give off. Perhaps future MOTs should fail cars without manufacturer fitted and Safety Council approved HID lighting systems!!

I for one am very pleased that Parish Council is now willing for residents to express views and to ask questions at the beginning of each PC meeting. After all, Parish Councillors are our elected officials who, by listening to the views and aspirations of the local community, assess village opinion and thus represent such opinion with diligence and without collective or personal agenda. I was however disappointed with the Parish Councils reaction at their December meeting where they agreed to a further delay before discussing the possibility of a Community Land Trust (CLT) in the village. CLTs can be used by local people – not just Parish Councils, to tackle challenges facing their community, such as setting up a community shop, or purchasing the local pub if it is about to close (which it isn't). In the case of Bottisham one proposal advocated is to set up a Village Park off Bell Road primarily to provide much needed recreational space and secondly to limit the possibility of further house building there. I believe there is a commonly held misunderstanding that CLTs inevitably mean more houses but this is not necessarily case. Perhaps others would like to write to Parish Council and or to the Cresset with their views on a suitable project for a village CLT...

And finally to conclude; I and several others did a double take when hearing at a Christmas Service elsewhere; *And Mary wrapped her in swaddling clothes and laid her in a manger...*

TJ

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At a Glance

FEBRUARY

- 4/11/12/18/19/25/26 BRBL Line dancing
 4 BBPC – Print Competition No. 2. Judge Jane Goodall ARPS
 6 GC – Seed Exchange
 11 BBPC – “Members Mini’s”. Talk by Peter Higdon & Alison Rawson.
 18 WI – Meeting at Queens Court 7.30pm
 18 BBPC – Developing Ideas for an Audio Visual Presentation. Talk by Diana Burns
 ARPS
 25 BBPC – An Evening with Sue Brock-Hollinshead.
 25 GC – Make the most of a small garden – Margaret Nimmo-Smith

MARCH

- 4/11/12/18/19/25/26 BRBL Line dancing
 4 BBPC – Projected Image Competition No. 3. Judge Sarah Kelman.
 11 BBPC – Practical Evening. Table top Photography. Bring your camera.
 18 WI – Meeting at Bottisham Village College 7.30pm
 18 BBPC – Print Competition No. 3. Judge Paul Radden. Harlow Photo Club.
 25 BBPC – An evening with Liz & Barrie Hatten. A travel talk.
 25 GC – Make the most of a small garden – Margaret Nimmo-Smith

APRIL

- 1/8/9/15/16/22/23/29/30 BRBL Line dancing
 1 BBPC – The Hanson Trophy. PDI Competition. Judge Malcolm Tinn.
 8 BBPC – AGM For Members
 20 Lib – Book Sale on the Triangle from 8.30am
 22 GC – Make the most of a small garden – Margaret Nimmo-Smith
 29 BBPC – “It’s a Small World”. Talk about macro photography by Martin Johns.

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 intended to be 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@bottishamBBPC.org.uk.*

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 February.

*Please send material to the editor at
cresset@bottishampc.org.uk*

Red2Green

Volunteers needed to support adults with learning disabilities within our Options service based in Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham

Options is a lively and unique service for people with learning disabilities. We provide a variety of activities including horticulture, arts and crafts and cookery. If you have a specific skill or enjoy working with people we would love to hear from you.

We also provide our own transport service, and are looking for good humoured volunteers to join our transport team.

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Turning the Red Lights Green is a registered charity no 1112429 and also a company registered in England and Wales no 5485413, trading as Red2Green.

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Is renewable energy for you?



As solar panels become a common sight around our neighbourhoods, you may be wondering what options are available to you to save or even generate your own energy but it can be daunting knowing where to start. At Trading Standards we want to help you find a trader you can trust and make sure you know what you can expect of these businesses.

When considering the options available to you, the Energy Saving Trust (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) is a good place to start. They are an independent organisation that provides free, expert advice on saving energy in your home. Their website contains extensive information, and they also have a helpline which can be contacted on 0300 1231234 (national rate).

In terms of funding any improvements, if you aren't able to pay for them up front, you could consider the Government's Green Deal Scheme (www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures) which allows for repayment over a period of time through your energy bills. As with any finance arrangement, make sure you know how much you will have to repay in total, what the monthly charges will be, and check the interest rate is competitive with other finance options. You should also be aware that with Green Deal the debt attaches to the property, so if you sell it, your buyer will have to take over the debt. If you need advice on finance options, your local Citizens Advice Bureau will be able to help you.

There are a range of businesses that offer home assessment visits to advise you on the options most suitable for your specific circumstances. You will usually need to pay for this and you should check whether there is a tie-in clause requiring you to use a certain business to do the installation work if you decide to go ahead. The assessment will give you estimated savings projections for the first year based on a specific level of energy usage. Unfortunately this means you won't know exactly what you will save, but you can at least check to make sure the estimate is based on a realistic level of energy usage for your situation.

In terms of finding a trader, it is important to shop around to ensure the business is reputable and that the price is fair before agreeing to any work.

Green Deal has its own approved assessors and installers, but if you are not using Green Deal we would recommend that you find an installer and products that are part of the Micro Generation Certification Scheme (MCS) or are Renewable Energy Assurance Limited (REAL) approved. These organisations have codes of practice that traders have to comply with and standards that the products have to meet. The Energy Saving Trust website allows you to search for local installers who belong to MCS. Some members also sit on our Buy With Confidence approved trader scheme giving you even greater assurance that they are businesses you can trust. Visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk for more details.

As always, we would recommend getting three quotes to ensure the installation price and projections are reasonable, and check the terms and conditions carefully before agreeing to anything.

