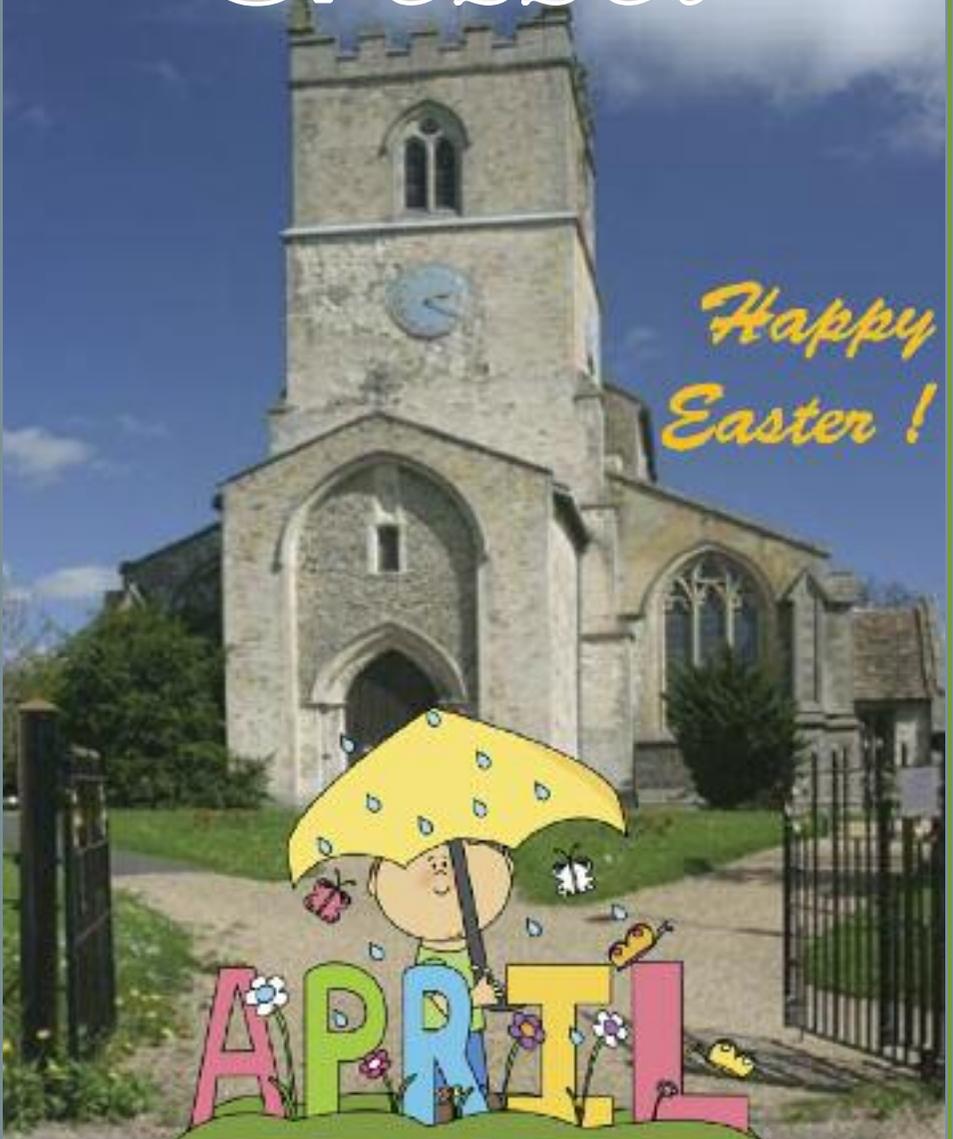


April 2017

THE Cresset

*Happy
Easter!*



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



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Dear Readers

I am starting this month's editorial while up north in the old homeland. We have been touring round the Southwest of Scotland in a beautiful part of the country. We stayed in Portpatrick, which takes its name from the fact that it was the landing point for St. Patrick when he came from Ireland to spread his word of Christianity. Great views from our hotel and haze allowing, we could see his old homeland from our window!



But being Scotland we are now in Glasgow and it is raining. There is a saying amongst the gloom merchants that it rains in Scotland and if it is not raining, it is about to. I have to tell you that nothing can be further from the truth. Here are a couple of interesting facts. One of the driest places in Britain is the area known as The Black Isle, just north of Inverness and one of the places with the greatest amount of sunshine is Tiree, an island off the west coast of Scotland. While staying around Portpatrick it is amazing to see that nearly every garden has a palm tree growing.

But while it is wet, and not very nice outside, I have taken the opportunity to put this month's offering together.

In the wider scheme of all the things that are affecting the world, what we do here in Bottisham may seem irrelevant, but that is not always the case.

There is a saying in Scotland that 'Many a mickle makes a muckle'. Every small thing we do has an impact and it is the accumulation of the many little things that eventually changes the big things. So never feel that you don't have an effect or make a contribution. We all do, whether realising it or not.

Even if you don't attend the Church, or only go at Christmas or School services, baptisms or weddings, I am sure you are impressed with the presentation of our 11th Century Church.

Well here is your opportunity to make a contribution to its well being, albeit in a small way. The Church wardens are looking for volunteers to join the rota which keeps the church looking good. Once every two months or so is all that they need and the difference will be seen. See page 6 for info.

The Parish notes give us more useful information and the notice of the Annual Parish meeting. Some people I speak to seem to think this is just for councillors and those linked with the Parish Council. But this is the once a year opportunity for all, to go and hear a summary of what has been going on in Bottisham over the last year, hear of what plans there are coming up and also to have your say and comment on what goes on in our village.

One of the things that is sure to be commented on is the roadworks going on in Tunbridge lane which have effectively cut off a large part of the village. I am sure that people living there will have been affected by all the cars that were parked there and also those who have had to drive all the way round to Swaffham Bulbeck to get home. A letter from our county councillor goes some way to explaining what the problems have been.

Easter is here and the Schools get a couple of weeks break. It is also that time when the garden really wakes up and requires more attention. One suddenly realises how little one has had to do to the garden over the winter months. But everything starts to shoot, grass, plants and of course weeds. I know that it is a small point but when it comes to eradicating weeds, the EU has played no small part in emasculating the choices. From watering down things like Roundup to the unavailability of sodium chlorate, weed killing is becoming a

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

tedious and expensive business. I wonder if Brexit will change that! I doubt it.

