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Cresset

October 2015

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



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Mellow October already and a seasonal quote.

Autumn carries more gold in its hand than all the other seasons.

– Jim Bishop

The autumn leaves are turning and the gardens and fields have yielded up their harvest. With the clocks to change at the end of this month, summer has surely gone, and winter looms, with dark nights and frosty mornings. But we may still get the odd Indian summer day when we can enjoy the last of the warmer weather.



The children are well established back in School and indeed will look forward to their mid term break shortly. Is it just me or does time seem to be passing more rapidly these days? We have a lot of information for you this month.

The Bottisham Players are starting their auditions for all you budding thespians and they are also looking for you to get involved behind the scenes.

Paddy provides us with more useful information and reports of her travels. Last month one of my daughters, husband, 5 year old grandson and 3 year old granddaughter, together with friends and their families, took a day out and travelled to Cromer by train. The report next day came from two very excited grandchildren. Well you would think they had been to Alton Towers and Disneyworld combined! What they saw and heard and ate were related by two very happy kids. Such happiness in children must make the parents' life much less stressful as well, as I could tell.

Our church bells are back, and as I write, are being reinstalled in the bell tower. Mike Young gives us an update on the progress. I have missed the bells and their regular update on the hour. I also have missed our clock which has reported 9.30 (plus some other odd times) for some weeks now.

I am sure it must be related, but there has always been a few starlings gather around the flagpole and its guy wires, but over the last few weeks that few has grown to a veritable flock, or murmuration as it is properly called. They line up on every available space on wire and ledge, ensuring a definitive 'personal space' on either side. I look forward to seeing if the new peel of bells will affect them.

Not, I think, connected with the bells, but more to high winds and tree pruning, we have also lost our rookery in the churchyard. Not sure where they have moved to. 14 nests last year, none now.

Tony Jolley has his view on the current state of things and what the future may hold in the new political structure that could develop with the election of a new leader of the left. I doubt if Ed Milliband's push for a wider electoral base for the leader of the party envisaged the result they have got. The news in the wider world beyond our shores is alarming in so many areas that we need a strong a cohesive government to manage our place in it. I trust that Westminster will do just that.

Gerry Daish has much to report this month with the football season getting into full swing and English cricket having had a good summer. He also focuses on the fact that drug issues continue to dog many sports

Not ready yet to be reported, but with England getting the world's spotlight focus from the World Cup rugby tournament running throughout October, I am sure there will be more to come from Gerry next month.

Talking of time going by, I had to check with Gerry when he sent me 'Sports Nut 34' that this was indeed his 34th article for the Cresset. **(Editorial continued on page 2.)**

(Editorial continued.)

It was and I thank him again for his valued contributions over the last three years..

Winter nights approach and social evenings in warm surroundings become more frequent. Whether that is round your own fire at home or in company at the many events and activities we have in Bottisham, enjoy your month.

Finally another seasonal quote, which amused me. This time relating to the current state of the financial world and it is this.

October. This is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks in. The others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August, and February. – Mark Twain

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 October.
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Holy Trinity Bells

Bells update - nearly there!

The bells are back and in their accustomed place in the belfry. And looking resplendent with their bright red metal headstocks and new oak and ash wheels. What a pleasure to be able to write that! At the time of writing almost all of the detailed work on the fittings in the belfry has been completed, although the clappers still have to be inserted. Some work on the ropeways and the construction of a rope guide in the ringing chamber are then all that stand in the way of a trial ring. That should have announced itself to the village by the time that this is read. Formal approval by the Bell Advisor of the Ely Diocesan Association of Bell Ringers will mark the end of the work on the bells. There will still be emergency lighting to be put in the ringing chamber, but that should be a relatively straightforward job in comparison with what has gone before. Community projects and, we hope, the training of much-needed new ringers, will go on.

We shall mark the completion of a long and complex project with a special **Songs of Praise** type service at **6 pm on Sunday 11 October** to celebrate the return of the bells and to re-dedicate them. At the appropriate moment in the service the bells will burst forth with full voice. Pure joy! Do come and rejoice with us. It has been very much a project for the whole village and the support from the village has contributed in no small way to what we can confidently expect (at last!) to be a successful outcome. 'He that hath ears to hear, let him hear' (*Matthew 11:15*). And 'she', of course.

Mike Young

Services in Holy Trinity Bottisham in October

Sunday 4th	11 am	Harvest Festival <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>
Wednesday 7th	8 pm	Compline by Candlelight <i>Led by Dr Sarah Maxwell</i>
Sunday 11th		No service in Bottisham
	9.30 am	Benefice Communion in Quy
	11 am	Benefice All Age service in Swaffham Bulbeck
	6 pm	Special Songs of Praise Service to Celebrate the Return of the Bells
Sunday 18th	8 am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>
	11 am	Morning Prayer <i>Revd Elizabeth Caswell</i>
Sunday 25th		No service in Bottisham
	9.30 am	Benefice Communion in Swaffham Bulbeck
	11 a.m.	Benefice All-Age service in Swaffham Prior

Details of other Anglesey Group of Churches (The Benefice) services, are on the notice board in the church.

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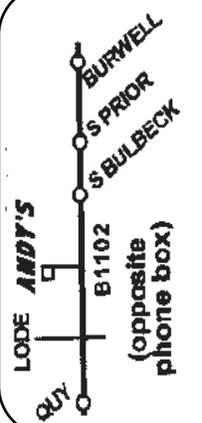
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REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY



Armistice service this year will be held at Quy on
Sunday 8th November. 10.45am

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH ALL WHO SERVE

Tony Newman 1944 – 2015

Tony's children would like to say how grateful they are for all the lovely cards and notes received following his death – we have all been very touched by how much he was liked and whose company many have enjoyed.

We should also like to thank all those who attended the Service of Thanksgiving on 24th August amidst the beautiful flower arrangements portraying the art of flower arranging so loved by our mother with the colours of Kenya and the importance of farming for Daddy with representation of harvest, tools etc. This was followed by a delicious spread at the Royal British Legion – so thanks to the team there too!

We thought you might like to know that £749 was collected on the day in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support which would have pleased him no end!

I end with thanking all those who extended a hand of friendship to Tony (Daddy) during recent years, the kind neighbours who passed the time of day with him and those involved more closely in his care toward the end of his life.

He died quietly and peacefully in his own bed with his daughters by his side – just as he had wished. It was indeed a privilege for the three of us to have been allowed to care for him in such a way. He will be much missed by us all.

Dorothy Quayle (née Newman)



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

Saturday 3rd October

Bowls Club Quiz Night 7.30pm Start
Teams of up to 8.

