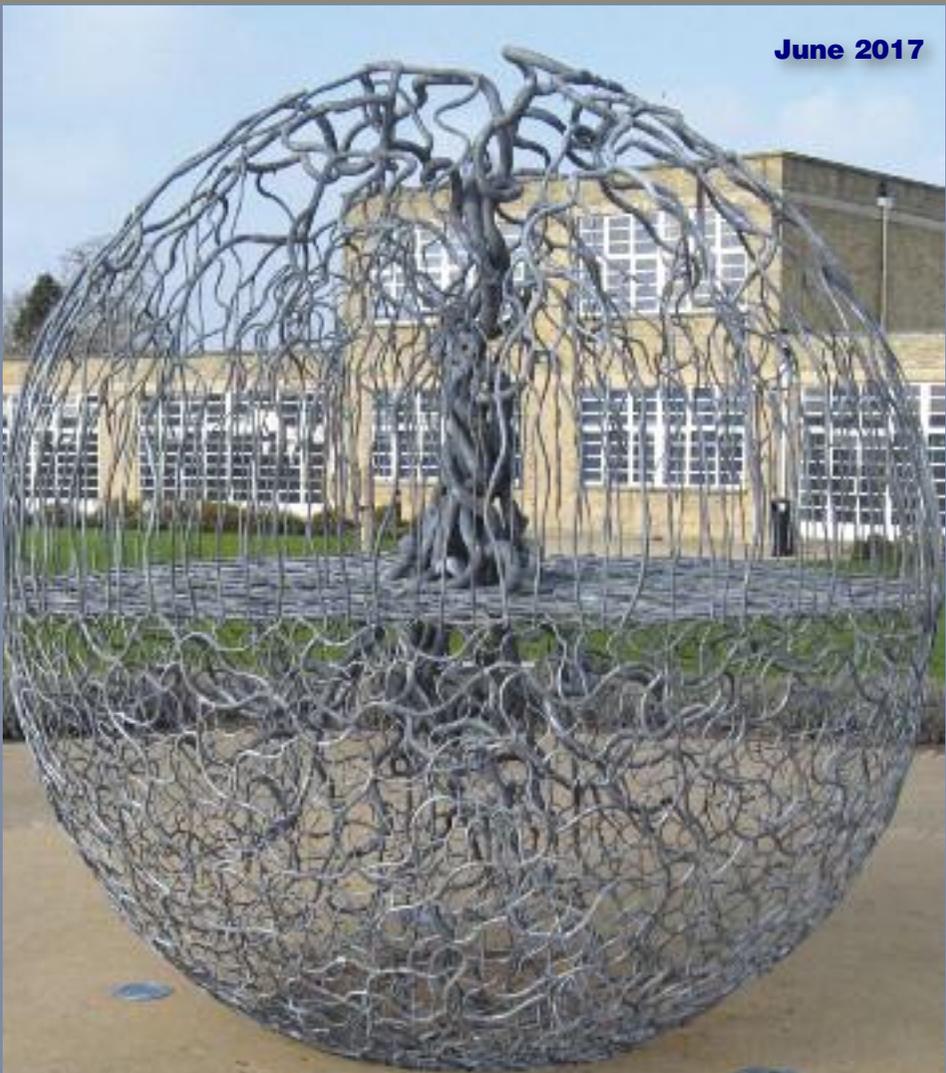


June 2017



THE 
Cresset

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



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A ramble from your Editor

June already and half the year gone. Where does the time go!

Been busy last month. Between going north for a trip right to the top and coming back to find the garden has done the usual has its drawbacks. You turn your back on the garden and the grass thinks it wants to be made into silage and the weeds try to form a canopy over the flowerbeds.



But the trip north was worth it. I know some people think I go on about the weather too much, but at the risk of doing it again, we had, I kid you not, ten days of uninterrupted sunshine. We saw a few clouds on one day, and that apart, it was wall to wall blue sky. Even got a touch of sunburn.

Those who have been north of say, Loch Lomond, know how spectacular it can be if the weather is good and one always goes expecting to get a few wet and dull days. To get the run that we had was amazing. Sitting outside the house we had on Skye and watching the sunset in shirtsleeves with a glass of wine and listening to the waves lapping on the shore is a memory imprinted on my mind. Add to that the white sand and blue sea and it could have been the Caribbean!

One potential resulting problem could be a lack of water. Normally at this time of year streams and rivers are in full spate with snow melt and rain. We passed several noted waterfall places that usually have people filling the lay-bys taking photographs (there is a big one at the top of Glencoe, which comes to mind). When we passed there was hardly a trickle coming down.

There was also hardly any snow on the high mountains which usually have some well into June. A sign of global warming perhaps? Or is that the result of Brexit as well!

Elections this month will decide the direction that this country will take in the future. By the time you read this it may well be over. If not and whatever your view, make sure you have your say and get out and vote. If you don't you can't complain about the outcome. (I know that won't stop some people who like to gripe about everything.)

You will see in several places in the magazine this month, a note about copy deadlines. It has been decided due to holidays etc. that there will not be a Cresset published in August. If you have items or notices that fall at that time, then let us have them by 14th June to be included in the July edition.

This month's magazine has all the regular items and reports as well as lots of useful information. If you are looking for things to do with the kids over the summer, Cambridge Past Present and Future always has lots of interesting activities and some specifically for children. Open Studios and Open garden days also provide opportunities right here in Bottisham. The Church Fete on the 17th provides that traditional event with something for everybody.

Another special event takes place in the Church this month. The Armed Forces Day service on Sunday 25th June. The Bottisham Branch of the Royal British Legion gives a warm invitation and details in the magazine.

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

I notice in the parish notes much discussion on traffic issues at both Quy roundabout and here in the village. The angle of incline of the approach to the speed 'pad' at the entrance to the new houses seems to be causing issues to some. I hope that the cost and inconvenience of any alterations, together with potential future damage claims is taken into account together with the fact that there is also another set of humps (disintegrating) just 50 yards down the road.

Enjoy the Month and the longer evenings. Don't worry about the fact that after the 21st the days will begin to shorten again. It will be Christmas before you know it!

Bottisham W.I.

Our meeting in April was the 99th Birthday of Bottisham WI.

Jane Larcombe was our speaker and she gave a very interesting talk on "The History of The Swan at Lavenham." She loves her role as Business Development Manager at The Swan and her enthusiasm has spurred her on to research the rich history of the building and the town. She outlined its role from the start, through the decades, the Tudor period being a very important time when Lavenham was one of the richest towns in England due to the weaving of cloth and wool. Eventually, cheaper fabrics produced by the Dutch meant that that the industry declined.

During World War II The Swan was a popular meeting place for the servicemen. The Airmen's Bar has memorabilia and hundreds of signatures from UK and US Forces who were based at RAF Lavenham. Many of the servicemen have since revisited. Jane was helping to organise, along with Friends of Lavenham, a 1940's event for four days in May which would commemorate the 75th anniversary of East Anglia's 'Friendly Invasion' when the US forces arrived.

Now The Swan is a beautifully renovated hotel and spa with 15th Century architecture and garden. It has rooms for receptions or more informal dining in the brasserie.

A trip to The Swan is now planned for our W.I.

