

July/August 2020



THE
Cresset



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

At last there seems to be some light appearing at the end of the tunnel!

Perhaps if we progress carefully, we will avoid the roof collapsing and taking us back to the entrance again.

It has been a strange time, but I hope you have been staying safe and making good use of the time. I have been doing lots of things which needed doing, but which were never priorities when trips out and golf and socialising took priority. I even ran out of the obvious and found myself looking for jobs to do and by golly finding them!

As I write, 16 weeks and counting. It will be good to see some of the activities starting up again. Pubs have opened albeit with restrictions in place. You will see in the magazine News from the Community, Sports and Social Club detailing their opening hours and some of the things they have introduced to fit in with the government guidelines.

I am sure it won't happen, but we hope we don't see some of the crowded scenes we saw at pubs in London when they opened at first. Crowds, yes, but social distancing being observed.

The Social Club has been maintaining a takeaway service for some weeks and this has been a lifesaver for the Clubs income and probably a lifesaver for some of the members. Even a five-minute chat in the carpark was worth the visit, never mind the couple of beers that I took home.

Soon Clubs and organisation will be able to meet up again, but it is bound to be a different set up and some of those changes may be permanent.

In the meantime, stay safe and do follow those guidelines as the easing of lockdown progresses. The last thing we need is another spike in the Autumn and all the good work wasted.

Finally, we are working towards resuming a printed magazine from the next one in September. If you have reports or items to be included, can you email them to me by 14th August for inclusion.

Enjoy this on line Cresset magazine.



Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 August.

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

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

You no doubt will be pleased to hear that we opened the green on Saturday 4th July at 14.00hrs.

We will need to follow 'Bowling and Covid-19 Bowls England Recommendations 02.06.20 which are summarised as follows;-

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Use of Sanitisers A dispenser to be provided on the corner of BCSSC building at the entrance gate to the green. This is to be used by all visiting the green both on arrival and when leaving. Sanitising wipes will be provided in the toilets in the clubhouse. Members to provide their own sanitisers for personal use. All wipes to be put in bin to be provided and disposed of at the end of each session of play.

Equipment Sanitise bowls, jack and mat before and after play. Consider whether need to use scoreboards, pushers etc if so sanitise before and after use. Limit number of people handling jack and mats.

Rink Fees: £2 pp rink fee should be paid on each occasion. Money to be put in box in clubhouse.

Competitions: We will not be running club KO competitions this season but we hope to run at least a club triples competition before the end of the season.

The Autumn renovation has been put back this year to extend the playing season. It is hoped that the green will remain open until at least mid- September.

Enjoy your bowling.

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**If you would like to join us and help out,
then please contact Ian Cole on 812573**



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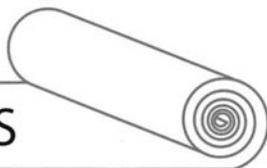


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Our June and July meetings were again held online via 'Zoom'. Residents are welcome to attend and, if they contact me, I can provide them with the link to join. Although we have no meeting in August, with our next meeting on 7th September. We still have a parish councillor vacancy so if you are interested in supporting the village in this way, please contact me.

The Council received a significant number of applications for the role of Parish Clerk, with some strong candidates. A shortlist was interviewed in May and the Council is pleased to be able to report that they have appointed Mr Jonathan Giles to replace me, although I will still be here until the end of September. Jonathan is a resident of the village and currently Clerk of Lode PC – a role he will continue in tandem with this. He will be commencing 14th September, to allow two weeks overlap with me. as he picks up the ropes.

The County Council are still busy with potholes. You may have seen many marked up in the village ready for repair. We have been waiting sometime for some stakes to place on the 'triangle' area in front of the shops to prevent cars parking here. These have now arrived and one of our councillors will be putting them in shortly. County Councillor Shuter confirmed that the County Council had allocated £2.9M towards creating cycle paths throughout Cambridgeshire. He has requested a cycle path from Lode to Burwell, which is being seriously considered.

The footpath at Downing Close has been reinstated and is felt to be a significant improvement. We have also asked the District Council to look at the footpath leading through Ancient Meadows to Beechwood Avenue. The stones are mostly gone, leaving only the plastic mesh which is quite slippery.

Our annual audit is now complete and is available to view either on the parish council website or on the village noticeboard.