Now before you all pick up your pens to chastise me for the previous paragraph, I do realise the downside of the way we used to do things and accept that we have to find other ways. It just seemed so easy before. Or am I just getting older?

As usual there is plenty on offer in this month's magazine. There are our regular and faithful contributors with the views and reports on a wide range of subjects from sport to transport and the wider world in general. There is also lots of information and reports on what is going on in this busy and expanding village of ours.

Enjoy Easter and the rest of the month.

Credit and apologies to Ron Maltby for our lighthearted April and Easter cover picture.



Bottisham WI

We had a most interesting speaker, Amanda Sutherland at our February meeting who swept us away with her talk on her Creative Pathway from A to B. She was a creative child (selling home-made jewellery to her teachers), and following a design course at Hertford where she excelled at being different, eccentric and innovative she enrolled at the London School of Fashion in Oxford Street. She was able to use industrial sewing machines and experimented with exotic materials. She landed the job of Fabric Buyer at the Opera House in Covent Garden and spent her budget on the back streets of Soho purchasing buttons and braid, and in Southall for lovely Indian silks. From her contacts with various designers she kept a little black book and was able to go freelance for a while. She was a wardrobe mistress for Jesus Christ Superstar (very hard work) but when the Show started touring she went to Dickens and Jones in their Bridal Department and worked with designers Caroline Castigliano and Jasper Conran for several happy years. She moved on to the famous costumiers Angels in London providing period costumes with the correct accessories for the film industry (Titanic) and TV companies (Eastenders). There are more than 8 and a half miles of clothes to choose from.

However she wanted her own business and proceeded to make fascinators attending many wedding fairs to show off her wares and eventually set up a shop selling wedding accessories within a bridal gown shop. Then she discovered the All Saints Garden Craft Market in Cambridge and has a stall there selling hats, cravats and scarves often including men's ties and home-made brooches. Her jewellery is often made from recycled materials drink cans and plastic milk bottles. There was a lot of interest in her displayed goods and several purchases were made. She even finds time to run day schools to encourage others to learn the craft. A workaholic she may be but an inspiration to all – if you have a dream or talent pursue it.

This may be a little long winded but she was excellent and it could prompt you to come to her follow up talk sometime in the future.

Our next meeting is at Queens Court on Tuesday 18th April when Jane Larcombe will be relating The History of the Swan at Lavenham.

Visitors and new members are very welcome to come and join us.

Sylvia Overton

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East Anglian Air Ambulance



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EAAA is always seeking additional help – so please get in touch. You can offer – your time, skills, ideas, energy and your contacts whilst EAAA offers satisfaction from assisting a charity that saves lives in the local area. Also there is the opportunity to enhance your career through making your CV stand out in the job market, and the chance to meet new friends.

Please do get in touch (08450 66 9999 or info@eaaa.org.uk) if you can help.

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Cambridge, Past, Present & Future

- A colourful month of activities



Vital Spark Theatre - Theatre workshops at Wandlebury Country Park. CB22 3AE.

Wednesday 5 April: 10am to 10.45am - Preschool adventure for ages 2-5. 'Fairyland at the Awakening of Spring'. Children must remain accompanied. £5 per child.

11am-11.45am -Preschool adventure for ages 2-5. 'Where the Wild Things Are'. Children must remain accompanied. £5 per child.

12pm-3pm - for primary school ages. Create a site-specific environmental performance using drama, physical theatre, nature and imagination. For unaccompanied children. £20 per child, includes a snack. For more information and booking: visit www.vitalsparktheatre.org or email Katherine@vitalsparktheatre.org

Healthy Walking at Wandlebury; Every Thursday: 10am or 10.30am-11am Join the Walking for Health accredited sociable walks around the park. Meet at the Stable Rooms at 10am for a longer walk or 10.30am for a shorter stroll. The walks end at around 11am with tea and coffee in the Stable Rooms. All welcome, suitable for all different abilities.

Beginners Orienteering - holiday activity for accompanied children; Tuesday 11 April: 11am-1pm Various orienteering related activities, a great way to learn to work as a team. Booking essential. For ages 4-8. £8 first child, subsequent children and members £6. Children must remain accompanied.

Bushcraft at Wandlebury - holiday activity for unaccompanied children; Wed 12 April: 10am-4pm Set the children loose for a day of independence and fun that teaches all the bushcraft skills they will need: Bring packed lunch and dress according to weather.

NB: For unaccompanied children aged 8-12 years. Popular event - early booking recommended. Booking and payment in advance is essential. £45 per child (members £40).

Family Easter Fun Day, Saturday 15 April: 11am-1pm or 2pm-4pm Have fun with indoor crafts using natural materials, then head off outdoors on the hunt for clues around Wandlebury park. You might find something sweet at the end! For ages 5+. Children must remain accompanied throughout. Booking and payment in advance essential. Two sessions to choose from: 11am or 2pm start. £8 per child (£6 members), no charge for accompanying adults.

For more information: email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 01223 243830 extension 207 or visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on

Bottisham WEA

By the time you read this, the informative series of lectures by Fiona Lucraft will have finished. What a pity, had it continued I'm sure that Fiona would have been able to extend the subject of Self Portraits to all aspects of individual human activity. At our penultimate session on the 9th March, the day following International Women's Day, we took a good look at the work of women artists. Most of us have heard of Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Monet and Picasso, but are you familiar with the work of Elisabeth Vigee-Lebrun, Berthe Morisot and Frida Kahlo? If not, check them out on the internet and you will see what great artists they were.

Gerry Cowley

Services in Holy Trinity Bottisham in April

Sunday 2nd	11am	Morning Prayer Revd Elizabeth Caswell
Wednesday 5th	8pm	Compline by Candlelight led by Dr Sarah Maxwell
Sunday 9th		Palm Sunday No service in Bottisham
	10am	Benefice Communion in Swaffham Bulbeck Archdeacon of Cambridge
Thursday 13th		MAUNDY THURSDAY
	7pm	Holy Communion in Lode
Friday 14th		GOOD FRIDAY
	7pm	Reflections Revd Sue Giles
Sunday 16th		EASTER SUNDAY
	11am	Holy Communion Revd Sue Giles
Sunday 23rd		No service in Bottisham
	8am	Holy Communion in Swaffham Prior
	10am	Benefice All-Age Service in Lode
Sunday 30th	11am	Holy Communion Revd Sue Giles

Benefice services are services shared by the five churches in the Anglesey Group (Bottisham, Lode, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior). Details of these services can also be found on the Bottisham pages of the Anglesey website (angleseygroup.parishes.co.uk) or simply put 'Holy Trinity Bottisham' into Google). Any late changes in times or places of services will be given there, along with details of any funerals or weddings in Holy Trinity.