Saturday 31st October

Halloween Fancy Dress Disco For All The Family 4pm Until 8pm

Music Games and Fun with AJ's Disco

Prizes for the Best Dressed Boy, Girl and Adult

Entry £2 per Adult & £1 per Child. • Burgers and Hot Dogs will be on sale.

Saturday 7th November

Live Music With Re Trio!

8pm until late • Entry £2 per person with all monies to The Poppy Appeal

Saturday 14 November

Race Night - First Race 8pm

All proceeds to The Poppy Appeal.

Saturday 21st November

'THE POPPY APPEAL MEAL'
with music from the **Kings Of Swing.**

6.30pm for Dinner at 7 o'clock

Tickets £20 each will be available to purchase from The Club
from 19th October to 18th November

Sunday 6th December

Tacky Dangle Day.

This year's chosen charity is Red2Green. • If anyone would like to donate items for the Tombola or a prize for the Raffle please contact the Club.

Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve Disco 8pm 'til Late. Free Entry.

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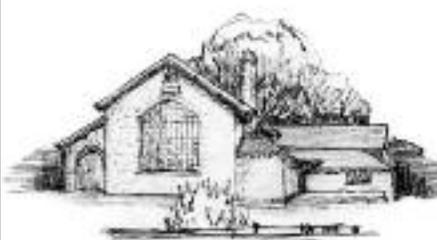
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The agenda for the September meeting was quite long and varied due to Parish Council not meeting in August. The District Council have now cut back the trees on the pathway between The Pightle and Arber Close improving the lighting in this area.

As reported previously we have had problems with the grass cutting contractors who, probably to changes in personnel have not been doing as thorough a job as usual. These problems have now been sorted out and they have now removed the spoilheap in the cemetery and moved the bench. They will also be cutting back the overhanging trees at the top of Bell Road.

Our 2 village litter pickers have now both left to go to university, so many thanks to Oscar and Jake for their work over the past 5 years. We will now be reviewing the litter rounds to make sure the main routes in/out of the village are covered ready for our new litter pickers.

All Parish Councils are invited to put in an application annually for the Local Highways Improvement Fund run by the County Council. We will be putting together an application for extra lay-bys to be put in round the triangle area of the shops to assist with parking. We have also agreed to submit an application to extend the 40mph speed limit zone at the Newmarket end of Six Mile Bottom. Six Mile Bottom falls under 4 separate parish councils.

We had recently received a letter saying that Bottisham would not be affected by part night lighting; some villages/areas of Cambridge will have the street lights turned out after a certain time at night. However County Councillor Shuter has said this letter was very misleading as he is certain that Bottisham will be affected at some point in time. The letter only refers to this year. The County have spent £55m on new street lighting in Cambridgeshire. The project is nearing completion now and the lighting is much more energy efficient and an improvement on the previous lighting although Balfour Beatty do not seem to have understood the process and the need to liaise with people which has not helped the project along and has caused problems, which we well remember in Bottisham.

Regarding the traffic calming vehicle activated signs for Bell Road, the County Council have now said that the guidelines have changed and we are expected to have mobile units which can be moved about. Parish Council find this to be totally unsuitable and wish to proceed with the scheme that we had agreed upon and which had been costed out by the County Council. We asked County Councillor Shuter to look into this matter and he felt that if that was what had been agreed and it was what we wanted then we should insist on this and he would support us. He agreed that the guidelines have changed but he stressed they are only guidelines. We have written to Highways at the County Council and wait for a response.

We have several newer Parish Councillors and we also have several new working party groups that have been set up. Councillor Jon Ogborn is heading up the New Cemetery Working Party. He reports that he has met with the National Trust Chief Executive and they are very supportive to the Parish Council purchasing the land in Lode Road, they will be drafting a letter of support to the District Council. He has also been talking with a cemetery consultant. We are entitled to a free of charge pre-planning application and we will be contracting the cemetery consultant that he has been speaking with to do this as he knows what he is doing. The next step is to have a face to face meeting with ECDC and the cemetery consultant which is being arranged but progress is being made.

Councillor Julia Latif is leading the Community Working Party. The purpose of this group is to look at ways to improve communication with the village which includes updating the PC website and looking at how we can use social media.

(Parish Notes continued on page 13.)

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(Parish Notes continued.)

A Working Party is also being set up to consider facilities and opens spaces in the village which will be headed by Councillor Buchanan.

Lastly we have received notice that Tunbridge Lane will be closed for 5 days from 13th October. This road closure is to allow essential works to be carried out on a manhole outside Bottisham Vehicle Services. Diversions will be in place although we have no further details at the stage of writing.

PLANNING NOTES

15/00543/OUT Bottisham Police Station, 12 Bell Road; Conversion of existing police service building to residential use and erection of a pair of semi-detached, two storey dwellings. APPROVED BY EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL

15/00709/FUL 95 High Street. Proposed first floor extension and alterations to rear dormer and ancillary works.; APPROVED BY EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL

15/01022/FUL 9 Tunbridge Close. Single storey rear extension to garage to form a workshop and a conservatory to rear. NEW APPLICATION

District Councillor's Report

Members Basic Allowance

During the last reporting month, there is little to report that would truly excite our constituents at this juncture. However regardless of political persuasion or dare it be uttered, non interest in such matters, under the Members Allowances Regulations and East Cambridgeshire District Council Scheme, Campbell has elected to forgo any part of his entitlement to an allowance. This decision was put in writing and presented to the Financial Services Manager with effect from 1st Sept 15. This dictates that Campbell now not only serves the Ward of Bottisham but meets the cost in order to serve.

Trusting this comes as welcoming news to all. In addition, as promised, you have a strong voice for four years. Please use it!

Vince Campbell

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Bottisham & District Gardening Club

Our August speaker was Andrew Harper-Scott from Scotsdales at Horningsea who gave us tips and had brought examples, many from his own garden, on what to plant for autumn fragrance and colour. Daphne 'Eternal Fragrance' was very strongly recommended. He then planted up a large terracotta planter with a central grass surrounded by ivy, thyme, ajuga, heuchera and violas and pansies. Beautiful! Andrew had compiled a quiz to decide who the lucky winner of the planted pot would be, and after a tie-break Valerie and John Leake were the envy of all of us.

The Members' Competition was for the best begonia grown from a corm provided by the club earlier in the year. Tony Cassidy was the very worthy trophy winner; a more detailed report and photograph of Tony is on our web page at www.bottishamgardeningclub.co.uk.

Annual Show

The 38th** Gardening Club Show was a friendly village occasion with an increased number of entries including many from non-members and was opened by Ken York a long standing member of the Club, a past Chairman and currently President. The show had originally only covered fruit, flowers and vegetables but over the years classes for baking, handicrafts, painting and photography have been introduced to involve those with other interests.