Our cemetery consultants have now produced a draft CAD design for the new cemetery to be situated off of Lode Road. We will be considering over the coming months how we might consult with the village on the plans, given current restrictions limit face to face meetings. The plans are currently being reviewed by the National Trust and some changes may take place before the final draft is ready for consultation.

Regarding the proposed application for a retirement home in the village, this will be called in to the planning committee at the District Council for consideration, rather than a decision being made by an individual planning officer. We have been advised this is unlikely to happen before the autumn. An application for the erection of four dwellings on the First Copy site, which was refused by the District Council, will be going to appeal. The Parish Council do not support this application because, as with the retirement home application, it breaches the greenbelt.

Thank you once again to those of you who have been helping out in the village, whether it be by picking litter, or trimming hedges and grass verges. Our grass contractors seem to be on top of things now and have most staff back to work. So hopefully normal service will resume.

The staff of the Village Stores and Revd. Sue Giles have been doing a tremendous job during this crisis, along with the many volunteers helping with shopping and the helpline. We once again thank them for their support of the village. Councillor Sunner has made us aware that he is making some improvements to the shop in the coming months, which unfortunately will make it necessary to close the shop for 3-4 weeks. He has no start date for this work yet and will notify residents nearer the time. The staff are committed to maintaining shopping for the vulnerable through this time which is reassuring.

A bit of a moan I am afraid now. I am sure many of us have seen in the press that one of the negatives of the lockdown has been the amount of litter left lying around –including on the school playing field. The Village College are very concerned at the behaviour of some using the school field. There has been an enormous amount of litter left behind, disposable bbq's, bottles, cans, gas canisters and evidence of drug use. The police have been made aware. Dogs, which are not allowed on the site have also been seen running around. A large oil drum was discarded on the site which the school had to pay to be removed and staff this week (6th July) picked up 7 bin bags of rubbish.

The village is fortunate that both schools allow access to their playing fields out of hours, but we must not abuse this privilege. The staff are not there at weekends and are there for the school, not to police what the rest of the village does and to tidy up after them. Several large groups (10-15 in number) have been reported using the site, who are not generally pupils from the school but older teenagers/young adults. To help the school we are now compiling a rota to check the site for litter. This is anti social behaviour and the school are liaising with the police on how this can be tackled, particularly in regard to the drug related issues. Please, if you are using the site or any other green space in the village, take your litter home with you and encourage your teenager/young adults to do the same.

One more plea from those that pick litter in the village. If you are going to wear face masks or protective gloves, please take them home with you for disposal rather than just dump them on the grass. It is not very pleasant for others to have to remove these for you. I have also had reports that we seem to be having an increase in people not picking up dog poo again. Apart from being a criminal offence, this is not excusable in any way. Please report anyone you see who does not pick up after their dog.

Enjoy your summer everyone!

BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council.

If you wish to apply or find out more information please contact:

Jon Ogborn – Chair Tel: 07486 372780

or Claire Fullwood – Clerk Tel: 07914 219732 (e-mail: clerk@bottishampc.co.uk)

District Councillors' Report

As we attended the District Council's Annual Meeting by Zoom video conference, we realised that we had been your District Councillors for a full year. The year started as we had expected – getting to know people locally, getting the Parish Council meetings and village magazine deadlines into our diaries, setting up our Councillor 'surgeries' and 'Meet your Councillor' dates, visiting the summer village fairs/fetes/feasts and attending the District Council and Committee meetings. Thank you to all of you for helping us to become part of your village life.

We were just starting to feel familiar with our role and responsibilities when everything changed. The impact of Covid-19 has brought the most rapid change many of us will have experienced in our lives. For too many it has ended their lives or taken loved ones from them, and they have our sympathy. Unfortunately, as politicians, we must acknowledge that the official response has too often been inadequate, and some senior people have not complied with the regulations which the rest of us have followed. But what we have seen across our villages, and indeed elsewhere, has been truly inspiring. Parish Councils and voluntary groups making sure everyone's needs are met – from dog walking to shopping. Our local pubs and shops supporting the community with deliveries, takeaways, pop-up-shops, delivering hot food to people who are housebound. Perhaps the most imaginative response we heard of was a musician who would sing a requested song to people who were housebound. As we come out of lockdown, we need to remember that there will still be people who need help, perhaps because they are shielding or vulnerable, or because they are hurting from their loss, or because they have suffered financially. I hope we can keep our great community spirit going to help our neighbours in the best way for them.