'Our Time' concert in Holy Trinity, 28th & 29th April. The annual concert of Cloud Nine (singing group from Adult Education at the Village College), Sweet Harmony (close harmony group) and Encore (Junior singing group), plus special guests, organised and led by Julie Bristow, will take place in Holy Trinity on 28 & 29 April at 7.30 pm, tickets £10 & £8 + family tickets. Their concert last year in the College was a great success; they are going to sound even better in the spacious acoustic of the church. Do come and support them and us, since the Fabric Fund of Holy Trinity will be a beneficiary. Tickets on the door or from Julie on 07793025326.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Anyone wishing to donate towards Easter lilies in memory of a loved one, please contact Shirley Morley, 811399, or Carolyn Bangs, 811159.



HELP

CHURCH CLEANERS REQUIRED

We are currently looking for a few volunteers to join a small team who clean the Holy Trinity Church. The duties are not onerous (Vacuuming, sweeping, dusting and mopping floors) and it only takes 1 - 2 hours every few months.

We work in pairs and can choose a suitable time within a 2 week period.

Please contact Helen Cole 812573 if you are able to help.

Letter from Mathew Shuter, Cambridgeshire county councillor

Road Closure in Bottisham

I was horrified when I received notice of the extension to the road closure in Tunbridge Lane as I know what an inconvenience the existing closure has been, effectively splitting Bottisham in two, and making getting to the Doctors and Dentist very difficult for many.

I arranged a site meeting yesterday afternoon to try to see if I could get the extension rescinded, or at least shortened. I met with 3 senior members of the County Council's highways team and a senior manager of Bloor Homes the developer, and was given the following explanation and details:

The original closure was to build a raised platform to provide traffic calming in Tunbridge lane and from the development, this was part of the original planning permissions for the development, and was to be at the developers expense, therefore not costing the local tax payer anything, it was not envisaged at that time that this would cause anything like the disruption that it has, and still is!

The reason for the delays, and application for the extension have come about because when the contractor exposed the road surface it was discovered that the foundations were unexpectedly inadequate to hold the platform securely, and would need to be completely dug out and re-laid.

The county council needs to insist that this is done so as to be assured that the platform will not break up, and have to be replaced at tax payers' expense, and causing even more disruption at a later date.

I have been assured that this will be done as quickly as possible, and Bloor Homes assured me that as time is money and all this extra expense falls to them, they will complete the job as quickly as they can, but of course the job must be done properly and that does take time.

I can only apologise for this unexpected and very inconvenient situation, and I hope and expect that the end result will meet all our expectations and last many years!

I know that this does not resolve the problem but I hope at least it gives you some information, and rest assured that the contractor and I am fully aware of the anger and frustration that this is causing, and that they need to get on with it!

Mathew Shuter.

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‘New normal..!’

We have now completed the Alpha course at RENEW and are looking forward to what our Sunday gatherings will look like ongoing as we build on the depth of relationship with one another that has developed as well as our deeper understanding of God and the good news of the Christian faith.

We have enjoyed eating together each week and having the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the messages presented through the Alpha film series. Eating and reflecting together will continue as part of our RENEW worship services. Each Sunday from 10.10am we will have tea, coffee, juice, croissants and pastries available and time to catch up on the events of the week with each other before the service starts at 10.30am.

Our services include times of singing, praying, sharing good news, preaching, reflecting on and applying the message to our own lives.

This month would be a great month to join us for worship as we discover our ‘new normal’ as a worshipping community; it will be ‘new’ and ‘fresh’ for us all!. Why not come to celebrate Easter Sunday with us on the 16th? Consider this your personal invitation!

“I pass on to you the message I have received and believe to be of first importance: Jesus died for our sins, he was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared to hundreds of people before ascending to heaven - just like the scriptures say.” 1 Corinthians 15.3-8

Your response to the question, ‘Who is Jesus?’, is the most important response of your life. May I humbly urge you to explore the life and claims of Jesus, to consider the evidence.

Also this month, after Easter Sunday, we are likely to have a service of believer’s baptism. Several people are considering being baptised as believers in Jesus Christ, having received His love and forgiveness and committing their lives to following Him. This would be a great service to be part of - check our website or contact me for confirmation of the date.

Revd. Alan Brand.

RENEW Church Services in April 2017.

We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services.

A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

Please note the change of timings for our Morning Worship. We will meet from 10.10 for refreshments and chat, before beginning our service at 10.30.

Sunday 2nd April Morning Worship 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 9th April Morning Worship 10.30am Bottisham Primary School)
Followed by shared lunch

Sunday 9th April Evening Worship 6.20pm (at Lode Chapel)

Sunday 16th April Celebrate Easter! 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 23rd April Morning Worship 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 23rd April Evening Worship 6.20pm (at Lode Chapel)

Sunday 30th April Morning Worship 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

For more information about any of the activities of RENEW Church please contact:

Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alanbrand77@icloud.com

Or visit our website at www.renewchurch.org.uk

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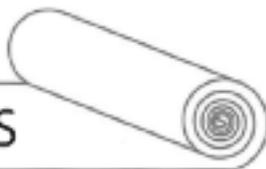


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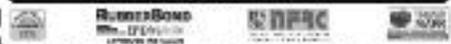
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We welcomed another new parish councillor Mr Mike Bacon to our meeting in March. This now takes us to our full 11 members which will be helpful with the many projects that Parish Council are currently involved in.

The date for our Annual Parish Meeting has been set for Wednesday 24th May, 7.30pm in the Poppy Room at the Royal British Legion. Attendance to this is traditionally very low unfortunately so it would be lovely to see some new faces. The Annual Parish Meeting is a chance for residents to come and meet their Parish Councillors, District Councillors and County Councillor and usually some other guests and hear what has been going on in the village over the past year and what will be happening in the coming year. Many changes are afoot with new housing developments being built, plans to build a new cemetery and a major expansion to the Village College. This is a village and it would be great to see more people take an interest in what is actually happening in it!