Margaret Wright won a silver cup and a silver bowl for the best floral arrangement of summer flowers, Chris Woodward won the Colonel Francis Cup for the most points in the vegetable classes and Ken York received the Lord Fairhaven Cup for the best exhibit in the show – a trug of mixed vegetables. The awards for the best fruit exhibit (Neil Winkcup), the baking and preserves section (Johanna Baines), the painting and drawing classes (Brian Randle), the handicrafts (Margret Coles), and photography classes (Colin Dye) were not presented as these talented people are not (yet!) members. The complete list of winners in all sections can be found on the website bottishamgardeningclub.co.uk.

It is not possible to thank all the members who were involved in this successful event but Tricia McLaughlin worked hard in arranging the judges, preparing the schedules and arranging for the publicity (thanks to the Cresset for their help) and Valerie Leake had responsibility for managing the entries and acted as Chairman on the day. The Club is very grateful for the sponsorship from Bill at Bottisham Post Office and Village Stores which enabled the purchase of black cloths for the display tables and from Scotsdales who sponsored the Children's Classes.

In 2016 the Gardening Club is celebrating its 40th birthday and we hope that we will have another successful Show.

** We cancelled the Show in 1997 as it was the day of Princess Diana's funeral

Forthcoming

Our meeting on 22 September features Richard Revels going *Wild about Bedfordshire* and his talk will be followed by the Rose Competition for the Don Bedford Cup. We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on 27 October and on 24 November it will be *Funny Garden Features* by Andrew Sankey who gave such excellent talks at the WEA earlier this year. We hope you will join us at the Poppy Room, Bottisham British Legion, fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m.

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 St Andrew's School, Soham: Mondays 9.30 - 11.30am
 Burwell Sports Centre: Thursdays 9.30 - 11.30am

Little Movers (Free)
 Soham CC: 1.00 - 2.00pm (under 1's) and 2.00 - 3.00pm (ages 1-2)
 Bottisham CC: from 12.30 - 2pm (ages 0-2)

Fun Dads (£2 charge per family)
 Burwell Sports Centre: 3rd Sunday of month, 1 - 3pm.

NHS Well Baby Clinic (Free)
 Mandeville Hall, Burwell: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 1.15 - 2.45pm.

Rhyme Time (Free)
 Soham Children's Centre: Mondays 2 - 3pm.

To see our full timetable or get more information call us on 01353 727188 or email sohamchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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Montessori Nursery

 Passage Hall 
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Saturday 17th October, 2015
 At St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior, 11am - 2pm

We will be packing Christmas Shoe Boxes to send to needy children overseas. Bring along your donation and we will do the rest from filling boxes to arranging their despatch (completed boxes also gratefully received). Enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake, the proceeds of which will go towards buying items to make up incomplete boxes and shipping costs.

If you are able to spare an hour on the day then your help would be very much appreciated to sort the gifts and pack boxes (please contact Janet Wilmott, details below, if you are able to assist with these)

Yes please to:

- Toys: bear, soft toy, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument, trucks, cars, dolls, clip on earrings, tennis ball, etc.
- Educational supplies: felt pens, pens, pencils, colouring book, notepad, puzzle book, stickers etc
- Hygiene items: toothbrush, hairbrush, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel etc
- Other: sweets (sell by date to be at least March 2015) gloves, scarf, sunglasses, hat, bangles, etc

All items should be new

No thank you to:

- Food, especially chocolate; Medicine or vitamins of any kind; War related items; Toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind; Clothing other than hats gloves or scarves; Fragile items or liquids; Dangerous items, sharp objects, scissors or razors; Novels or anything of a political nature; Hand-knitted stuffed toys

Contributions are required to cover the suggested £3.00 "shipping" donation of each box, which can be gift aided making every £1 worth 25p more. Boxes are made up for either a boy or girl with the age categories being 2-4 years, 5-9 years and 10-14 years.

If you are unable to pop along to St Cyniac's on 18th October but have a contribution, please do contact me,

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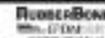
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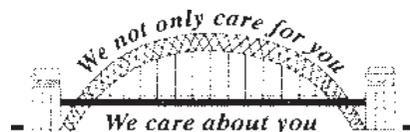
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To the Editor

Dear Editor,

I think most would agree that the amounts of general litter on our streets seems to be getting worse all over the country and sadly Bottisham seems to be no exception.

Unfortunately the Council's efforts are never going to be enough on their own, because they don't have the money or manpower to do the sort of high frequency litter-picking required. So that means we either do more to take up the slack ourselves or live with the mess.

I understand that the Village College do some organised litter picks. I'm trying to do my little bit and hopefully there are some other dedicated individuals too. But it's clear that Bottisham also needs YOU!

I can honestly say I've never intentionally dropped any litter, simply because I was brought up to regard it as unacceptable, but I'm certainly not holier-than-thou with regard to other people's litter. For years I either ignored all the stuff I walked past or found plenty of excuses why I couldn't pick any of it up - mostly the usual ones like "I didn't put it there so why should I have to pick it up" or "that's the council's job". Actually I think I was basically just a bit embarrassed to actually be seen to be picking it up, which is ridiculous of course when the only people who should feel that way are the ones committing the crime. And let's not forget that littering IS a crime.

But I was finally shamed into action only recently when I saw someone else doing a litter pick in my own street who I knew lived half a mile away and was just doing it off his own initiative.

So, no more excuses. I got myself one of those cheap litter picking grabber devices {from B&Q} and off I went. It's an excellent excuse to get out and walk, particularly as I don't have a dog. It's also surprisingly relaxing, as well as being rewarding.

If you *are* a dog owner by the way, why not just try to pick up at least one can, drinks bottle, or crisp packet on your regular walks? It may not sound much but it really will help. The A1303 between the 2 Bottisham turn-offs is just one regular black spot that needs some TLC.

Or how about some of you mums with a bit of space in the baby buggy for a few extra items? Start their recycling education early!

At the end of the day it's been proved that litter is like graffiti. The less of it there is, the less it's added to. Remember too that it's only quite recently that people who wanted a ban on smoking in commercial and public buildings were laughed at. So attitudes do change and the more people have a zero tolerance of litter, the less socially acceptable it'll become to drop it.

Together, it really is possible to make a difference.

J. Hughes

Response from the Parish Clerk

Yes we still have 2 litter pickers that do most of the village but predominantly main through roads. They are school kids so tend to do it at weekends. We hope to agree that they will do it one day midweek as well but this can only be in the summer months, as it will be too dark by the time they finish school. Also they don't do the A1303.

This is partly because this is done (periodically) by the District Council but also we felt it was unsafe for kids to do this section of road. Some of the councillors I know go for a walk and litter pick and we also have a yearly joint effort with Lode where we litter pick Lode Road. I know that Laurie Van Someron and some others also go out occasionally as I have provided them with some hi-viz jackets. The more people that can get involved the better though to keep the village tidy. I do get a lot of complaints about litter, but it is very hard to deal with, as if the litter pickers do their work on a Saturday you can guarantee someone will come along and create a mess on the Sunday.