Arrangements were made for the Cake Stall at The Triangle on 13th May along with The Gardening Club and Bottisham Community Library stalls. Dates for a walk around Stetchworth and The Craft Evening were given. There are many events, workshops and visits organised by Cambridge Federation of WI's for members to choose from.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th June at Queen's Court, Downing Close at 7.30pm with guest speaker:- Ian Cummings - "Experiences of being a contestant of The Great British Off"

If you are not a member of the WI and think you may like to join - please do come along - you are very welcome.



Copy deadline for the July issue is 14 June.

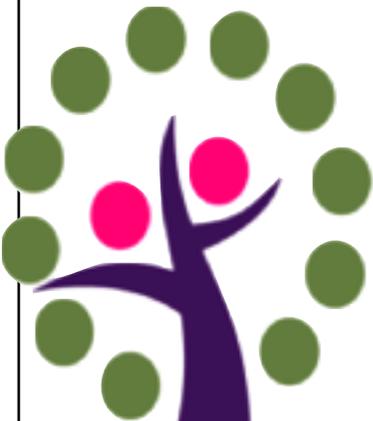
Please send material to the editor at BottishamCresset@gmail.com

**There will not be a Cresset published in August,
so advertising for events in August need to be included in the July issue**

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SAPLINGS NEEDS YOU



Saplings
Pre-School Playgroup

Please join us for a working party at Sapling play hut, in Bottisham.

The play hut needs some running repairs. Do you have some time on the 3rd of June to come along and help? There is pruning, clearing, painting and some minor repairs to be done. Any amount of time you can donate will be much appreciated.

Sapling is run by a team of volunteers who will be getting stuck in. If you are able, do come along between 10am-3pm

If you have any tools or equipment you feel would be useful for general DIY, it would be great if you could bring them along.

Tea and biscuits will be in good supply

*Many thanks
The Saplings committee*



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Cambridge, Past, Present & Future

- A colourful month of activities



- Wild Animals! - Half-term event for accompanied children. Friday 2 June: 10am-12pm.** Bring your child to Wandlebury for a morning of crazy wildlife fun. For accompanied children aged 4-8. £8 per child (£6 members), adults free. Advance booking essential.
- Fairy Fun! - Half-term event for accompanied children. Friday 2 June: 1pm to 3pm.** There's no need to carry on searching at the bottom of the garden - we've got all the fairies you'll need right here at Wandlebury! For accompanied children aged 3 - 5. £8 per child (£6 members), adults free. Advance booking essential.
- Resident Reptiles at Wandlebury. Saturday 3 June: 9am-10.30am.** The natural habitats of Wandlebury provide the perfect place for reptiles to thrive. Join this opportunity for adults to take a guided stroll around the Country Park to seek out these somewhat shy creatures, Aimed at adults, booking essential. £4 per adult (£3 members).
- Insitu theatre group, Tales of Mystery and Imagination by Edgar Allan Poe at the Leper Chapel. CB5 8JJ. Saturday 3 June: 8pm.** If you don't spook too easily, come along for this evening of suspenseful tales from the greatest of the gothic writers, Edgar Allan Poe, including 'The Premature Burial' - one of the most extraordinary short stories ever written, and 'Thou Art the Man'. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions), available in advance here: www.insituthatre.co.uk or call 01223 211451 and at the venue from 7.30pm - but please note that space is limited so advance booking is recommended. Suitable for ages 16+.
- Hinxton Watermill Open Day Sunday 4 June: 2.30pm-5.30pm.** Impressive 17th century working watermill. Located in charming surroundings in the village of Hinxton on the River Cam. Children can take part in the 'Where's Ratty' competition! CambridgePPF members free. non members £3 for adults, £1 for children.
- Grasses of Wandlebury. Sunday 11 June: 2pm-3.30pm.** You will be surprised how much there is to learn about a plant which we take for granted! Join this guided stroll aimed at adults around Wandlebury Park to see and identify some of the grasses in situ. Adults only. £3 for members, non-members £4. Booking recommended.
- Conversazione - Local Natural History and Wildlife Exhibition. Friday 16 June: 1pm-6pm; Saturday 17 June: 10am to 5pm.** The Conversazione is the annual exhibition of the Cambridge Natural History Society, held in the Cambridge University Department of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EJ which exhibits all aspects of natural history and local wildlife. Come and see the CambridgePPF EMBLEM display - We'll be displaying what we have done and what we have found so far. Free, drop in event. Refreshments available. For more information: and updates see www.cnhs.org.uk
- Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov at the Leper Chapel. Thursday 22 June-Saturday 24 June: 8pm** Join the in situ: experimental theatre group as they present one of the greatest masterpieces of the twentieth century, performed in the atmospheric 12th century Leper Chapel. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions), available in advance here: www.insituthatre.co.uk or call 01223 211451 and at the venue from 7.30pm - but please note that space is limited so advance booking is recommended.
- Plants of Wandlebury. Sunday 25 June: 2pm-3.30pm.** This guided afternoon stroll around Wandlebury for adults introduces the chalk grasslands and woodland plants that flourish here. Booking recommended., Adults only. £3 for members, non-members £4. Meet at the car park notice board.

continued on page 6

Bourn Mill Open Day and Teas Off Caxton Road, Bourn CB23 2SU. Sunday 25 June: 2pm-4pm. Come and see inside one of the oldest mills in the country, set in beautiful scenery near Bourn village. A perfect location for a picnic. Volunteer guides will tell you the history of the mill and if the weather is favourable you may even witness the incredible sight of the mill being turned on its post. Teas and cakes available. Free to CambridgePPF members, non-members £3 per adult, £1 per child.

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.

Sue Giles THINKING ALLOWED

**What do you see, nurses, what do you see?
What are you thinking, when you look at me?
A rabbit old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,
Who, quite unresisting, lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding the long day to fill.
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I move at your bidding, as I eat at your will.**

These are the opening lines of a poem written by a Scottish nurse Phyllis McCormack, in 1966. The poem goes on to describe some of the significant events that the elderly speaker of the poem has had. Her joys and hopes and struggles. These experiences may be locked inside her as memory and language slip away but this is who she is. The complex web of interactions are what make her the person she is. Her life has touched many others and contributed to the rich tapestry of the world and this remains the case whether remembered and expressed or not. The poem is a reminder that dementia is not the person and this is the message behind Dementia Awareness Week, which is about to begin as I write this article.

Too often we value people because of what they do and what they contribute to society rather than for who they are. It is very easy for people to be overlooked when they find communication difficult. It is very easy to become impatient when people begin to repeat things. It is often the case that people slip out of view once they are no longer able to contribute to the life of the world.

The gospels challenge this way of looking at others. Based upon how God treats us and how he responds to us. There is nothing that we can do which would make God love us less, there is nothing we can do which would make God love us more. He loves us for ourselves not for what we do. Love is not earned or won, it is given freely, and it is a gift of grace. A person living with dementia may be difficult or aggressive, confused, funny or delightfully different, they may not be able to prove their value or earn respect by what they do but they have their place in the hearts and lives of others and they remain people to be valued and respected.

We live in God's grace and we are asked to reflect that grace in our relationships with others. When a good and patient carer looks after someone suffering with dementia they are sharing in that work of grace. When a family member visits a loved one and spends time with them even though they are unrecognised and their visit is immediately forgotten they are demonstrating grace. And where love and grace are shared that is where God is to be found for that is the very nature of God.