There were some concerns towards the end of February by nearby residents of the sewage treatment works. Tankers were coming onto the site at all times of the day and night causing severe disruption. Anglian Water reported that the pumping station was not working to 100% capacity and to rectify this the station needed to be emptied and refilled. Nearby residents have now reported that the problem has been resolved.

For residents such as myself living by the road closure in Tunbridge Lane, this month has been difficult. Although going out of the village through Swaffham Bulbeck towards Cambridge or Newmarket does not add too much time onto your journey, (unless you happen to hit the traffic calming in Quy early in the morning) you forget about the times you actually need to drop items/letters/children off to people in the village. We were therefore dismayed to hear from the contractor that they are adding another 2 weeks onto the road closure, until the 14th April. We have contacted our County Councillor Mathew Shuter to resolve this issue which we find totally unacceptable, especially as people are unable to reach the doctors surgery by car.

The village sign outside of the Vicarage was a casualty of Storm Doris. You may have noticed that the wooden pole had snapped and we will be looking at getting this repaired as soon as possible.

Some residents have been concerned with the extension to the Village College that the right of villagers to access the field will be denied. This planning application has not yet been approved and will be decided upon by the District Council mid-March and this is something that Parish Council has been discussing. Unfortunately the Village College playing fields will, with this new application be fenced off. This is seen by the school and the County Council as a measure that needs to be taken to safeguard children. Parish Council completely understands this view and we are aware that there have been incidences where members of the public have accessed the school and the Police have been called. In future members of the public will not be able to access the school playing fields during the school day. There will be a gate to the site which will be on an automatic timer and will open and close at set times which are yet to be determined. The school playing fields will be available for resident use in the evenings and all of the weekend, much the same as the Primary School. Obviously we would all prefer that the site was as it is now but realise that times have changed and schools have to take precautions.

Continued on page 17

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Continued from page 15

Please take note of the enclosed advert for Neighbourhood Watch. This is such a worthwhile scheme which we would encourage all residents to participate in. Kevin Evans is the Secretary for the East Cambs Neighbourhood Watch Association and would be happy to answer any queries you may have and talk to you about how you and your neighbours can become part of this valuable scheme.

Lastly we have a small sum of money available as a grant to local clubs, organisations and societies. If you are part of such a group who are looking for some funding towards equipment, repairs etc. please make contact with myself for an application form.

Claire Fullwood, Parish Clerk, clerk@bottishampc.co.uk

Planning Notes

16/01469/FUL - Land South of 17 Stocks Close, Erection of 2 no. detached 3 bed houses
APPLICATION REJECTED

17/00229/FUL - 3 Parsonage Barns, Internal alterations at ground floor. Extension on side of property NEW APPLICATION

16/01464/FUL - Bottisham Police Station, 12 Bell Road, Redevelopment of former police station. Construction of 9 no.flats with off street parking and new access road off Bell road highway APPLICATION APPROVED

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INVITATION TO THE RESIDENTS OF BOTTISHAM

ANNUAL MEETING OF BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 24th May 2017, 7.30pm

Poppy room, Royal British Legion Social Club

If you have any items which you wish to be put on the agenda
please contact the clerk by Monday 8th May

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There is a common misconception that Neighbourhood Watch was of yesteryear and is no longer relevant. This is not the case. The Home Office lists it as the largest voluntary organisation in the country with a membership that covers more than 3.7 million households in England and Wales. In East Cambs in 2010 there were fewer than 100 neighbourhood watch schemes and in 2017 there are now 160 such schemes.

But how is Bottisham doing. There has been a small decrease in neighbourhood watch coverage recently, and you might wonder whether this is important to which the answer must be YES. We are in a period of cuts which is resulting in a reduction of staff within the police and local authority support services. It may not be admitted by the authorities but reduced staff numbers invariably result in a reduced service. Neighbourhood Watch is in some way filling the gap.

Neighbourhood Watch was established to work with the local police force to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and also the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. This support to the police force is as important now as it ever was. The police need the support of residents if crime and disorder is to be contained, and even more so, if it is to be reduced.

In addition to supporting the police, Neighbourhood Watch is there to encourage neighbourliness and improve the quality of life for local residents and tenants. Many of the unwanted goings-on that occur in a neighbourhood are not police matters but matters for the local authority; these would include graffiti, fly tipping, dog fouling, abandoned cars, noisy dogs or noisy neighbours and numerous more. Many residents, particularly the elderly fight shy of contacting faceless officials on such matters, but a neighbourhood watch coordinator would be there to fight your corner.

You might ask who this coordinator might be; it is the person designated to oversee a neighbourhood watch scheme usually of about 20 to 50 houses. Might you be such a person?

It is also worth noting that the majority of home insurance companies give a reduction on insurance premiums for residents in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Such reductions are always welcome, but it also serves as a strong endorsement of the benefit of Neighbourhood Watch – large insurance companies are not renowned for giving something for nothing, so they obviously see the benefit.

If you want to keep your neighbourhood safe, or improve safety and security in your neighbourhood, find out how Neighbourhood Watch can help. Phone Kevin Evans on 01353 614892, or e-mail kevin.g.evans@ntlworld.com

Letter to the Editor

SCHOOL PARKING IN BEECHWOOD AVE.

I would like to draw people's attention to the above. My house is opposite the primary school and have had on many occasions people blocking my driveway entrance, even though I have a dropped curve in full view.

Also parking restricts view when crossing the road for children and adults alike. I have it on good authority that people live locally and could easily walk to and from the school.

In my opinion this situation is another accident waiting to happen!

Name supplied



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April Bulletin

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) is proud to announce reaching the 1,000 mark for our Safe and Well visits. Launched last summer, these support the safety and wellbeing of the most vulnerable residents in our community.

Building on the previous work of Home Fire Safety Checks, the Safe and Well visit encompasses a range of other areas geared to preventing falls in the home, monitoring alcohol use and consumption, staying well, warm and nourished at home and crime reduction including fraud and scams. The Safe and Well visit now provides the Service with sufficient information to support individuals and, with consent, to refer individuals to selected partner agencies, who will be able to support them further.