If you encounter any problems with an assessor, installer or any other type of business and need some advice, please contact our advice partner, the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline, on 08454 040506 (national rate).

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Forget about Valentine's Day!

Looking over a calendar of events for February in search of inspiration for this article I came across one of the more bizarre annual celebrations, and one which was certainly new to me.

Did you know that February 11th is 'Don't Cry Over Spilt Milk Day'?

We are all familiar with this age-old proverb. Apparently, the first historical reference to the phrase appears in a literary work by British historian James Howell in 1659, when he wrote: 'No weeping for shed milk', but I suspect it goes back a lot further than that.

Why have a special day for this? According to the various website entries consulted, 'Don't Cry Over Spilt Milk Day' is 'in recognition that bad things happen and it's a day to be optimistic, think positive, look on the bright side, and find something good in everything that happens. Don't worry, or fret, or cry over it. Rather, take a positive attitude and fix it, or get past it.'

I have to say I'm dubious about this. I'm all in favour of being optimistic and not dwelling on things that have gone wrong. A positive attitude seems good and right, but to have a special day for it? What about the other 360 odd days of the year?

At the time of writing this, large parts of the country are being battered by ferocious storms; rain, wind and high seas are causing loss and damage on a massive scale. The people affected are suffering far more than a drop of spilt milk! The spilt milk proverb is alright for the little inconsequential setbacks we face day by day, but we need more than that when the big storms hit us. Realistically, we all face dark and difficult times in our lives, and when we do we need more than a glib proverb to help us through. For me, and many like me, it has been my Christian faith which has provided the help and encouragement I have needed when trouble comes. About 3,000 years ago the Psalmist expressed the same feelings when he wrote: 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.' [Psalm 46:1-3]

At RE:NEW we are trying to put that faith into practice by building a community which is loving, compassionate, supportive, caring and encouraging, not just to those within the church but also to our friends, neighbours, work colleagues and any others, wherever they may be, who need our help – not just on 'Don't Cry Over Spilt Milk Day', but all the time. *Why not come and try RE:NEW in 2014! You are guaranteed a warm welcome!*

Peter Wells

Special Event. 1 Feb • 3 pm – Rev. Simon Goddard's Induction service as Regional Minister for the Eastern Baptist Association. Followed by tea and a Ceilidh. At Bottisham Village College.

Services in February 2014

- 2 Feb 10.30am – RE:NEW (Bottisham Primary School)
- 9 Feb 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)
6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)
- 16 Feb 10.30 – RE:NEW (at the School)
10.30 – RE:NEW (at the School)
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 Or visit our website at www.re-new.me.uk

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Retreating forward
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The next in a series of half day retreats, is on Saturday 8th February, for men and women of all ages.

The theme will be "Winter into Spring"

Great Wilbraham Primary School, Church Street, CB21 5JQ. Parking available.

Starting 8.45 a.m., with continental breakfast. During the morning there will be two quiet periods with some brief thoughts on how our faith might be nurtured in 2014. The quiet time can be used in different ways, for example - sitting quietly, using art materials, reading poems and scripture, walking in the village or using the beautiful nearby medieval St. Nicholas Church for quiet contemplation. We will finish by 12.30pm.

The event will be led by Stephen Harmer, a counsellor with experience of quiet days, and Ian Randall, a minister and lecturer in Christian spirituality. This mini-retreat is ecumenical, supported locally by RE:NEW of Bottisham, Lode and Wilbraham chapels, and St Nicholas the Great Wilbraham parish church.

To book go to – <http://re-new.me.uk/2013/12/04/half-day-retreats-2/> Register by filling a contact form via website above. The charge will be £8, payable online, also payable on the day by cheque. For any other queries email miniretreats@btinternet.com

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Useful Information

Bottisham Website:	WWW.BOTTISHAMPC.ORG.UK
Holy Trinity Church: Revd Sue Giles.....	812726
Roman Catholic Priest: Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard.....	01223 211235
RE:NEW/Lode Chapel: Rev. Simon Goddard.....	01223 812881
Bottisham Surgery:	
Enquiries and Appointments.....	810030
Out of Hours only – Urgentcare Cambridge.....	111
Bottisham Library:	812354
Library hours: Monday Closed; Tuesday 3-5pm and 6-8pm; Wednesday 10-11.30am Thursday 3-5pm; Friday 6-8pm; Saturday 10am-12noon	
Cambridgeshire Police HQ:	01480 456111
Cambridgeshire Police:(NON-URGENT MATTERS) ring 101 - In EMERGENCIES ring 999 Police community support officer Ian Hawkins PCSO 7274 at Ely Police Station.....	Contact through 101
1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies: Kay Pearce.....	811055
Bottisham Bowling Club: Keith Gibson, Secretary.....	811049
Bottisham Boys Football Club: Jim Tideswell.....	812591
Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club: Nora Watson.....	812121
Bottisham Community Primary School: Headteacher Paul Belzar.....	811235
Bottisham Cricket Club: Graham Barker/Charles Fletcher.....	812087/811039
Bottisham Football: John Turner/Tim Sale.....	07841592203/07743862836
Bottisham Pharmacy:	812321
Bottisham Pool Association: Manager - Jason Rye.....	811121
Bottisham Royal British Legion Club: Secretary - Suzy Woolley.....	812063
Branch Chairman: John Overton.....	811792
www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham	
Bottisham Scout Group: Group Contact: Linda Jones.....	813040
Bottisham Sports Association: Graham Barker.....	812087
Bottisham Village College, School:	811250
Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information.....	811372
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Milton Road Tip: Apr to Sept - Weekdays 9.00am-8.00pm; Weekends 9.00am-6.00pm.....	860674
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