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The Brands & our RE:NEW family...

Around a year ago the conversation started between RE:NEW and The Brands about whether we could be a good match and be called to journey together. So much has happened over the past year, including our most joyful time shared as a family, and our most painful time. We celebrated during the Summer as our family led a team of families from the UK on a house-building mission to Tijuana, Mexico; but the Brands have cried more this year than ever before as, over Easter, Grace (our youngest child) became seriously ill with an infection that overwhelmed her body. Losing her was a very real possibility. Thankfully, following an operation and several weeks in hospital, she improved and is now fit and well.

Throughout the year we have looked to God to lead us, knowing He is with us through the good and the bad. We believe God laughs and rejoices with us through the times of celebration and weeps and hurts with us through the painful times.

We have been so conscious over the past nine months of the incredible love and support shown to us by our 'RE:NEW family' (before we were even fully part of the family!). RE:NEW prayed for us constantly throughout Grace's illness; they supported us practically and prayerfully through our mission in Mexico; folk came from RE:NEW to Teesside to be at my Ordination service in July.

If you don't know what it is to be part of a church family, and you are even just a little bit curious as to what it's like, why not come and find out? You are very welcome to join us at RE:NEW. We are not perfect, but we are doing our best to love God and each another as we journey through life together.

I am proud to be Minister at RE:NEW and we're blessed to be living in Lode, we have been warmly welcomed, and we look forward to what the future holds; for the friendships that will develop and for the love and significant times that will be shared in our community.

Alan, Tammy & Family.

RE:NEW Services in October 2015.

We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services, and a crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

Saturday 3rd October. 2pm. Please join us at Bottisham Primary School for the special Induction Service of Rev. Alan Brand as the new Minister of RE:NEW, and for refreshments afterwards.

4th October. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School) With Holy Communion

11th October 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)

11th October. 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

18th October. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

25th October. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

25th October. 6.20 pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact:

Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558.

Email: alanbrand77@icloud.com

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Bottisham Players

The next pantomime has been chosen and our director is ready to get going! We hope that lots of you are interested and we look forward to seeing you on the following dates: **Thursday 8th October 7.30 at Queen's Court. Read through.** • **Tuesday 13th October 7.30 Bottisham Village College in the main hall. Read through and auditions.**

If you are a parent and think your child would like to take part please accompany your child to the auditions. Alternatively you can also contact us if they only want to take part in the children's chorus.

Want to find out more! Do you have some questions about the panto? Then LOOK OUT for the Wicked Witch and the Good Fairy who will be on the Triangle from 9 - 11 am on Saturday 3rd October. Oh yes they will!

Don't forget our website and Facebook page. Phone contact via 07527413170

Get together for a cuppa and cake to support local patients with breast cancer
Friday 23 October 2015

Can you host a tea party to help raise money for the Addenbrooke's Breast Cancer Appeal?



Invite friends, family and colleagues on Friday 23 October (or a date convenient to you) for tea and fun 'boobie' bakes. How about bakewell tarts, chelsea buns or macaroons? It's as easy as A, B, C! Your support will help fund clinical research into personalising treatment for patients with breast cancer. To find out more please call Emily at Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT) on 01223 349297, email communityfundraising@addenbrookes.nhs.uk or go to www.act4addenbrookes.org.uk/ABCappeal



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Les Misérables – The Play We are excited to present this, our October production, which will be at The Townley Memorial Hall, Home End, Fulbourn, from **Wed 28th- Sat 31st Oct 2015 at 7.30pm.**

Jean Valjean is released on parole, a bitter man, after nineteen years' incarceration. A chance encounter with a kindly priest sets him on a new course, returning good for evil and kindness for cruelty. This is the story of the lives touched by Valjean - unable to save vulnerable Fantine, he promises that her daughter, Cosette, will want for nothing and raises her as his own. We encounter the despicable Thénardiers, the lovelorn Éponine, romantic Marius and many other fascinating characters, but Valjean's greatest challenge comes from Inspector Javert, whose rigorous pursuit of the law shows neither fear nor favour, culminating in an irrevocable confrontation, which changes their lives forever.

We are not allowed to do the West End musical version of **Les Misérables**, which is restricted to youth groups only, but we know that you will find our version, with atmospheric lighting and music, a few appropriate songs and a stupendous and exciting 'barricade scene' with dramatic effects, a memorable and exciting evening.

Tickets are on sale **NOW**, priced at £8 (£7 concessions) from the **Box Office** on **01223 210737** (from 5.00pm-6.30pm) - **NO booking fee** or online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/stjohnsplayers
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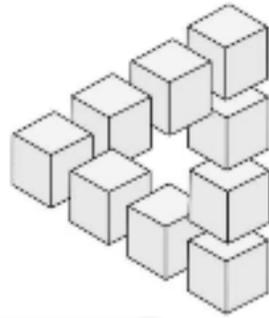
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Sales, Wants and Swaps



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. **Entries by 12th of the month for next months issue. Max 5 items.**

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TEL
Flymo Electric Vision Compact Rotary Mower, corded.	£30	811472
Solid pine 8 drawer dressing table /desk, c/w 4-piece mirror VGC	£55	811600
Solid Pine bedside locker, w/drawer, to match above. (pictures – mrandjw@btinternet.com)	£25	811600
Meerkat baby Oleg Toy with certificate of adoption. Brand new in original packaging.	£15	880491
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G plan dressing table in teak. 3 mirrors and 5 solid wood drawers.	£60	811147
McIntosh teak folding table on castors with 2 nesting side tables. The table opens and rotates into a 30" square; about 25" high.	£60	811147
Vale 3pce suite: 2seat sofa, 2 armchairs (1 reclining), and storage box, vgc	£130	811147
G-Plan teak TV trolley	£20	811147
TP Trampoline. Good Condition.	£125	812599
Brown circular compost bin with lid – approx.. 90cms (3ft) high	Free	811563
Digital Piano (Yamaha Clavinova CLP-920) with matching stool. Hardly used. Excellent Condition.	£300 Ono	813067

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Flowers for Christmas / Indian Street Food / Paediatric First Aid (7th/8th Nov) (9.15 am – 3.15 pm)
Make a Stained Glass Sun Catcher / Upholstery and Chair Caning (9.30 am – 4.00 pm)
Website in a Day / Courses run from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm unless specified

In the meantime, don't forget our 5 week evening courses commencing after half term:
Baking for Christmas (from 3 Nov) / Authentic Indian Cookery (from 5 Nov)
Sugarcraft – Miniature Shoes & Handbags (from 5 Nov)

To enrol, see our website, or contact the Community Office
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

Well the sporting bonanza of Summer 2015 continued unabated in the run up to the Rugby World Cup, which was due to kick off four days after the Cresset copy deadline. And in those final few days, I've heard more repeats of the commentary on Johnny Wilkinson's winning drop goal against Australia in the 2003 final than you could shake a stick at. I do hope that the egg chasers aren't dwelling too much on past glories and gearing up for '30 years of hurt' like the footballers (or 40 or 50)!