Although we target our work through partner agency data sharing, to reach those most vulnerable people in our communities first, it is vitally important that people make referrals to us if they think someone they know, whether it be a loved one, a neighbour or a friend, could benefit from our completely free of charge service.” We will never share data for any commercial purposes and you are never under obligation to answer any questions that you do not want to, but the more information we have, the better we will be able to support you”.

Here are some tips to take on board or give to friends and family who smoke:

- Never leave a burning cigarette or pipe unattended.
- Always use a proper ashtray and make sure the contents are cold before you tip them into the bin
- Never smoke in bed, and avoid smoking in a chair if you are likely to fall asleep

Most importantly, fit a working smoke alarm and test it regularly – ideally weekly. Don’t forget to also test the smoke alarms of those you love. Our Safe and Well visit incorporates smoke alarms as part of a list of checks. For more information please visit our homepage www.cambsfire.gov.uk.

Michael White



Bottisham Community Primary School

WHERE EVERYONE COMES FIRST

An eventful term draws to a close in which we have been able to confirm the permanent appointments of our acting head teacher as well as our acting deputy head teacher, and had an Ofsted inspection in quick succession. Good news to report all round! The inspection showed that the school continues to be judged Good and is confirmed as a happy place that children and parents have confidence in. The school can be rightly proud of the education that it offers our children, the range of experiences and the warm sense of community that it has built up. We are delighted and can now look forward to exciting times ahead.

Well done to all: we are very proud of you! - *Sarah Wormald* (Chair of Governors).



Head teacher, Mrs Johnston with TA, Mrs Ling, on World Book Day. Can you name the Book?



Children from Y5 and 6 proudly represented the school at the Sing For Your School performance at the Cambridge Corn Exchange.

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April 1st

May 13th (Floral May Ball)

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm

The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159 or check out our website: www.letsdanceclub.org.uk

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

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Bottisham & District Gardening Club

Growing for Show - Our February speaker was Nigel Start from Gt Wilbraham, where there has been a show since the 1930's. Having inherited a large garden he learned how and what to grow, eventually entering the local Village Show and becoming more successful over the years. He is now also a judge.

If you are thinking of entering a show, then plan for success. Note the date of the show, the list of entries, and target planting dates in advance – for example, don't plant your runner beans too early- late July/early August will give a good crop in September. Prepare your seed bed and where possible use F1 seeds or your own seed collected from the previous year. Remember, you might have to pull 20 carrots to get 4 show-worthy specimens. Keep competition from weeds down with regular hoeing.

What does a judge look at when viewing the exhibits? Uniformity of size and appearance; brightness and colour (don't mix green tomatoes with red to make up the numbers); if the schedule says 6 pods of peas, don't do 5 or 7; onions should have the tops tied and don't strip the outer skin too much; and presentation – a nice plate, a bit of foliage. Avoid colour differences, uneven sizes or shapes, marks from disease or damage, excess trimming.

It was an interesting and lively talk and I am full of enthusiasm for this year, even if we've missed the autumn sowings we should have got in last year. But somehow I think I'll be running around on the morning of the show just choosing what's looking good in the garden on the day. Remember, this is a Village Show, not the RHS, to be entered with a sense of fun and the faint hope of a trophy at the end of it. We look forward to seeing your efforts on 9 September.

Forthcoming speakers: **28 March**, Ken Nicholls talking about '**The Quiet Gardens Movement – thinking it through with plants**', and **25 April**, Polly Howatt's talk is entitled '**Everything but the Squeal: food and folklore in the Fens**'.

Tricia McLaughlin, Secretary - www.bottishamgardeningclub.co.uk

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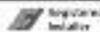
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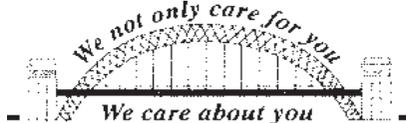
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Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Road closures: Just to warn patients to allow extra time to get to their appointments until 14th April and not only until the end of March as originally circulated.

Easter Closing: The surgery will be closed for the Easter Holiday from 14th-17th April inclusive. For urgent medical help over this period please ring the Out of Hours Service on 111.

Out of Hours Service: The Clinical Commissioning Group has been holding a public consultation over their proposal to move this service from the base at Chesterton to one at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Your chairman and secretary attended one of these meetings and the message from the public there was that they feel that the Chesterton base should be retained. We await the final decision. For more information on this the website is www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughhccg.nhs.uk.

Annual General Meeting:

This will be held at the surgery on **Thursday 27th April at 7pm**, during which one of our doctors will be giving a talk. Anyone who is a patient of the Practice is invited to attend. Further details will be put on the surgery notice board.

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. We would welcome help with running the group.

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 7th and 19th April and 5th and 17th May 2017. Do join Steve for a walk he would be delighted to see you. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: Patients' Group will meet on 25 May 2017 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

Bottisham Patients' Group

Letter to the Editor

HALF BURIED FOOT PATH, LITTER AND DOG WASTE

On the first Monday and Tuesday of March, I decided it was about time the public footpath along Bell Road was well overdue a clean up, at least a quarter of its length from the St Peters Field turn towards the A1303 was covered in soil, gravel etc, some to a depth of at least four inches.

In the process of cleaning the path down to the A1303, I came across lots of dog waste, and two bags of it hanging in the trees, one was actually tied to a branch, I cleared a lot of litter, but a crate and an old information sign I left as I can't walk and carry such items.

The reason for this report is again to urge dog owners/walkers to take their dog waste home with them, it's a health risk and an offence.

I also want to point out the speed cushions are not deterring a lot of motorists from speeding, so again I ask all motorists not to exceed the speed limits, and if you have to park on the road make sure you leave your vehicle so that it DOES NOT OBSTRUCT junctions, bends, gateways, or on double yellow lines, THINK SAFETY.

John Hutchinson



The Royal British Legion Social Club

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AT THE LEGION SOCIAL CLUB

Line Dancing every Wednesday (except the first Wednesday in the month.)

Bingo every 1st and 3rd Sunday.

Member's draw, Meat draw and Play you cards right every Friday

OPENING TIMES Mon-Thurs 5-11pm : Fri 5-12pm : Sat-11.45-12pm : Sun 12.-11pm

Saturday 1st April

Dance to Jam Pact

8pm start Member £4 Non members £6

Saturday 8th April,

Quiz Night

By Bottisham Bowling Club 7.30pm start £3 pp.