The District Council's Annual meeting can still be seen on YouTube at - www.eastcamb.gov.uk/meetings/council-21052020. Cllr Lis Every was re-elected as Chair of Council, with Cllr Alan Sharp elected as Vice Chair. Cllr Anna Bailey remains as Leader of the Council, with Cllr Josh Schumann as her deputy. Cllr Lorna Dupre is Leader of the Lib Dem Group, with Charlotte as her Deputy. John is on Planning and on Finance & Assets and Charlotte is on Finance & Assets and the Bus Services Review Working Party.

Annual Council agreed to set up a Working Party to help East Cambs recover from COVID-19. Its aim is to work with business, Parish Councils and community groups as well as the County Council etc to ensure our local economy recovers and that we enhance the good things which have come from this crisis – notably the community help groups and the increase in cycling and walking as opposed to car journeys which have led to cleaner air. Charlotte proposed the motion to set up this working group and summarised its purpose as to help drive an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable recovery for East Cambs. The working group will be contacting Parish Councils, Community Groups, businesses, and organisations throughout the district, and we would like to hear from individuals, so please get in touch with us if you have any ideas which you think this group should take forward.

We are holding our surgeries and 'Meet your Councillors' by Zoom. The next one is Tuesday 21 July – the surgery will start at 6.00pm, please phone John on 01223 812120 or Charlotte on

07976 607512. ‘Meet your Councillors’ will start at 7.00pm, please contact john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk for the link if you want to join.

Charlotte went walking at dusk a few days ago and saw several bats flying, which is not unusual this time of year. She learnt more about these beautiful creatures at - <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/blog/megan-owen/introduction-uk-bats>

John and Charlotte still cannot have face-to-face meetings or visit people. But we are happy to be contacted by phone or email – john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk - 812120 – charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk 07976 607512. Contact us about anything – we may not always have the answer or be able to help you ourselves, but we will do our best to find someone who does know and can help. Charlotte also has a Facebook Page – you can visit the page at - fb.me/charlottecanelibdem and send messages to her at m.me/charlottecanelibdem.

Planning Notes

20/00488/FUL, 43 Beechwood Avenue, Single storey front extension, NEW APPLICATION.

20/00760/FUL, 1B Jenyns Close, Proposed single storey rear extension, NEW APPLICATION

20/00766/FUL, 3 Parsonage Barns, Proposed side extension incl. internal alterations, NEW APPLICATION

20/00748/FUL, Bottisham Post Office, Subdivision of an existing flat into three flats including a first floor extension, NEW APPLICATION

20/00376/FUL, 1 College Close, Single storey pitched roof extension, APPLICATION APPROVED BY ECDC

20/00421/FUL, 6 Trinity Close, Single storey rear extension to form new family room and kitchen, APPROVED BY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Letter from Bottisham Village Governors

The Staff of the College have worked so hard to make the school and surroundings a safe place for Pupils staff and villagers not only for this village but the whole community.

The recent behaviour of some people has placed an extra load on all staff and in particular the site staff, who, on a Monday morning after illegal and inappropriate behaviour has caused them to have to clear the site before doing essential work inside the School.

The role of the Site Staff is often unseen until situations such as these antisocial and illegal occupations happen. The detritus left often including offensive material.

It is up to us all to support the College in order for the Village to be able to have the benefit of the site during the holidays when the Staff at the college are away.

I am starting to collate a rota in order to help to keep the site free particularly after the weekend. Neil Winkup, another Governor will also be involved. Plus some Parish Councillors

We do hope folk will take some responsibility for their actions during this concerning time.

Any offers of help still may be needed in September. Do get in touch.

Hilda Buchanan

News from Saplings Preschool

Saplings Preschool are looking forward to reopening in September 2020 following the Covid-19 closures.

Some exciting new changes have been taking place over the past few months and we can't wait for the children to return to explore, investigate and enjoy our new 'nature based learning environment'! This includes our brand new outside cafe, investigation shed and the introduction of lots of beautiful, natural items to encourage children's curiosity, imagination and learning.

The outside area is currently being transformed, with picnic tables and a covered area to enable us to use the garden to its full potential all year round and more to come very soon. A massive thank you to the Tesco Bags for Help Covid-19 grant, the Waitrose Community Matters scheme and committee member Chloe (who ran the Cambridge half marathon and raised sponsorship for Saplings) for helping this to happen.

We have spaces available for September 2020 onward so please email manager@saplingsbottisham.co.uk for further information.