Services in Holy Trinity Bottisham in June

Sun 4 Whit Sunday	11am	Morning Prayer <i>Mike Proctor</i>
Wed 7	8pm	Compline by Candlelight <i>Led by Dr Sarah Maxwell</i>
Sun 11 Trinity Sunday	10am	Benefice Communion <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>
Sun 18	8am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>
	11am	Holy Communion <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>
Sun 25	8am	Holy Communion in Swaffham Prior
	10am	Benefice All-Age Service in Swaffham Bulbeck
	5pm	Armed Forces Day Service in Bottisham <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>

Note the differing times of the main service in Bottisham! 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 (<http://angleseygroupparishes.co.uk>). Any late changes in times or places of services will be given there, along with details of any funerals or weddings in Holy Trinity.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH FETE

It's that time of the year again! The Bottisham Church Fete will take place on Saturday 17 June, start 2 pm, in the church and churchyard. The traditional mix of teas, games and stalls, with the famed Grand Draw as a centrepiece. The draw will be made on the day at 3.30 pm. Do come and support us! Any items for stalls will be gratefully received: please contact Carol Kitson on 811673. As with the Gift Day, the Fete is an important part of our income and will round off a week that starts with Bottisham Open Gardens on Sunday 11 June (see elsewhere in this issue).

HOLY TRINITY EASTER GIFT DAY

Our thanks are due to all those who contributed to the Gift Day. We have written to all those for whom we had an address, but we are equally grateful for the contributions that came with no contact details. Thank you all - we don't quite manage to balance the books over the year, but we would be in a very much worse position without your generous help.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Trinity Fair

Saturday 17 June In the Church & Churchyard - 2pm

STALLS, GAMES, TEAS

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Come and See...

I sometimes come across people who have heard of RENEW but are not sure what it is or where it is.

RENEW is a church; a community of people drawn from Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Quy and Burwell, who believe in Jesus Christ and want to follow him.

RENEW is also a great place to discover Jesus for yourself, you don't have to be a Christian to come along; you may be searching for answers in life, for meaning, for purpose. You may have suffered pain through circumstances and storms of life, there is a place at RENEW for you. Indeed, RENEW is a community of people just like you, people who have experienced the highs and lows of life and have realised that faith in Jesus and the reality of His presence with them is what gives the joy, peace, meaning and purpose to life.

The best way to find out about us is to 'come and see' and you are very welcome, every Sunday morning 10.30am til 12noon at Bottisham Primary School.

Breakfast (croissants, pastries, fruit, tea, coffee, juice) is available from 10.10am and on the second Sunday of each month we have 'bring & share' lunch after the service.

Our sung worship has a contemporary style and our preaching aims to prepare the congregation to live for Jesus in every part of their lives, and join in the mission of God in the world.

We have all ages represented at RENEW and our services include groups for children and youth.

I know how hard it is to go to a new church for the first time, but I promise you, a warm welcome awaits you; step over the threshold and before long you'll have a cuppa in your hand and you might even find you already recognise people from your village in our congregation. If you are reading this thinking, 'I might go along to RENEW sometime', we are praying for you. 'Come and see' - be the answer to our prayers.

Check out our website renewchurch.org.uk or our Facebook page @renewchurch1, and feel free to email me alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk or call me on C.812558 if you would like more information or would like to meet to talk further about any matters of life or faith. Come and See,

Revd. Alan Brand

RENEW CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE 2017.

We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services. A crèche is available if required. All welcome. Croissants and drinks available from 10.10 am.

Sunday 4th June Morning Worship 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 11th June Morning Worship 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School) Followed by shared lunch

Sunday 11th June Evening Worship 6.20pm (at Lode Chapel)

Sunday 18th June Morning Worship 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 25th June Morning Worship 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 25th June Evening Worship 6.20pm (at Lode Chapel)

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

Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk

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

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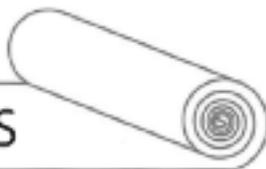


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Co-operation with all other services continues to develop - with Fire and Rescue, the Ambulance Service and, of course, major hospitals. Addenbrookes is a primary partner in the delivery of timely top quality emergency medical care. Together, we save lives.

Alan, from Elmswell, recently suffered a cardiac arrest. He had good cause to thank the east of England Ambulance Service and East Anglian Air ambulance for providing vital pre-hospital medical care which, after his flight to a specialist unit helped to save his life. There are many such stories underlining the invaluable work made possible with your ongoing support.

On a more earth-bound front, are there any cycling groups who would like to participate in one (or more) of the Cycling Challenges coming up soon? if so, please contact Chris in the Peterborough office for details. 01733 367208. Venues include Diss (29th June), Suffolk Coast Ride (23rd July), Tour de Broads (20th August) and Lap of Anglia (four days from 16th August).

EAAA publishes a quarterly magazine, Lift Off, to keep people informed of its activities with feedback from supporters and patients alike - if you would like to receive a copy please let me know.

Once again from EAAA, a huge Thank You for your ongoing help.

Michael White

LODE HALF MARATHON & 3 MILE FAMILY FUN RUN

(ARC Race Permit No. 17/267)

****CHIP TIMING FOR BOTH HALF MARATHON AND FUN RUN****

The 7th Lode Half Marathon is fast approaching and this year our charity is the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre at Huntingdon (charity no. 800849). Over the last 6 years we have had great support and raised over £20,000 for charity and local causes.

ENTRY open from Monday 24 April 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 5th November 2017 at 10a.m.** - our race HQ is the Fassage Hall in Lode. **The Family Fun Run will start at 10.15a.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 and on-line booking form - www.loderunners.co.uk or contact **Tessa Shrubbs on 01223 811812 or email: lodefarm@aol.com**)

Many thanks to the following companies who are so far sponsoring this year's event: Mead Construction & Plant Hire from Swaffham Prior, Bush Sales, Tesco, Bottisham Village Stores.

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Parish Councillors agree that as a speed calming measure the new raised table in Tunbridge lane is not fit for purpose. We have expressed our opinions to our County Councillor and have requested that he liaise with Highways to see if the lead-up to the raised table could be made shorter meaning traffic would need to slow down as there would be a steeper incline. He agreed that he did not think it would be difficult to change the gradient and will look into this.

County Councillor Shuter did meet with Highways at the Quy roundabout early one morning. By the time of reading the current potholes will have been repaired. They are also looked at the possibility of a yellow junction preventing traffic from Quy blocking the road (A1303). A barrier was discussed between the 2 lanes leading to Quy and Bottisham but Highways said they could not do this as it could be dangerous but they will however put more road markings on the road to try and prevent vehicles swapping lanes. They will also re-examine the priorities coming off of the A14 as they are fully aware of the problems in the evenings with traffic queuing on the A14. He also discussed with Highways speeding along the A1303 specifically by the 2 entrances into Bottisham. They suggested lowering the speed limit 100/200 yards from these junctions and Highways will look into this but it may be that we have to apply for funding in the autumn for this project. One of our District Councillors David Chaplin has also been discussing possible changes to the road network due to future developments East and North of Bottisham and Quy. Substantial changes would be needed to support this extra traffic and they are looking at creating a new junction where the A11 and A14 cross over but it is early days yet.