Saturday 6th May,

Live music with Coast

Starting at 8.00pm Members £4 Non Members £6

Saturday 3rd June

BVC any years leavers Charity Disco £10 Entry

Tickets in advance from Kate at the Legion

Saturday 10th June,

OAP Members night with Brian Roy.

With a Fish & Chip supper

Names on the list in the Club

Saturday 24th June,

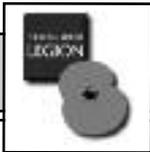
The Big Legion Quiz

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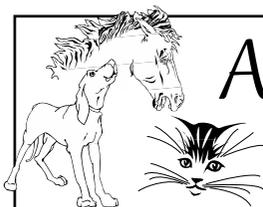
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Bottisham Community Library Association

We had to complete one of quarterly visitor counts in the week before half term and were pleased that we easily exceeded our target of 12 borrowers per session. Thank you.

We were able to have jigsaw puzzles set out for our younger members to play with in the Library during half term. They were well used. We have several interesting adult puzzles available to borrow free of charge.

The biographies – a most interesting selection - have been moved from the side wall to an area nearer the adult fiction. Worth a look.

Our book sale on the Triangle (mini market with WI cakes and Gardening Club plants) is arranged for Saturday 13th May. We should be very pleased to receive donations of good quality paperbacks for this event. They can be taken to the Library during any of the Public Sessions.

We shall be closed on Good Friday 14th April and on Easter Saturday too. Our volunteers deserve a short break.

Sylvia Overton

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Public Transport Matters

There is a new timetable for the 11/12 buses dated 19 February 2017. On my perusal it only seems to affect Soham users and visitors. If anyone more observant than me spots any other changes please let me know. A bus route that is new to me is the 114 and it could prove quite useful. I discovered it by chance as during the gales I had to retreat from the dangerous gusts in East Rd. and my intended walk to the Luther 500 year celebrations on Parker's Piece. I went to the bus stop on Newmarket Rd. and was expecting to use the 3 to the centre but this Whippet bus turned up heading that way. I was then able to walk along a rather more sheltered St. Andrew's St. to the German caravan exhibition. The 114 does a sort of circular route from Drummer St. to Addenbrooke's leaving on the hour between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. It goes to the Grafton centre forecourt, the Beehive Retail Park, Sainsbury's lay-by, Coleridge Rd., Mowbray Rd. and Addenbrooke's from where it departs for the centre between 9.35 and 13.35 Mondays to Fridays. On Saturdays the Big Green Bus Company runs a service – 01440 712712.

There is a Bus Services Bill going through Parliament regarding new franchising powers and decisions to be at a local level regarding the delivery of more services.

The Busway is celebrating breaking through the 18 million trips barrier. It connects Cambridge, Huntingdon and St. Ives and at 18 miles is the longest busway in the world. It was branded a 'white elephant' when it was being built especially as the estimated cost of £64 million rose to £181 million by December 2010. Now county council chiefs are claiming it is a success. The track by the busway is encouraging more people to walk or cycle. It is presumed that the building of Northstowe will increase use of the busway. Houghton is also due to have access to the busway thanks to the efforts of parish councillors and residents. There will be bus stops on the A1123. The problem of cars ending up on the track has not been solved with 8 cars doing this between mid-December and now despite the warning signs.

Simon Norton writes of the closing of the useful bus information point at Bury St. Edmunds bus station. I am assured by Grafton Centre officials that when their alterations are complete their information point will be restored and will include bus timetables.

The 450 space car park is now complete and the North Station is steaming ahead towards opening in late May. It will serve the Cambridge Science Park and Chesterton. It is part of Network Rail's Railway Upgrade Plan. It is expected to handle 3,000 passengers a day. There will be a public square, which I hope will be better than the new Cambridge station one, about which there are many complaints from cyclists and pedestrians. It is hoped that it will encourage new businesses to the area and aid in the expansion of existing businesses encouraging additional employment opportunities. Passenger numbers are said to be rocketing on the Cambridge, Stansted Airport and Newmarket lines by a rise of 32.9 percent for Cambridge, Newmarket 64 percent increase, Shelford by 16.8 percent. Stansted Airport has taken off with a 47.6 percent increase.

Greater Anglia has been shortlisted for the Rail Operator of the year award and the Technical Innovation award reflecting the £40 million invested by Greater Anglia in customer service improvements during the course of the previous franchise. The amount is double what they were required to spend by the Department for Transport. 600,000 extra seats, improvements to performance and reliability and refurbished trains.

Now there is talk of Guided Busway Generation 2 – a futuristic high-speed, driverless bus system – the Advanced Very Rapid Transit system (AVRT) for the Greater Cambridge area. It doesn't need a track, tramlines or a driver and is more like a bus. It could travel

continued on page 41

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continued from page 39

above or underground and the University of Cambridge is leading a study into its feasibility. Manchester to Liverpool in 7 minutes – by tube! Superfast pods hurtling through an underground tunnel powered by magnets. These are maglev trains and can travel at 350mph. The company is Direct City Networks and they believe this could boost the north's economy by several billion pounds.

London to Frankfurt express trains are due by 2020 helping to maintain Britain's post-Brexit links to Europe. Deutsche Bahn is resurrecting its proposals to run high-speed trains through the Channel Tunnel. The 400 mile journey linking St. Pancras with an important financial centre would take about five hours. They have been awaiting the delivery of a fleet of high speed trains but new routes to Belgium and Northern France will be prioritised before the link to the UK. Eurostar is planning a direct link to Amsterdam this autumn.

Night Trains – the Rise and Fall of the Sleeper by Andrew Martin has had good reviews. The romantic idea of going to sleep in one place and waking up in another is explored but he describes the hard beds, the clanking and the stuffiness and also the high cost compared with flights these days.

Don't forget to put your hand out and signal you wish to board the bus. I have seen two near misses recently! Drivers are in a hurry.

Rail info: 08457 48 49 50 Traveline: 0871 200 22 33

Happy travelling! - *Paddy James*

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 April.