Anyway, the Ashes series continued in the vein in which it began, with the batters suffering the most catastrophic off-days and making their opponents look good in turn. Fortunately for us, the Aussies took two turns in a row and a resurgent England swiped the Ashes from their grasp courtesy of a devastating 8 for 15 spell of bowling from Chris Broad to dismiss them for 60 on the first morning of the 3rd Test at Trent Bridge. As has become customary, Root cracked another century with the bat and the series was over as a contest. However, England still managed to leave us with lingering doubts about the quality of the current side by crashing and burning in the final 'dead' rubber in August, after Cook misjudged his bowlers' ability to take wickets on a batsmen's paradise at the Oval.

Thus, two talented but deeply flawed teams had produced a memorable series, including some outstanding, record-breaking moments, but wasn't it a bizarre spectacle at the end to witness England popping the champagne and celebrating a historic series victory whilst simultaneously licking the wounds of another humiliating innings defeat in the final test!

And so to the World Athletics Championships in Beijing in late August – an intensive test of the fastest, highest, and furthest that human beings can produce. Jess Ennis-Hill melted our hearts once again by winning Heptathlon gold only 13 months after giving birth; Greg Rutherford underlined his superiority in the Long Jump by adding a gold to his Olympic title; and Mo Farah secured his status as GB's top athlete of all time, and possibly the greatest distance runner ever, by winning a third successive double in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres. Wonderful...

You know there's a 'but' coming don't you? And you know that this 'but' is drug shaped, don't you? Let's not kid ourselves. Cycling has been through the mill in the last 20 years and taken the brunt of the public's anger and derision. But did you know that 50% of Dr Michele Ferrari's clients were found to be non-cyclists? Yes, sportsmen and women of all types, many of them tennis players and athletes. It's all very well for Sebastian Coe, the new President of the International Association of Athletics Federations, to get all precious about his beloved sport, but the truth is that athletics has been nowhere near as robust as cycling in rooting out the dopers. Justin Gatlin's very presence at the Worlds was an affront to all honest sports people. Thank goodness the saintly superman Usain Bolt dispatched the wretched cheat in all available disciplines, whilst Steve Cram in the commentary box summed it all up "*He's saved his title, he's saved his reputation, and maybe even saved his sport!*"

Also, I hate to say it, but isn't there a teeny lingering doubt about Mo Farah steadfastly refusing to sever his connection with discredited coach Alberto Salazar? Please understand that I'm not subscribing to the 'not born here' lobby (most of us are foreigners if you look back far enough!); it's just that Farah should be taking himself to a place beyond reproach like his predecessors have done in the past. You couldn't imagine any whispers questioning the integrity of Redgrave, Hoy, Holmes or Lewis could you? Remember Daley Thompson wouldn't even take an aspirin for a headache!

Paula Radcliffe then provided a bizarre post script to the championships when she decided to take offence at some questions raised in a parliamentary select committee even though she was not named as being under suspicion. So instead of the whole non-story being consigned to an insignificant column on an inside page, Paula ensured (*Sports Nut continued on page 45.*)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

headline coverage for several days, denying an absent accusation and perpetuating any doubts that might exist! Is she lining up a new media career perhaps?

Finally, England played another two matches in their Euro 2016 qualifying competition and secured safe passage to the finals by defeating San Marino 6-0 away (in the presence of only two Bottsamites – work commitments inconveniencing your scribe and others on this occasion) and Switzerland 2-0 at Wembley, to maintain their 100% record. And in the process, of course, Mr Rooney claimed his place among the England 'greats' by scoring his 50th international goal to beat Bobby Charlton's 47 year old record. Well done Wayne! Thank heavens the Swiss didn't put one past their own keeper on the night; otherwise 'OG' would have beaten the record first!

And how about the Walker Cup! The future success of GB/European golf seems strong. Paul Dunne after being the leading amateur in the Open for three days and then dipping, managed to sink the ½ point putt that retained the Walker Cup. Brilliant!

TTFN

Gerry Daish

NEWS RELEASE



October Bulletin

WINTER is coming, (What – already ?), and after experiencing a rise in chimney fires last year, and before the cold sets in, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging all residents to have their chimneys professionally swept. Top tips to enjoy an open fire safely:

- Whilst having your chimney swept, **at least once a year**, have the brickwork inspected, especially around the chimney breast and in the roof space. This is doubly important for those living in older properties with beams and thatch.
- Do not bank fires too high or overload the grate, and remember to let them burn down well and check the hearth before going to bed.
- **Always** use a fire or spark guard to prevent the risk of accidental fires.
- Do not place objects on or over the mantle-piece which may cause you to stand too close to the fire to reach or use them.
- Burn only suitable fuels and avoid burning resinous woods, such as Leylandii, as tar and soot from these build up very quickly.

Above all, ensure that you have a working smoke alarm fitted on each floor of your home.

Test them weekly !

Michael White

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War Detectives DVD and report available now.

Over the last year, Red2Green's clients and learners have worked with local school children, all as War Detectives, to explore the stories and experiences of local people who lived or fought through the Second World War. The final event in June, to coincide with the 70th Anniversary of the end of the war, involved burying a time capsule near the War Memorial in Swaffham Bulbeck – the contents of which included a final report and a DVD containing 45 minutes of local peoples stories – and is now available for £3 (+ £1 if you want it posted to you).

If you want a copy please write or call in at Red2Green, Harvey's Barn, Park End, Swaffham Bulbeck, CB25 0NA or email info@red2green.org or phone 01223 811662. Thanks – first come, first served.

Nigel Fenner



Bottisham Early Morning Swimming Club



A new club has recently been formed since the week-day closure of the pool and we are seeking new members.

We currently open from 0645 to 0830 hrs.
2 days a week and plan to increase to 5.

For more details please contact: Colin Marshall - Secretary
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Jolley Old World

'Corbynomics'...

Well, well, well so Jeremy Corbyn has been elected as the new Labour Party leader and by a sizeable margin too. So the question is; has the Labour Party made the right choice and has it learnt anything from the message delivered by the nation's electorate only a few months ago? Mainstream political commentators suggest that the party now looks set to enter a period of 'disastrous' leftism or worse still confined to the political abyss for at least a decade. Corbyn may have the moral support of Labour activists who like the cut of his doctrinal jib but his CV is that of a 'career rebel'. Of course, only time will tell whether Corbyn is simply offering nostalgia for old socialist policies or whether the electorate will fall in love with his 'Corbynomics'...