Carrying on with traffic I have had some complaints regarding parking in Jenyns Close. This is quite a tight area so please be mindful when you park your car or van that if a car is parked on the other side of the road it is going to be very difficult for a vehicle to actually be able to get past including emergency vehicles.

The grass cutting season has begun again and we have a new contractor for this work. A couple of areas were missed off the first cut but they soon came back to correct this. Thank you to those residents that made contact. It takes a while for a new contractor to get used to the area but if you think a grass area by you has been missed then please let me know. I have also ordered a new dog bin to go on the Swaffham Road by the wooden steps as requested by a resident.

We are once again looking at possible solutions for the parking problems outside of the shops. Two years ago we looked at lay-bys being installed on the 'triangle' area and we are now re-visiting this after several complaints. We have secured funding for this and wait to meet with the County Council Highways for their ideas and opinions on the way forward.

You may recall that the District Council had asked Parish Council if they wished to purchase the land at Ancient Meadows for a small pre-school playground. We have been waiting for a long time for the District Council to come back to us with regards to some legal matters concerning whether a play area could be installed here. We have now had clarification from the District Council that if we so wanted, we could install a play area at this location. We have already been successful in reaching agreement for a small play area to be installed on the new development to be built off of Bell Road and we will now be discussing whether to also go ahead with a play area at the Ancient Meadows location. It has always been the plan to have a public consultation regarding this and I will keep you updated.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 5th June, 7.30pm in the Poppy room, Royal British Legion.

Claire Fullwood - Parish Clerk

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Public Transport Matters

Travel on the local 10 bus can be quite entertaining sometimes. Recently travelling into Cambridge the driver was zooming along the A1303 when suddenly he let out a loud gasp of horror as he realised that he had gone past the turning for Quy! We all wondered what he would do! He drove to the roundabout, turned all round it and then went back to The Missing Sock and turned left. Unusually, there was no-one waiting at any of the three bus stops. I mentioned this, as I got off the bus, and he said that if he hadn't gone back there would certainly have been cross people there! I have discovered that you do need to press the bell hard as some of them don't seem to connect very well. I got carried on past the Maids Causeway stop to the next stop and it was quite a trek back. I have heard other similar stories. Announcements on buses to help partially sighted and blind people are under consideration for development.

There has been a bus fares increase. Andy Campbell says that he knows that this isn't popular but it is necessary and that they have been assessed as offering the lowest bus fares of any operator in the UK. Bus travel remains a greener and cheaper option than commuting by car. There are several different tickets available. The rise in fares covers new buses, smart ticketing, mobile ticketing, contactless payments and a smartphone app. that allows people to track where the bus is. You get 2.4 days of free travel when you purchase an online monthly Xtracard. There continue to be lots of complaints regarding the new station layout and facilities at Cambridge. The Cambridge News letters and online messaging people are getting quite cross! Now there are also complaints about the timetables and running of the trains at the new £50 million Cambridge North station. See the web for details. You can book on-line. It seems there will not be a staffed ticket office just machines. Many services apparently require a change at Cambridge station or else there is a delay as trains are joined to other carriages. The 3-platform station opened on May 21st if their forecast is correct. It will serve the science park and surrounding villages. There is a fast train per hour from Ely to London off-peak. Built by Network Rail, it is being managed by Greater Anglia. It is hoped that it will ease the 11 million a year footfall at the city's main station.

Great Northern has introduced its new train fleet - air conditioning now and soon to come - on-board information systems also power points at every pair of seats. It remains to be seen exactly how these new trains and timetables work out. Crossrail 2 is not expected to be completed until the early 2030s as it is still in the development stage but it is anticipated that it could provide a service from Cambridge to Portsmouth with a new tunnel under London. It could link with the HS2 at Euston. It will boost jobs and could also help the housing market.

Our new mayor, James Palmer, speaks of improving local transport links. This will be monitored! Dial a ride has been mentioned but we need a decent rural service too. A local councillor suggests that we could copy the metro system in Barcelona.

I mentioned the freight train from China along the Silk Route recently and there has now been a return journey. The train was laden with whisky, soft drinks, baby products and vitamins. It departed on April 27th from Stanford-le-hope in Essex on a 7,500 mile journey to Yiwu passing through France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan to reach China.

Scrapping first class rail travel is under consideration to ease congestion. People are forced to stand in other carriages. Property prices have been hit along the routes of Southern Rail due to the strikes.

continued on page 21



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continued from page 19

There was a government scheme to expand smart ticketing across the country but due to a low take-up it is being abandoned. Costs of the scheme had doubled. Only 8% of season tickets into London were logged on smart cards and the government's target had been 95 %. The subject has been raised again of the fact that foreign firms control 75% of Britain's railways. Apparently HS2 could be part-run by SNCF, the French company. Lots of different power solutions for trains are under consideration - battery power, Hydrogen power, liquefied natural gas. However, 22 electrification programmes are due to be completed between 2017 and 2024 under current plans.

I am never quite sure what is covered by the term 'public transport'. We have just had Ferry Fortnight. I have many happy memories of all the ferry journeys we have made and much regretted the closure of the DFDS services from Harwich. They still have a service from Newcastle to Amsterdam and across the channel. Brittany Ferries offer good services to France and Spain. Shearings offer good coach service holidays in the UK and abroad.

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Happy travelling! - Paddy James

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June Bulletin

Many of you will have been aware of Dementia Awareness Week which ran from 14th to 20th May and which was supported by CFRS across the region. I mention this purely to publicise yet another important aspect of CFRS's service to our community. The effects of dementia are becoming increasingly devastating to people's lives - sufferers and partners/carers so if the involvement of CFRS can help, particularly with fire safety, please get in touch.

This links in with the Service's ongoing 'Safe and Well Service', with visits available FREE of charge to support vulnerable residents in our community..

For more information and how to become a Dementia Friend contact us at: firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk.

Paul Clarke, Community Risk Manager at CFRS, said: "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 they be a loved one, a neighbour or a friend, could benefit from our completely free-of-charge service too. We will never share data for any commercial purposes and people are never under obligation to answer any questions that they do not wish to, but the more information we are provide with, the better support we can provide.

We can also provide advice in relation to promoting the health and safety of individuals with hoarding concerns, as well as providing valuable information to care providers.

Smoke Alarms - please continue to test regularly - they may save your life !

For more information on Safe and Well Visits, please visit our homepage at: www.cambsfire.gov.uk and click on Safe and Well visits or contact us at: firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or call us on: 0800 9179994

Michael White

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Bottisham & District Gardening Club

Yes, it happened again. Our advertised speaker for April, Polly Howatt on 'Everything but the Squeal: food and folklore in the Fens', was taken ill and at short notice our programme secretary, Eve Cassidy, had to find another replacement. Thankfully Michelle Bullivant very ably stepped into the breach. Her talk was entitled 'The Lost Watermills of Cherry Hinton'. Michelle works as an archaeologist for Cambridge City Council, working on the Marshalls site excavating those trenches we could see from the Newmarket Road. She is also a local historian living in Cherry Hinton. She had heard that there may be water mills in Cherry Hinton, a rare thing in this dry, flat area, and decided to investigate further. The Domesday Book showed four mills in the area: windmills came in 100 years after the Domesday Book so they must be watermills. After much research and with the help of Lottery Heritage money and children from local schools, excavations were carried out in the grounds of Cherry Hinton Hall, where they found evidence of a water mill and later realised that outside the front door of the Hall was an actual millstone. This millstone has now been moved and is now used as a seat in the grounds. She also gave us advice on how to research local history in our own area. It was a fascinating talk and we hope she comes back to tell us more.