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



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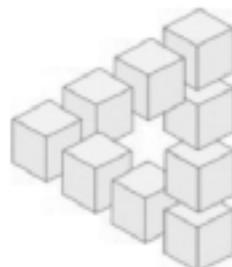
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From James Lovelace to Marathon Man



I am 42, married with 3 boys aged 5, 2 and 2 weeks at the time of writing. I grew up and lived in Lode all my childhood, and went to primary and secondary school in Bottisham

In March 2015, completely out of the blue I was diagnosed with Melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, after a routine check up of a mole on my leg. My world as I knew it was turned upside down in an instant, never to be the same again. Thus began 5 months of treatment, 3 operations to remove my lymph nodes in the infected area and countless appointments with the amazing staff at Addenbrookes Hospital, I was given as much of an 'all clear' as you get with this disease. I wanted to do something that would enable me to somehow repay the people who had supported me, and challenge myself so being a non-runner historically I applied for a place and ran last year's London Marathon for Macmillan Cancer Support, raising £10,000 along the way.

This represented what I thought would be a line under the previous 12 months, and to an extent it was. But with this disease you are constantly reminded of the fact you never know what is around the corner, and checkups every 12 weeks contribute to this. I realised before Christmas that there was still more that I could do to try and help the fantastic work that Cancer Research carry out, trying to ultimately find a cure for cancer. So for this reason I contacted Cancer Research and am now running this year's Virgin London Marathon in support of their work. I aim to raise £4,000, which will help support their work and research.

If you are able to support me in any way at all, I would again be most grateful. My fundraising page with more details is <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/james-lovelace>

Many thanks for reading - *James Lovelace*

Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

On 16th February Michael Snodgrass from Red2Green came to tell us more about Crafty Sew and Sows, community engagement project 2017. A project which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. During the year it aims to work with members of the community to share different projects. There will be five community days to share experiencing skills such as bread-making, growing your own, knitting, natural fire building, playing without technology among others. The aim of the project is for Red2Green clients to learn about lost or dying skills.

As a result of our end of year accounts the branch will be donating £100 to 'Away from it all Holidays' for those who would not otherwise have a holiday; £52 to the Overseas Fund (there is a large Mothers' Union membership in Sudan who are helping to distribute aid); and £50 to the Literacy and Numeracy Fund.

Some members went to a Deanery coffee morning in Burwell. Alice Leadbeter is running in the London Marathon in aid of the Mothers' Union. She ran 16miles to Burwell and spoke to members at the coffee morning about the reason for her run and her training. We will be sponsoring Alice and our March Meeting will revolve round the topic of the London Marathon. If anyone would like to sponsor Alice, leaflets are in all the Benefice churches.

At our next meeting on April 20th April Sarah Lowther will be speaking to us about Guide Dogs for the Blind. Our meetings are usually held at the chapel in Lode at 2.30 and all are welcome.

Jill Jenyns

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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

I must take extra care this month – commenting on a sport about which I know so little but am aware of some serious enthusiasts (not to mention – if the stories are to be believed – a wealth of talent) in our midst! Yes I am referring, of course, to the proposals for historic rule changes in golf. Surely I can persuade some of you to extract your pencil from the pocket of your plus-fours and write to our esteemed editor with your views on this?

I'm guessing a shake up like this, due for implementation in 2019, is pretty controversial: maximum scores for holes (any Bottisham players needing that?!); reduced time for not only taking your shot but also for searching in the woods; placing instead of dropping that lost ball; using the flagstick as a 'backboard' for bouncing your ball into the hole; reducing the assistance afforded by caddies... It seems to me that if the Royal & Ancient and United States Golf Association have their way, you'll all be playing a speeded-up, short-form version, in the vein of Twenty20 Cricket, or Chess against the clock!

Talking of rules, who thought that Messers Haye and Bellew (principally Haye) overstepped the mark in the build up to their recent Heavyweight bout at the O2 Arena? We all know that boxers like to up the pre-fight ante in order to maximise their 'take' from the pay-per-view sales, but there are limits, surely, to the depths they should be allowed to plumb in the trading of insults and threats! British boxing chiefs talked about "extremely disappointing comments" in their admonishment of the pair but that seems a pretty lame response to death threats and foul-mouthed promises of "real damage" issued by the charmless Haye at the press conference, especially when we remember the genuine risks involved in this tough, tough sport.

One couldn't help smiling at the outcome, as the over-confident former heavyweight champion twisted his ankle and succumbed to the pugnacious former cruiserweight Bellew. Come-uppance is a concept of which Mrs Nut is particularly fond (usually in films) and she joined me in toasting the courageous Scouse underdog after his surprise victory. Of course, the protagonists were predictably full of admiration for each other after the event but I do think the BBC should take steps to ensure that the noble art retains a degree of nobility in future.

It was sad to see a couple of my favourite lifetime sportsmen leave us during the last month, on successive days, too. I was 13 in June 1969 when my Dad took me to Lords for my first Test Match. We were playing a legendary West Indies team (Sobers, Kanhai, etc) and a young Yorkshireman named John Hampshire was making his debut. His century was the first ever by a debutant at Lords and I was absolutely hooked on test cricket from that moment. (By an odd coincidence, I was there again in May 2004 when Andrew Strauss repeated this feat!) Anyway, Hampshire passed away on 1st March after an illustrious career as a player, umpire and administrator and he was followed to the Pearly Gates a day later by Tommy Gemmill, best known as one of the 'Lisbon Lions', scoring the equaliser for Glasgow Celtic in their famous European Cup triumph in 1967. A classic, raiding left back, right-footed Gemmill was an inspiration to me as a young defender of similar persuasion (though not of similar quality I hasten to add!) and he was regarded by football people with the kind of affection that is reserved for those special performers who transcend club and even international loyalties.

(Sports Nut continued on page 49.)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

As you'll no doubt appreciate, I'd like to continue eulogising on football themes but, after watching the disgraceful fouling, diving, posturing, squabbling and downright cheating of Chelsea and Manchester United in their FA Cup Quarter Final in March, please allow me to quickly move on to a sport played by grown-ups...