The 'Social Cost' of modernism is a good thing – discuss!

Sunday Trading we hear is to be extended to allow larger shops to stay open longer - beyond the current six hours. Some economists argue that the measure could generate an additional £200m in each of the UK's larger cities and so it's obvious why the Treasury likes the idea also. But is there a 'social cost' to be paid - just so that others can spend a few more hours buying stuff they don't need with money they don't have? This move is likely to hit 'family life' hard say some, with children being left alone thus further eroding the vital time they spend with their parents in shared activities around the kitchen table. What we're losing is the 'space to breath' suggests one critic along with a very particular 'positive' boredom that comes with unplanned, expansive time that once came as standard to us all. In the days when shops shut all day on Sundays people found books to read, walks to go on, friends and family to visit and playing traditional games.

I was shocked when I read that a recent survey has found that only 44% of school aged children have ever played with a traditional pack of cards. Playing cards isn't just a game; it's a 'lesson in life'. It teaches you all sorts of basic maths skills, along with how to win and lose graciously, and how to wait your turn. It's a communal activity, a way for families to spend time together. "It seems they're all too busy playing computer games on their Smart Phones and or on their Tablet PCs to have discovered the joys of playing Snap, Rummy and Old Maid says The Independent. If you want your children to enjoy your company and vice versa then abandon the expensive gadgets and buy a plain old deck of cards..." I don't know about you but I treat Sundays as a sorely needed break from the relentless noise of an increasingly 'materialistic society'.

On a not too dissimilar note I read with trepidation that as a nation we're giving up on handwriting! It's reported that some schools are even considering phasing out the teaching of joined-up handwriting suggesting that in today's modern age being 'keyboard literate' is far more important - what 'progressive' nonsense. For goodness sake, it's akin to giving up walking because you've learnt to drive! One commentator has summed it up: "Handwriting is the face of a person out of sight, as distinctive as their gait. It's not just about putting words on record; it's about making them count. Yes it takes a little effort, but handwriting offers a window to our emotions. Only with a pen can you write a love note or a letter of condolence that looks as though it came from the heart."

In the September issue I made comment on what some claim to be the outrageous amount of public money being spent in Cambridge on 'nice to haves' for a small minority of Cambridge folk whilst the wider basic 'needs' of education and care in the community remain cash strapped. We hear County and City Councillors and so called business experts comment and boast about Cambridge's role as the nation's high tech powerhouse. (*Jolley Old World continued on page 50.*)



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(Jolley Old World continued.)

But at what cost to the city's social fabric? Parts of the inner city have become resorts for the globally rich with apartments bought off plan by overseas investors as 'safety deposit boxes'. And while this is going on the city is squandering its vitality and sense of community because people on average Cambridge salaries are moving out, no longer able to afford to buy or even rent property. Surely this exodus must pose a threat to the low tech economy of the city in the form of 'corner' shops, small businesses and what remains of long-established family firms. A threat also aided and abetted by the city councils plan to install yet more rising bollards. Is this what is referred to as 'social cleansing'? Yet another menace to the city's social fabric comes from the relaxation of restrictions which allow developers and landlords to buy up low tech commercial premises and convert them into high income residential properties. The concern is that Cambridge is developing into a city that no longer embraces traditional mixed income communities and 'Arkwright' styled shopkeepers. Which begs the question: are our elected representatives forgetting that what makes a city functional is the social balance of an interactive ecosystem? *TJ*

"Too many people spend money they haven't earned to buy things they don't want to impress people they don't like" - Will Rogers

Open Day at Saplings Preschool

Saturday 3rd October • 10am. – 12 noon

Come along with the kids and see what we get up to at Saplings. Meet some of the Playleaders and have a look around. Refreshments available too!

Halloween Spooky Disco at the Saplings Playhut!!

Saturday 31st October • 4pm

A spooky fancy dress disco for the little ones! Prize for the best costume! £2 per child including a drink and spooky treat!



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Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Equipment: We have recently purchased a child pulse oximeter, which is now available for use. Next item on our list to save for is a second ambulatory blood pressure monitor as the first is much in demand.

Practice Staff: As previously reported and patients may have noticed, Dr Thijskens and Dr McGrath are both expecting and we await news of their new arrivals. We welcome Dr Sanderson and Dr Kubacka to care for patients during their 12 month absence. New faces on reception are Claire; and Laura who is covering Mairead's maternity leave.

Flu Clinics: A further reminder don't forget to book in for your flu jab – please check the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/who-should-have-flu-vaccine.aspx or ask at reception if you are not sure whether you are eligible. This year's Saturday Flu Clinics are on the 17th and 31st October. You can also book in with the nurse during normal clinic times.

Meningitis Vaccinations: NHS choices also provides further information regarding this vaccination available to freshers – please book your appointment at the practice if you are eligible. www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx If you have any queries please ask at reception at the surgery.

Patients' Group: The Patients' Group would be delighted to hear from you – please see the notice board in the waiting room for details, speak to the receptionist or look at the practice's website for further information www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/ppg.aspx?p=D81055 and see what your Patients' Group has achieved.

Non- Emergency Patient Transport: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has launched a 12-week public consultation on the future model for Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services (NEPTS) for our area. The consultation runs from 27 August to 19 November 2015. A copy of the consultation document and details of a number of public consultation meetings are available at www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/have-your-say/nepts.htm or by writing to:

Freepost Plus RSCR-GSGK-XSHK
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Walks: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 14th and 30th October, 13th and 25th November and 11th December. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: Patients' Group will meet on 19th November at 6.30pm at Downing Court, Swaffham Bulbeck. Come along if you would like to join us.

Bottisham Patients' Group

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Saplings Preschool Playgroup

A new term has started at Saplings and we have welcomed many new children to playgroup and look forward to helping them settle in, as they begin their pre-school journey. In July we waved goodbye to our old class, most of whom are now happily settling into Acorns.

Over the summer we held a play morning at the Playhut and several children came along. There were crafts, colouring, sandpits, water play and cake! We managed to raise enough money to buy walkie talkies for the children to play with.

We still have places available each morning from 9am - 12pm. Each session costs £10 per child. We also accept Early Years funding. If you would like your son or daughter to join us at Saplings, please contact Claire at the Playhut on 813226.

Throughout the year we organise various events, both to promote Saplings to the local community and to raise much needed funds for Saplings. Over the next few weeks we have the following events coming up:-

Saturday 3rd October, 10 am - 12pm • Open Day at Saplings! Come and see what Saplings Preschool can offer your child as they begin their school journey. Meet the teachers, have a play, see the Playhut and enjoy some refreshments!