At the foot of these articles there is usually a link to our web page. Sadly, Microsoft, which was our provider and hosted the site, has decided to discontinue this service and we, in turn, have decided not to continue publishing a web page at the moment. We have a list of members and those who have given us email addresses will be kept informed via email. Please contact me if you wish your email address to be added to the list. We also have our village magazines and we are grateful to them for providing reports and information on forthcoming events such as the Annual Village Show.

Our next talk will be on **23 May, 7.30pm in the Poppy Room, Royal British Legion**, when **Bryan Thurlow** will be '**The Perennial Mr Potter**'. On **20 June** we will be visiting **Denston Hall Gardens**, near Wickhambrook for our evening outing, and on **12 July** our day trip will take us to **Capel Manor Gardens**. If you are interested in joining us for this trip, please contact Peter Bullock on 01223 811716.

Tricia McLaughlin, Secretary

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If you would like to donate a Cake/biscuits, Please bring to 1 Woodward Drive on the evening of the 7th of July, or to the cake stall at 8:45 on the 8th , Many thanks.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

AGM: This was held at the surgery on 27th April, when the chairman Steve Gilson outlined the work of the committee during the past year. Dr Higham gave an update on the Practice, which was well received. He said that this is a very busy as well as a training Practice with a higher than average elderly patient group along with a large nursing and care home population and consequently more cases of dementia and strokes. He said he hoped that the appointment of the new doctors should help to provide stability and, whilst routine appointments are still having to be booked further ahead, patients who needed to be seen more urgently would be fitted in. Everyone Health are looking to run some clinics from the practice offering dietary and lifestyle advice. Rowena Pilsworth has been appointed as Practice Manager and there were positive comments from the audience about the reception and admin staff. There were no changes of officers on the committee, one member has left and another joined. Janet Aves was thanked for her work in organising the Patient Car Service, from which a further donation of £157 had been sent to MAGPAS.

Patient Survey Results: Following comments from this survey the following actions are being taken:

A grant has been applied for in order to look at redesigning the dispensary and reception area.

GP Appointments have been rearranged to include extra catch up time and for the sit and wait appointments at the end of clinic to start at 12 midday.

Reception staff will be monitoring the demand for the different types of appointments at different times over the next 12 months and will be used to shape the format of GP clinics.

An additional Registrar (doctor) will be in practice from August this year, and an additional GP will work 4 sessions per week from October 2017.

Changes have been made to the phone system to free up the enquiry and appointment lines, with a business support apprentice to assist answering these at peak times, and for dispensary to take calls from 10am.

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 9th and 21st June and 7th and 19th July 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 **27 July 2017 at 6.30pm at the surgery.**

Copy deadline for the July issue is 14 June.

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

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Charity Quiz And Raffle For Cam Sight

Hello, I'm Warren Wilson, I would like to tell you about a charity quiz and raffle I am organising for Cam Sight, our local charity for the blind, registered charity number 201640; please visit their website to find out more: <http://www.camsight.org.uk/>.

- When:** Sat 8th July
Time: Doors open at 19:00, quiz start at 19:45, quiz finishes at 22:30
Where: Frank Lee Leisure Centre on the site of Addenbrookes hospital
Entry fee: £5 per person Team size: 6 per team – all money goes to Cam Sight
Parking: Free at Long Road Sixth Form College, 2 mins walk, disabled parking at The Frank Lee

Unlike previous events under 16's are allowed to attend.

If you would like to attend please contact me (Warren Wilson) at Cam Sight on either 01223 420033 or warren@camsight.org.uk. We may be able to accept people turning up on the day but we will need to keep track of numbers on the lead up to the event.

I am fundraising for Cam Sight because I lost a considerable amount of my sight during the summer of 2009, at the age of 19, whilst I was doing my A-Level exams. Cam Sight initially helped me with things such as teaching me to touch type and use screen reading software and they raised the funds to get a tandem that they loan to me, keeping my love for cycling alive. Cam Sight continued to support me with the forms I needed to get into university and some of their fantastic volunteers helped me by transcribing some interviews I recorded for my dissertation. Without their great help I would have found it very difficult to have graduated from Anglia Ruskin University in the summer of 2013 with a 2-1 in history. Since graduating from university I have started working for Cam Sight and bought my own home. I feel the support of Cam Sight has played a significant role in helping me maintain the confidence and drive necessary to live a fulfilling life where I have gone to university, played sport at national level and managed to buy my own home and live independently.

Since working for Cam Sight I have realised the charity supports visually impaired people in Cambridgeshire of any age and in whatever capacity necessary whether it's emotional support, mobility training, technology assistance or organising social events for visually impaired people such as rural support groups and youth groups. Therefore, Considering Cam Sight has been instrumental in the upkeep of not only my upbeat nature, confidence and independence, but also that of others, I thought it would be nice to give something back to them and every year since 2010 I have held a fundraising quiz and raffle.

Copy deadline for the July issue is 14 June.

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

**There will not be a Cresset published in August,
so advertising for events in August need to be
included in the July issue**

'MyHealth Cambridgeshire & Peterborough'

A new app to help Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents find local NHS services available to them has been launched.

Quick and easy to use, the 'MyHealth Cambridgeshire & Peterborough' app will direct you to your nearest appropriate NHS service. This includes local GPs, pharmacies, minor injury units, and dentists, based on your location or postcode.

Free to download and available in five other languages, including Polish, Latvian, and Lithuanian, MyHealth provides up to date information on current services including directions, opening hours, and contact details.

The app is available to download for iOS via Apple Store, Android via Google Play, and Windows phones via Microsoft Store by searching for 'MyHealth C&P CCG'.



TEMPORARY POSITION REQUIRED FOR ALL OR PART OF THIS SUMMER

During June, July and August, help is required of approximately 4 hours per week to cover holidays and sickness of other team members.

You will need to be physically fit and female to provide support to an enterprising mobility impaired female.

The work will incorporate personal assistance, housework and leisure activities.

For further information or to express an interest in this position, please email homeatthemill@phonecoop.coop or telephone 01223 813583

(after 3rd June).

GOOD RATES OF PAY!

Breakfast Club Playworker



Time to Play based at Bottisham Primary School require Playworkers for our new Breakfast Club. If you are enthusiastic, reliable and enjoy working with children, we would love to hear from you.

Positions available are Monday to Friday 07.30am-09.00am term time only (days are negotiable)

No experience is necessary, however you must be willing to participate in training, in particular a 12-hour pediatric first aid course.

Start date as soon as possible.

This post is subject to necessary safeguarding checks including an enhanced DBS disclosure.

Please contact Kayleigh on the email address below if you would like to discuss days, salary or for an application form.
timetoplaybreakfast@yahoo.com

Copy deadline for the July issue is 14 June.