So England underlined their superiority in the northern hemisphere by securing the Six Nations Championship with a match to spare as they trounced a disappointing Scotland at Twickenham on 11th March. (Sorry for mentioning this Peter, but the public has a right to know!) Centre Jonathan Joseph, and kicker Owen Farrell, were the toast of the English Calcutta Cup celebrations, amassing 41 points between them, but the real driving force behind England's astonishing 18 match winning run, now equalling the Kiwis' record, is – of course – Eddie Jones who has taken their training methods and mentality of constant improvement way into the future. How far will they go? Well, at the time of writing, England look certain to break the record and achieve the Grand Slam in Dublin on 18th March... I wonder if the Irish managed to spoil the party?! By the way, I understand there's no truth in the rumour that the SNP are demanding a replay of the Twickenham match because the result did not serve the interests of the Scottish people!

TTFN - Gerry Daish

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 April.

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For all of four days we could claim that we were multi-millionaires, having accrued and paid a hotel bill totalling some 9.6 million. The only drawback was that the bill was in Indonesian Rupiah where 68,000 buys you a beer and 80, 000 buys you a glass of wine... So after thirty days away involving eight flights, seven ferry crossings, twenty taxi rides and more, we are safely back home again. I can of course give you many more statistics but won't inflict you further lest I bore you with my indulgency!

Our trip to the Antipodes was truly a holiday of a lifetime and one that allowed us to immerse ourselves in and enjoy the culture, lifestyles and vistas of a number of diverse countries. Of the many unique experiences my most memorable moment was on a sailing ship on a two day adventure into Doubtful Sound. The captain turned off all the ships mechanical and electrical systems to let us absorb a fifteen minute encounter with nothing but pure nature – breath-taking. However, other parts of our trip were a real test of endurance and of our patience and unless you are fit, both mentally and physically, you could easily struggle. Of particular note was trying to get to Bintan Island (Indonesia) on a Saturday morning after a ten hour overnight flight from Auckland to Singapore. If you ever attempt this yourselves it's best to avoid the ferry terminal at weekends. Of course, everyone's experience is different and no doubt many of you will have visited similar places and have different memories. What follows therefore is a summary of the places we visited and overall impression.

Our first port of call was Singapore which, on the face of it is just another big city. But it was spotless and had an affordable modern transport system – Cambridge 'City Deal' take note!. We stayed near to Clarke's Quay which is a half hour walk to most places worth visiting. The Hop On Hop Off bus is a must to find your way to places you might want to explore in depth later on. Opposite was Fort Canning Park, an iconic hilltop landmark that has witnessed many of Singapore's historical milestones. The hill once served as the Headquarters of the Far East Command Centre and British Army Barracks. The decision to surrender Singapore to the Japanese on 15 February 1942 was also made on the hill, in the Underground Command Centre, commonly known as Battle Box. I had also read about the POW camp at Kranji and the atrocities committed there. So we all took a trip using the high-speed MRT. Nowadays Kranji forms part of the Commonwealth War Graves - it is also the place where my Brother in Law's aunt (a young British nurse) is commemorated having lost her life in a torpedoed ship whilst evacuating Singapore. Soaring temperatures of 38 degrees plus and very high humidity made it a very challenging but nevertheless memorable visit. And not to be missed are the Botanical Gardens and the orchid gardens which are a definite must if you enjoy flora. I think my other half took nearly 120 photos...

Next was an overnight flight to Sydney and here I have a gripe with all airlines concerning children under a certain age being on such flights. The flight was nothing but an airborne nursery with most of the cabin crew trying to help parents placate noisy/upset children. On landing we were then faced with one Australian immigration official attempting to collect immigration cards from passengers arriving on at least three flights. Not a good start to our Australian experience...

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Apart from its famous iconic landmarks; Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, and places such as Manly and Bondi Beach, Sydney is again yet another big city with much of its original colonial infrastructure replaced with nondescript high rise towers. The temperature was unusually high at around 36 degrees with high humidity. We were therefore thankful for and impressed with the air conditioned transport system that allowed very affordable travel within the city (free at weekends). For an eating experience Darling Harbour is not to be missed. We were there for four days and were advised to purchase an Opal Card and charge it with AUD20. This covered us for most inner city buses and gave us a return ferry trip to Manly. Again our hotel being about half an hours walk from the harbour served us well and the Hop On Hop Off bus was a good way to find places worthy of a visit especially if you don't have local friends or family to show you round. From a personal point of view the beaches on Manly were much better than Bondi which to my mind was grossly overrated. We went to Manly on the afternoon ferry and returned after dinner at dusk when all the Sydney landmarks were lit up. The Manly Ferry is by far the best way to appreciate Sydney Harbour and city skyline - the gorgeous smaller Sydney Harbour beaches such as Rose Bay are also served by a beach hopper ferry service.

We then moved on to Melbourne (pronounced Melbun) for three days where it was as hot but quite a bit fresher than Sydney which was welcome. The highlight for us on this leg was firstly a visit to an indigenous wildlife sanctuary with Koalas, Kangaroos and Wallabies and then a dusk experience with the penguins on Phillip Island. Sticking to our plan for hotels within half an hour's walk of the city centre we found a free tram service just around the corner that looped around the inner city. Quite by accident we found a lovely little alleyway called Hardware Street where the system seemed to be to negotiate an alfresco dining experience with the owner before being shown to a table. We thought we had a good deal comprising complimentary entrée and a bottle of wine but who knows...

Our next port of call was Queenstown, New Zealand which I will cover in the next JOW instalment.

And now to matters closer to home. I've been asked how I came by my information concerning the possible fencing off of the College playing fields and the potential loss of the track to and from Lode Road and Bell Road. Well, it's quite simple really. I made it my business to find out and not, as some of you may be thinking, through Parish Council. Local planning applications are always notified in the Cresset and on the Parish Council website. Anyone can access these applications at source as the information is in the public domain and can be scrutinised through either the County Council planning portal or the District Council planning portal. This is exactly what I did with the new BVC expansion plan application but as a private individual. I made my personal concerns known to the Planning Officers which resulted in a dialogue which concluded by finding some middle ground which, if approved, will maintain access to the playing fields and to the 'track' as originally intended. Whether my independent suggestion is formally supported by other interested parties is a matter for them. But it's no good bleating about planning applications and other decisions affecting the village if we don't take the trouble to familiarise ourselves with them and comment where relevant.

TJ

"It's obvious women are smarter than men. Think about it – diamonds are a girl's best friend whereas man's best friend is....!" – Joan Rivers.



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