Tuesday 13th October, 8pm • AGM As a charity, Saplings relies on a committee of volunteers to continue to run. We are always looking for committee members to join us, so if you think you might be bale to help out, please get in touch.

Saturday 31st October, 4pm • Halloween Disco! Spooky fun at our fancy dress Halloween disco! Lots of spooky fun for the kids! Aged 6 and under welcome. £2.00 per child including a drink and treat. Prize for the best outfit.

All events take place at the Playhut, just next to Bottisham Primary School. Come along and support your local preschool!

Our project for the Autumn is to improve the garden area at the playhut, adding raised beds for the children to plant in, and covering the putdoor play area with bark chippings. If anyone is able to help with materials for this project, we would be very grateful!

As a charity, Saplings relies on a committee of volunteers to continue to run. We are always looking for committee members to join us, so if you think you might be able to help out, please get in touch. Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 13th October at 8pm at the Playhut. Please come along and find out how you can get involved in keeping Saplings at the heart of Bottisham! Thank you!

The Saplings Committee



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HUGE JUMBLE SALE

Saturday October 17th from 2-4pm
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Entrance is £1 for adults and children are free.

Please bring Jumble in the morning of the sale from 10.30-12 noon. To get there, park in the High Street, and walk through Fassage Close beside the Post Office.

All the money raised will go to projects to enhance the cycle path between Lode and Quy. The money will be deposited in a ring fenced account with the Parish Council, to be used when required. Do come and support us, as the more buyers there are, the less goes to waste.

Thank you.

Fran 01223 813 016

Anglesey Abbey & Wicken Fen

Both Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen recently played hosts to delegates from the around the globe who were attending the 16th International National Trust's Conference, which was held in Cambridge at the beginning of September. The theme for the conference was 'the role of the National Trust movement in the 21st Century' - Anglesey Abbey's fantastic community outreach programme and the Wicken Fen Vision certainly inspired the delegates.

This autumn the National Trust is once again holding the Great British Walk in association with our corporate partner, Cotswold Outdoor. Its worth remembering that both Anglesey and Wicken hold regular weekly Heart Beat Health Walks on Wednesday at Wicken and Thursdays at Anglesey. Walks depart at 10am and last about one hour, covering a distance of approximately 3 -4 miles. At Wicken we are also holding a 'Walk the Fen's event on Sunday 18 October. There's a 7 mile walk in the morning exploring Burwell Fen and Adventurers' Fen, which leaves at 10am, and a 5 mile walk leaving at 1.30pm to Upware & back. The walks are free and you are welcome to do just one or both - please call the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 to reserve your place.

We will be celebrating 'Awesome Autumn' at Anglesey from 12 October - 8 November, as rich vibrant colours breakout throughout the gardens. As part of the celebrations we've hidden seven geocaches in the gardens. You can download the co-ordinates from www.geocaching.com or you can borrow a pre-loaded GPS receiver from Visitor Reception. Our staff and volunteers will be delighted to show you how the receivers work to get you started on your adventure. You can also learn how to climb trees with the experts from the Big Tree Climbing Co. on Saturday 10 & Wednesday 28 October. Tickets are £18, and there's a minimum age of 6 years. Details of how to book can be found on the Events page at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey. Our volunteer garden guides will also be leading **Autumn Colour walks** around the gardens on Fri 2, Mon 5, Tues 13, Wed 21, Tues 27 & Thurs 29th October, 1.30 -3.30pm.

Up-coming events at Wicken include, a **Rush Weaving Workshop** (Saturday 10 October, 10am 4pm) with Nadine Anderson, where you can learn how to make rush mats and baskets using locally grown rush. Tickets £60 (Inc. materials) on 01353 720274. For half-term we have **Family Campfire Cooking** (Monday 26 Oct 10am). Prepare and cook a delicious 3 course meal, with the help of our expert chef, using a basic mud oven. Tickets £45 (2 adults and up to 3 children) on 01353 720274. There's plenty on outdoor fun, games and crafts on **Autumn Adventure** (Tuesday 27 October) and lots of spooky fun on **Batty Halloween** (Friday 30 October). Full details of the events including ticketing information is available at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Ely's Apple Festival 2015 • Ely is holding its annual Apple Festival in celebration of the great British Apple. The original idea of an Apple Celebration in Ely was the brainchild of Watergull Orchards, apple producers and previous traders at Ely's Farmers Market. They attended many other Apple Festivals in the region and thought it would be an excellent idea to do one in Ely. Our event has now developed into one of the best festivals in the area. The event provides interest and intrigue for all sorts of people whether you are interested in the educational, environment or simply the fun angle of the day.

Our experts from East of England Apples and Orchard Project will once again be in attendance to identify any apples that you care to bring along. Apparently, it is easier to identify if you can bring a long part of the stalk and/or leaf as well as the actual apple so if you have been mystified as to what kind of apples were growing in your garden all these years, bring a sample along.

There will be several competitions, woodturning demonstrations, storytelling and activities running throughout the day including the ever-popular longest apple peeling competition, apple and spoon races, and an apple shy. Apple delights can be tasted at the Watergull Orchards marquee where a whole range of apples and juices are on offer. There will also be a hog roast with applesauce, pork & apple burgers and sausages. Folk music and Morris dancing will be performed throughout the day to add to the ambience of this wonderful day. We hope to see you there!

Further information; please contact Ely Tourist Information Centre, 29 St Mary's Street, Ely, CB7 4HF. Tel: 01353 662062 • www.visitely.org.uk or follow us on Twitter @VisitEly

Swaffham Balbeck School 25A

Bonfire & Firework Party

Friday 6th November
Gate opens 6pm Display starts 6.45pm
Vicarage Field (Behind St Mary's Church, Swaffham Balbeck)

Adults: £9.50 Children: £2.50
Group (1 Adult & 3 Children or 2 Adults & 2 Children): £10

Hot Dogs & Mulled Wine for sale from 6pm
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(AFC Race Permit No. 15/294)

**** NEW FOR 2015 HALF MARATHON – ONLINE ENTRY & CHIP TIMING ****

The 5TH Lode Half Marathon is fast approaching and this year our charity is the National Kidney Federation (charity no. 1106735). Over the last 4 years we have had great support and raised over £11000 for charity and local causes.

ENTRY is now open so if you are a runner please get your entry in as soon as possible. If you are not a runner but would like to help with **stewarding** please get in touch.

It is being held on **Sunday 1st November 2015** at 10 a.m. - our race HQ is the Passage Hall in Lode. The Family Fun Run will start at 10.15 a.m.