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

**There will not be a Cresset published in August,
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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

**Bottisham British Legion Social club
wins CAMRA Club of the Year Award!
While also maintaining their Cask Marque**

**Saturday 3rd June
BVC any years leavers Charity Disco
£10 Entry (Legion members £5)
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
7.30pm start £3pp**

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31 Downing Close, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DD
Tel. 01223 812063 www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham





The Royal British Legion, Bottisham Branch

In 2006 the Prime Minister, launched a British Armed Forces and Veteran's Day to be observed each year. With its focus on our surviving veterans it is intended to complement commemorative events and become as familiar and respected as Remembrance Sunday which quite properly remembers and honours those who died serving their country.

This is to enable us to recognise the dedication and sacrifices of our present serving Armed Forces who do a sterling job in defending our country and our liberty. The Day also seeks to recognise those Veterans who have served their country in the past and continue to do so by serving their community in their everyday lives.

To mark this occasion and to show our recognition and appreciation of all that our Armed Forces and Veterans are currently doing on our behalf



**The Bottisham Branch of the Royal British Legion
will be holding a commemorative church Service
in Holy Trinity Church Bottisham
on Sunday 25th June 2017 commencing at 5.00pm.**

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THIS OCCASION.

**A particular invitation is made to any service
and ex service personnel.**

Do join us, and we would invite you to come in uniform.

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



**BOTTISHAM
MEETING POINT**

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WEDNESDAY
10.30am – noon

**in The Poppy Lounge
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ADMISSION FREE

Cambridge Open Studios



CAMBRIDGE OPEN STUDIOS ANNOUNCES 2017 SUMMER DATES

Cambridge Open Studios has announced the 2017 dates for its month-long summer art event, which will feature an exciting range of exhibitions by 350 artists at 221 locations in the city and surrounding areas.

Artists of many different kinds will open their doors to the public over the first four weekends in July. Among the huge range of specialisms will be: fine art, photography, pottery, glass making, sculpture, illustration, textiles, jewellery and furniture making, and more besides.

The weekends are: July 1/2, 8/9, 15/16 and 22/23. However, as not all artists will exhibit every weekend it is important to check the website, or refer to the famous yellow guide. These guides will be widely available in local outlets including libraries, tourist information sites, galleries and selected shops.

New for 2017 is an app that will make visit planning even easier. The app will be available to download at the end of June for Apple and Android.

Sonia Villiers, board member of Cambridge Open Studios, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for members of the public to see artists at work, discuss their inspirations and techniques, and to browse, purchase or even commission their work. As always, visitors are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome - and no pressure whatsoever to buy anything. All Cambridge Open Studios are completely free to visitors of all ages.

"Cambridge Open Studios is a rewarding and enriching initiative offering a really entertaining insight into the multi-faceted world of art. We would encourage visitors to call in to as many studios as possible, perhaps planning a route through a particular area incorporating lunch in one of the many local pubs, cafes and restaurants. It would make an inspiring day out for the whole family."

More than 350 members are taking exhibiting in 221 different studios. Many of the artists share studios or work in a collective so in some locations visitors may be able to see work from several artists and craftspeople.

The participating studios are spread throughout the whole region, not just in the city centre, and there will be a wonderful variety of talent on show, with some artists collaborating to share their exhibition space on their chosen dates. As usual, the distinctive yellow COS flags will be out to identify participating studios.

In the months leading up to the open studio event, many artists will be running workshops, courses and exhibitions. Members of the public can keep up to date on their activities via the COS website (www.camopenstudios.co.uk) or by following them on Facebook, Twitter (@CamOpenStudios) and Instagram, where they can also follow specific artists.

Bottisham Artists Taking Part in Cambridge Open Studios 2017

Cambridge Open Studios will be taking place again this July for its month-long summer art event, which will feature an exciting range of exhibitions by 350 artists at 221 locations in the city and surrounding areas.



Below are the artists who are local to the Bottisham area. Not all of the artists open their studios every weekend. The codes indicating which weekends the artist's will be exhibiting are as follows:

- (1) **Weekend 1/2 July - Weekend** (2) **8/9 July - Weekend**
(3) **15/16 July - Weekend** (4) **22/23 July**

- 165 Rebecca-Anne and Denise Boldra -Silver, Swarovski crystal** The Robinson Room, .
166 Matthew Blakely Functional pots & exhibition pieces 9 Abbey Lane, Lode, CB25 9EP - Please park on Lode High Street - Weekend: 2 & 3

GROUP EXHIBITION:

The Old Courthouse, 123 High St, Bottisham, CB25 9BA - Weekend: 2 & 3

167a Heidi Lichterman - Woven textiles and paintings

167b Claire Howieson - Jeweller, silversmith, goldsmith

167c Jeremy Nicholls - Decorative woodwork

168 Mary Jane Montgomerie House - Oil, ink, watercolour Linton House, 101 High St, Swaffham Bulbeck, CB25 0LX - Weekend: 3 & 4

169 Jamie Sugg - Acrylic and watercolour paintings Downing Farm, Station Rd, Swaffham Bulbeck, CB25 0NW - Weekend: 3 & 4

The full Guide to the Cambridge Open Studios can also be accessed and downloaded via website www.camopenstudios.co.uk Twitter: @camopenstudios FB:@CambridgeOpenStudios

Bottisham Under 10's League Plate Winners

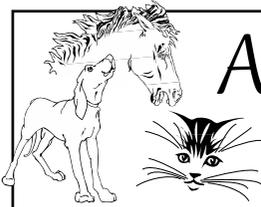
Bottisham's Under 10 team Achieved cup final success as League Plate winners on Saturday 13th May.

Bottisham's players were; Joe Austin, Jack Hegley, Ollie Howlett, Owen Leyshon, Joseph McGonigle, Henry Parish, Cian Plaistow, Ewan Robinson, Joe Struthers and Stan Whalley.

Following a very hard fought match with Saffron Walden a goal finally came in the second period of extra time scored by Ollie Howlett to secure the trophy for Bottisham. Their path to victory involved 6 games; scoring 26 goals and conceding just 1 goal!



Martin Hegley



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Junior Tap	4.15-4.45pm
Intermediate Ballet	4.45-5.15pm
Senior Tap	5.15-5.45pm
Senior Ballet	5.45-6.30pm
Ladies Ballet	6.30-7.30pm

Wednesdays

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The Workers Educational Association is a 21st Century, democratic, voluntary education movement for all adults over the age of 19 committed to widening participation in their community and enabling people to realise their full potential through learning. So, if you are interested in the subject on offer, and looking for something to do on a Thursday morning, why not come along to our series of lectures in Bottisham this autumn? The subject should be of interest to anyone living in any part of Cambridgeshire, that being Crime Fiction & East Anglia by Katherine Jewell. The evocative landscape of East Anglia has long been an inspiration to tellers of stories of murder and mysterious death.

All welcome, and though autumn is some time away, make a note in your diary to join us at the British Legion, Bottisham at 10.00am on Thursday, 5th October. For more information please contact Elaine Steverson T: 01223 812152 or take a look at www.eastern.wea.org.uk

Gerry Cowley 811539

Bottisham Community Library Association

Recent statistics showing comparison with the previous year show that we have improved in recent all sections. Thank you to all who support us.

Tony Jolley has written a comprehensive history of Bottisham Recreation Ground and a copy is available to borrow from our local studies section.

Conflicting reports in the media last week – on Breakfast TV I heard that sales of e-readers are continuing to fall and the sale of books has increased. The papers next day reported that the sale of boxsets is killing off the novel and the 7% increase in book sales was due to diet books, cookery books, biographies and adult colouring books.

Our book sale on the Triangle (mini market with WI cakes and Gardening Club plants went well and we raised over £120 for our funds. Thanks to those who donated books, helped on the day and purchased books. We appreciate those who made donations to us too. We feel that by keeping our prices low (50p per book and also offering buy two get one free) we create a lot of good will. Thank you.

Sylvia Overton.

Copy deadline for the July issue is 14 June.

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

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Bottisham Bowls Club

To give you a flavour of how active our village Bowling Club is, here are the home fixtures for the rest of this season. Do come along to the Club at the end of Downing Close to watch, relax, have a drink. You never know, you might even get interested and want to join in!

DATE	TIME	TEAM	OPPONENTS	CONTEST
Sun 04 June	10.30am			Open triples Event
Mon 05 June	2pm	B	Longstanton	Div. 2
Tues 06 June			TBC	
Wed 07 June	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Fri 09 June	2pm	A	Fordham A	Div. 1
Sun 11 June	10.30am			Drawn Pairs
Mon 12 June	2pm	A	Newmarket B	Div. 1
Wed 14 June	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Thur 15 June	6.30pm	Bottisham	Stretham	Evening League
Fri 16 June	2pm	A	Cottenham A	Cup
Mon 19 June	2pm	A	Cottenham A	Div. 1
Wed 21 June	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Thur 22 June	6.30pm	Bottisham	Soham A	Evening League
Sun 25 June	1.30pm			Dave Frost Challenge
Mon 26 Jun	2pm	B	Ely Beet	Div. 2
Wed 28 Jun	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Thur 29 June	6.30pm	Bottisham	Ely Beet A	Evening League
Fri 30 June	2pm	A	Mildenhall	Div. 1
Mon 03 Jul	2pm	A	Burwell	Div. 1
Wed 05 Jul	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Fri 07 Jul	2pm	B	Willingham	Div. 2
Mon 10 Jul	2pm	A	Newmarket A	Div. 1
Wed 12 Jul	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Thur 13 Jul	6.30pm	Bottisham	Haddenham	Evening League
Fri 14 Jul	2pm	B	Isleham	Div. 2
Mon 17 Jul	2pm	A	Chippenham	Div. 1
Wed 19 Jul	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Thur 20 Jul	6.30pm	Bottisham	Isleham	Evening League
Wed 26 Jul	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Thur 27 Jul	6.30pm	Bottisham	Chippenham	Evening League
Fri 28 Jul	2pm	B	Soham B	Div. 2
Mon 31 Jul	2pm	A	Soham A	Div. 1

continued on page 45

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continued from page 43

Tues 01 Aug	2pm	Friendly	Cams v Norfolk	County
Wed 02 Aug	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Sun 06 Aug	10.30am			3 Wood Open Pairs
Mon 07 Aug	2pm	B	Haddenham	Div. 2
Wed 09 Aug	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Thur 10 Aug	6.30pm	Bottisham	Ely Beet B	Evening League
Fri 11 Aug	2pm	A	Newmarket B	Div. 1
Sun 13 Aug	10.30am			Drawn Triples
Mon 14 Aug	2pm	B	Cottenham B	Div. 2
Wed 16 Aug	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League
Thur 17 Aug	6.30pm	Bottisham	Fordham	Evening League
Fri 18 Aug	2pm	A	Littleport A	Div. 1
Sat 19 Aug	10.30am & 2pm	Club Finals		
Sun 20 Aug	10.30 am & 2pm	Club Finals		
Mon 21 Aug	2pm	B	Mitchell Lodge	Div. 2
Wed 23 Aug	2pm	Club	Club	Wed. League/TBC
Fri 25 Aug	6pm	Bottisham	Royal British Legion	Annual Challenge
Fri 01 Sept	2pm	A	B	Annual Challenge
Sun 03 Sept	2.15pm		Presidents Day	Cup

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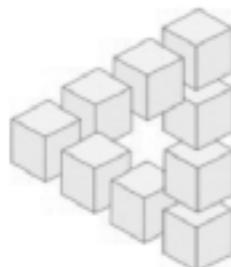
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

Thoughts of good and bad have featured heavily in my nutty consciousness in the past few weeks and I am struck by the stark contrasts in our contemporary life and times. The mass media seems to oxygenate our insatiable demands for sensation, providing a constant stream of emotional highs and lows for our soap-opera world. Still, I suppose it gives the commentators among us a good excuse for putting quill to parchment, so to speak!

Firstly we bade a sad farewell to a couple of good guys. Italian cyclist Michele Scarponi, a veteran of many grand tours and winner of the 2011 Giro d'Italia after (bad guy) Alberto Contador had been stripped of the title, met an untimely end at the hands of a van whilst out on a training ride shortly after finishing a creditable fourth in the Tour of the Alps. A solid family man, Scarponi was said, by British rider Alex Dowsett, to be "one of the smiliest, happiest guys in the peloton". A tragic tale, but what a lovely way to be remembered.

Then former England footballer Ugo Ehiogu collapsed and died after taking a training session with the Tottenham squad. Ehiogu was a picture of health and toughness throughout his career and possessed the qualities associated with true British sportsmanship. A "colossus" on the pitch and a "gentle giant" off it, according to England manager and erstwhile team mate Gareth Southgate. Another fitting epitaph.

Ghanaian international Sulley Muntari was at the centre of a media storm in early May after falling victim to racist abuse from the terraces. He asked the referee to stop the game and was promptly cautioned for dissent; so he walked off in protest and received a second caution for leaving the field of play without permission – resulting in a red card and a suspension. This then led to talk of a players' strike, which threatened to spill into other countries, and which illustrates perfectly that refereeing is more about management than simply applying the laws of the game! Fortunately the Italian FA subsequently saw sense and overturned this punishment and Muntari's place among the good guys was secured for life.

My other good guy is not a guy at all... it is Baroness Grey-Thompson, who published her independent report into Welfare in British Sport at the end of April. Her recommendations included, among other things: a Sports Ombudsman to police governing bodies' duty of care to athletes; a duty of care charter; a government-funded British Athletes Commission; and a board member with specific responsibility for 'duty of care' on every national governing body. (Quite why this isn't already a requirement is beyond me!) Wise words, Lady Tanni; let's see if the government that funded this report has the gumption to implement it.

I won't afford too many column inches to the bad guys, but there were one of two things that so piqued my sensibilities that I couldn't let them pass unnoticed. Did you see that Ched Evans had quietly returned to Sheffield United after having resurrected his career at Chesterfield following the unsurprising quashing of his rape conviction? Good luck to him, but please let's not make the mistake of thinking that, after what he did with that poor, misguided teenager six years ago, being 'not guilty' of rape elevates him to good guy status in the eyes of respectable people. The supporters and sponsors of The Blades may have had to

(Sports Nut continued on page 53)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

swallow their indignation, as I'm sure they will when Evans starts banging in a few goals, but – once a low-life... eh?