The course is flat and takes you from Lode village, along the "Lodes Way" to Wicken Fen and back, with water stations along the way. Trophies will be awarded and each runner who completes the course will receive a medal. (see our website for further details - www.loderunners.co.uk or contact Tessa Shrubbs on 01223 811812 or email: lodefarm@aol.com)

Many thanks to the following companies who are sponsoring this year's event:
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Bottisham WI

We thought it would be a good idea not to have a meeting in August but to arrange a visit by coach to Burghley House. We could wander the gardens see the House and its contents and take advantage (as ladies of a certain age do) to sample the refreshment areas. But Tuesday 16th August turned out to be very wet – it rained all day! The house was explored thoroughly and several members had morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. A few braved the elements to visit the gardens but all agreed to leave early. A good idea but the weather did not play its part.

You have doubtless been aware in the media that this is the Centenary Year for the WI and many celebrations have been arranged nationally and supported by members. The President Sandra Clark and I attended the WI Centennial Fair held in Harrogate recently and enjoyed the numerous stands, exhibitions, talks and demonstrations. We sampled many of the foods on offer, collected holiday brochures and other magazines, heard Kate Adie speak about the role of women in the First World War and had an enjoyable time meeting up with lots of other WI members (especially in the queues for coffee). It is a long way to travel in a day but it was well worth it - a memorable experience.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 20th October and Peter Edwards will be talking on Antiques and Collectibles – 7.30 pm in the College Lecture Room.

Please think about joining the WI. Come as a visitor and see what you think. We are a friendly group of women with varying interests and backgrounds who support and encourage one another, learn new things, help the local community and have fun while doing it!



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 October.

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

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Public Transport Matters

As congestion in and around our towns continues to worsen, it was good to see that the Queen chose to travel on the newly relaunched Waverley rail line between Edinburgh and Tweedbank on the day of celebration of her long reign. The picturesque rail route closed in 1969 in the wake of the Beeching cuts. The normal trains will run every half hour and the vintage steam engines every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday for 6 weeks. It is the longest network railway to be built in Britain for a century and it is hoped that it will become a destination for steam-hauled charter trains and attract tourists to the Borders (bordersrailway.co.uk) and revive the economy. The steam engine heading the Queen's train was the A460009 Union of South Africa - a link to the speech she made on her 21st birthday in South Africa in 1947.

Will this give a boost to other new rail links under consideration? Oxford/Cambridge? Haverhill/Cambridge? There is a definite business case developing for a new station at Soham according to local councillors but the funding for the Ely to Soham double-tracking needs to be identified. The North Cambridge station is due for December 2016.

There is a West Anglia taskforce which is backing investment into the West Anglia rail line which could boost economic growth in London and beyond - better connections between London Liverpool St., Stansted and Cambridge and links to Crossrail 2. This would involve 'fourtracking' of the line. Talk too of a 'golden triangle' - London/Oxford/Cambridge. Abellio has been asked to provide new trains in West Anglia rather than just refurbish the hand-me-down trains that were inherited from British Rail as some have been found to be dirty and flea-infested. £500k is being made available for improvements to Ely station - the island platform being replaced with a new retail unit, customer toilets, waiting room and customer service office. There is a demand for safer pedestrian access to the station.

Changes are also taking place ref. ticketing at Cambridge station - new improved booking hall and ticket office. There are many complaints about the time taken to buy a ticket - there are to be extra machines and extra staff available during the changes. The no. 2 bus displays 'Addenbrooke's' on its front but goes via Mill Rd. and doesn't go to the station. The closest bus for the station when alighting from the 10 is the Babraham Park and Ride service just across the road at Drummer St. or, if you have luggage, you can get off at the stop on Maids Causeway and change to the 3. My cousin, who lives in Oundle, has just turned out some old papers and sent me an old Park and Ride timetable from 1994! Return fare 85 p. Just two sites - North Cambridge and South Cambridge - Cowley Ride and Clifton Road. It was called Millerbus. Since the introduction of the new payment scheme at the P and R sites, there has been a fall in the no. of passengers and, therefore, loss of income.

The European Commissioners have derailed a plan to shift thousands of lorries off the A14 and shift millions of tons of freight from road to rail in this region. They have refused funding for a project to boost rail capacity between the port of Felixstowe and the East and West Midlands. The A14 links to the M1 and M6 motorways. If bottlenecks on the relevant rail route could be removed, there would be the capacity for 18 more trains a day each carrying up to 90 containers. We see lots of containers at Ipswich station when we make our trips to Lowestoft. 800,000 lorries could be taken off the roads each year but would cost more than £300 million for removing level crossings and redoubling parts of the track. Britain is seeking £86 million. MEPs say the scheme is good for Europe as a whole not just the UK.

(Public Transport Matters continued next page.)

(Public Transport Matters continued.)

On a Times report that the world's first double-decker electric buses were to be introduced in London, a reader commented in a letter that we knew them as trolleybuses! There are critical comments about the guided bus service in our area but SNCF has ordered a multi-pound fleet of trains that are too tall to fit in tunnels on its Italian routes! Passengers will have to stop at the border to transfer to a smaller train. I remember back in the 1950s having to stop at the border between Holland and Germany to have our passports checked.

Bombardier, the Canadian group with a plant in Derby, has received an order from the China Railway Corporation for 15 more of Bombardier's high speed trains - top speed 220 mph.

HS2 appears regularly in the news - Euston station is due to be rebuilt in 2 stages - 2017 and 2033 to create a £2.25 billion terminus - seven years longer than originally planned and costing £250 million more than originally thought. The SNP want the HS2 to continue north to link Edinburgh and Glasgow to the high-speed network linking Edinburgh and London in 3 hours not 4 ½.

Rail info: 08457 48 49 50 • traveline: 0871 200 22 33

Happy travelling!

Paddy James

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 October.

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

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*Let's Dance Club is a "not for profit" organisation established to provide dances for the community.

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I am here to help!

I am writing to introduce myself, and offer my help. My name is Lynne McAulay and I am the Community Development Officer in East Cambridge. My team is here to help people set up and sustain community groups, like lunch clubs, good neighbour schemes, knitting groups, gardening clubs, dog cafes. In fact, this list is endless because if you want to do anything to help older, isolated or vulnerable people in your community, we will try to help.

We are funded to do this work and so there is no cost to you, and we can come out to chat about any of your ideas with no pressure for you to do them if you change your mind.

We have a long history of helping groups and in the last few months have supported Swaffham Bulbeck re-start their lunch club, including finding them £1000 of funding to help them get going.

If you don't want to set up your own group but want to be involved in helping people in your community, you could consider one of our other volunteering opportunities:

- Practical Help – our Help at Home volunteers offer free short term practical and emotional support for up to 3 weeks, during an illness at home, crisis or after a hospital stay.
- Information and Advice – our Community Navigator volunteers provide information about services and activities that you may find enjoyable or useful.

If you have any questions, would like more information or would like to arrange for a visit, please just call or email me on 01954 211919 lynne.m@care-network.org.uk

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