A couple of banishments caught my eye too. Ille Nastase managed to sour any fond memories we may have harboured for his annual antics at Wimbledon in the 1970s by insulting our women tennis players during their recent Fed Cup match in Romania. Once a showman at the top of his sport, 'Old Nasty' is now serving a suspension as nothing more than an irrelevant anachronism. Another soon-to-be-forgotten talent is Joey Barton, a single-cap England footballer, famed for his bad temper, his ability to speak Scouse with a French accent (during a spell in Marseilles) and his failure to settle at any one of eight different clubs. He has finally been kicked out of the game for 18 months – effectively ending his career – after an FA disciplinary commission found him guilty of breaking betting regulations over a number of years. The rule is: no gambling of any sort on football. Easy enough to understand you would think, but poor Joey is an addict, you see, and he is "disappointed" that his medical condition wasn't given due consideration when the commission examined his 1,260 offences. Idiot!

And finally, a good story about bad boys! One of the bugbears of our local group of travelling England football supporters has been the behaviour of some of our so-called fans at away games. So much so, that we have complained directly to the FA on a number of occasions, pleading with them to show the courage to single these people out and expel them. Well, in a dramatic break with their traditional prevarication, the FA has torn up the membership cards of a number of these morons, following their xenophobic songs and disrespect towards the Germans in March's friendly in Dortmund. I wish the FA had specified the number of individuals banned but, as they apparently have 34 under investigation, we can only hope that this is the start of a serious attempt to clean up our collective act. Let's face it, we could do with all the friends we can get in Europe these days!

TTFN Gerry Daish

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Who is really pulling the strings?

With apologies to those who are eagerly awaiting the third and final instalment of 'A multi-millionaire at last!' All being well it will follow in the July issue of the Cresset.

Well, it beggars belief doesn't it? Article 50 is still warm off the press and already we see those - both at home and in Brussels - hell bent on frustrating the process. Wearisome challenges and dubious posturing tactics to block reasonable discussion are making a 'No Deal' scenario seem a real possibility. The time frame set for the 'negotiations' is ridiculously short but some seem to hold the perception that the two year period was at the behest of the UK Government. We should therefore set the record straight by reminding ourselves that this stipulation was not by choice. The time frame was set by the heads of state and governments of countries of the EU by way of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009. The Lisbon Treaty was designed to make the EU "more democratic, more transparent and more efficient. The Treaty also modified the wording of one of the four core principles concerning 'free movement' of EU nationals - the amendment saw the term 'workers' changed to 'people'!! No matter what side you took in the referendum the UK voted 'democratically' to leave - although be it by a small margin - and it has been emphatically 'transparent' in its reasoning for doing so. But some in Brussels have taken the opportunity of a General Election to cause mischief by sowing seeds of fear and confusion and setting new time and financial agendas in a bid to challenge and to frustrate the soundness of British democracy. Just like ex-President Obama, they clearly do not understand the psyche of the British irrespective of political persuasions! Of course the UK would like a seamless transition to an effective and mutually beneficial partnership including the ongoing rights of EU workers. If nothing else we can all agree on that surely! But listening to the recent inflammatory rhetoric coming out of the EU one can only conclude that the UK is being held up as the naughty child only to be sent to the corner as an example to others and to be taught a special lesson. Personally I believe Theresa May should have kept her cool but I can empathise with the Prime Minister to a certain extent who obviously felt British interests were under attack and hence considered it necessary to retaliate in a like manner. It is therefore right that we read of Junker and his cohorts being summoned to attend a self-inflicted lambasting, but the ticking off will not administered by EU HQ - and, if not by Brussels, then by whom?

It is by pure chance then that I have just delved into Yanis Varoufakis' book "Adults in the Room: My Battle with Europe's Deep Establishment" and noted his warning to Britain. In case you are wondering; Varoufakis, a world-famous economist, is the former Finance Minister of Greece. In his personal account he blows the lid on Europe's (alleged) hidden agenda and exposes what actually goes on in its corridors of power. He suggests that other member countries dare not pass wind without sanction from a 'higher authority' and he backs this up with examples of promises and pledges made to him and to Greece by senior European figures which were then repeatedly blocked by this same 'higher authority'. Varoufakis argues that "this clearly demonstrates the lengths to which a particularly dominant EU country will go to maintain the EU and the single currency. And why - so it can continue to grow in political and economic strength relative to its senior but weaker partners in the Eurozone." The key to its success he argues is its participation in a weak currency - whose value would collapse without it - enabling its exports to sell far more

(Jolley Old World continued on page 59)

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cheaply than had it retained its domestic currency. He also asks why, in a collaboration of 'sovereign' nations, one country should continue to prosper at the expense of other countries that have been forced into EU imposed austerity?

Varoufakis speaks authoritatively about his experience of dealing with the EU. But is there any other evidence that might support his account of an asserted 'higher authority' other than Brussels? Well yes there is. 'La Monde' - a French newspaper centred on Paris - recently published an article referring to "the infliction of the Euro modelled on another European country's currency and banking system." La Monde also comments on the economic and social ideals of the EU being inflected by elements of this same country's political and economic ideology. And it is in this same context that I am still reminded of a conversation I had last year with a Danish gentleman who suggested that the European Project is all about one country's ultimate aim to right history by mimicking its 1871 - 1914 'Empire' - his words, not mine! An interesting notion and I suppose you do not have to look very far beyond Brussels itself to find a European head of state whose deeds and persona could be recognised to mirror these assertions. One stance is taken in open forum but another when speaking with EU officials and ministers behind closed doors. For example accommodating noises are made to Britain when speaking publicly but then a contrary position is adopted inside the EU on issues such as the UK's exit bill and the sequencing of negotiations. Undoubtedly this is to make sure other EU countries sit up and take note of what could be in store for them should they be thinking of their own style Brexit and to encourage them to 'toe the line' with the (retributive) plan for Brexit. Where is the renewed EU democracy of 2009 in this approach? It is argued in some quarters, and by Varoufakis himself, that this statesperson is so worried that 'the fly in the ointment' (Britain) will spoil all political and economic ambitions to such an extent that a punitive web is being woven in the hope 'the fly' will entrap itself and thus be forced to capitulate or face being devoured. Thus the earlier promise of constructive negotiations has morphed into an agenda putting political positioning and dominance at the forefront rather than the civilised and economic interests of the broader Europe.

Varoufakis suggests his revelations should be a stark warning for Britain's coming Brexit negotiations with a prescriptive EU. As most pragmatic people in the UK and Europe understand; even though Article 50 has been served we must all work together in the interests of concord, economics and security. Brexit would also seem to be an urgent wake-up call to moderate the dominance of one country and to renew European democracy, transparency and efficiency before it is too late. And even Macron, the new French President and a Europhile, agrees that the EU is in urgent need of reform from an outdated political ideology.

Now finally; with so many of the younger disgruntled yet eligible voters not putting their 'cross in the box' at the 'Referendum' in 2016 now is the time to exercise that hard fought right to vote and do so at the General Election on June 8th. But it is vitally important that in doing so everyone takes the time to make sure they are making informed choices and not being misled by a lot of the 'rubbish' that appears on social media. 'Fake News' is a big issue these days and one of the best ways of checking is to do an online search of the more reputable newspapers and the BBC. If the story is also being covered by them then you can be pretty well assured it is not 'fake news'.

TJ

“I think it will be a clash between the political will and the administrative won't!” – *Yes Minister.*



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