We welcome all children aged two - four and accept two and three year funding. We are open 9am-12pm Monday - Friday term time only.

Thank you for your support.

Sarah Hunt, Manager - Saplings Preschool

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Public Transport Matters

From the 15th June we can use buses and trains if we are wearing a face covering and keep our social distance but we are encouraged not to and to cycle where we can. This is not as easy in the villages as it may be in towns. There is a mention of a 80% capacity being possible but another comment said that double decker buses could be reduced to 15 seats. Bus punctuality has been greatly improved over the last 3 months due to the lack of cars on the road and consequent travel congestion improvement. Stagecoach will be asking for exact fares to be paid. The 11 and 12 will be running at their usual times. They have been mainly empty so it will be interesting to see whether from today they have more passengers. The Busways will be running. Check if you are catching a bus from Emmanuel St. as some of the stops have been changed round. Park and Ride services will be open – Madingley Road, Newmarket Rd., Babraham Rd. and Trumpington park and ride. The X5 service has been reinstated between Bedford and Oxford. National Express will resume services on the 1st July 2020. They are selling tickets. They are contracting to offer school transport in North America and looking to other countries as well. Shearings Coach Co is in liquidation. Fortunately I hadn't signed up to and paid for a holiday to Cornwall in October. Rail ticket prices went up in January and people bought season tickets which due to lockdown they may not have been able to use and refunds are being delayed. There are suggestions that rail fares should be linked to the Consumer Price Index not the Retail Price Index and so could be lower. The arguments over the route of the proposed 2 new busways continue but are now said to have been finalised. They will provide off-road routes for two as yet unconfirmed 'electric vehicles' and join the usual road routes at each end. It will look and function more like a normal road. There will be 2 additional park and ride sites – one east of Babraham and the other north of St. Neot's Road and Hardwick. Waterbeach and a connection to Newmarket Road is another project under consideration by the Greater Cambridgeshire partnership. Stapleford and Gt. Shelford are against a proposed route for a busway through green belt land.

Rail info: 03457 48 49 50 traveline: 0871 200 22 33

These are helpful at this time of things changing due to the pandemic.

Happy travelling – take care! Keep safe and well!

Paddy James

GILES BREAM PENSION FUND

Applications are invited from widows or widowers to receive a quarterly cash pension from the above charity. Applicants must have lived in the Parish of Bottisham for at least seven years.

Please contact the clerk to the trustees for an application form.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Clerk to the trustees

64 Lode Road, Lode. CB25 9ET e-mail bottishamlocalcharities@gmail.com
or telephone 07725 512497/01223 294132

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On 1st January 2026, historical routes in England that aren't properly recorded will be lost to the public forever. We are looking for people to volunteer their time to help us identify and register these routes before it's too late.

2026 research can be really flexible and done as and when you have time and energy. We are keen to hear from volunteers with a range of skills and abilities, which may include: solving puzzles, map reading or an interest in local history. Support, training and expenses provided for all 2026 volunteers.

If you would like to register to support the BHS 2026 project in your area, please contact our Volunteer Support Team at volunteer@bhs.org.uk

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SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

Whilst many of the Covid-19 restrictions remain in force we hope, before too long, with considered professional advice and consequent relaxation of rules, that we may be able to safely and progressively venture back into the ‘outside world’

C.F.R.S. is urging residents to take extra care whilst outdoors this summer.

With temperatures rising, fires in open areas of land can easily start, spread and become out of control.

Group Commander Paul Clarke, head of community fire safety at C.F.R.S., said: “We want to help ensure that people safely enjoy the sunny weather whilst it’s here. High temperatures and dry areas of land can be perfect conditions for a fire to spread. Something as simple as not properly stubbing out a cigarette, or using a disposable barbecue on grass, can start a fire that can develop quickly.”

There are some simple steps we urge residents to take to help prevent outdoor fires:

- Put disposable barbecues on bricks, do not place directly on grass.
- Ensure cigarettes are completely out
- Do not throw cigarettes out of car windows onto grass verges or vegetation
- Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground, the sun’s rays refract through the glass and can start a fire
- Use barbecues on a hard, flat surfaces, away from grass, shrubs and fencing
- Importantly - talk to your children about the dangers of starting a fire.

TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM!

Did you know that you should test your smoke alarms at least once a month? Or that you should have smoke alarms on every floor of your home? Or that Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service carry out free home visits to make sure that your home is fire safe?

Visit this website for helpful tips and advice: <https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk>

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Get the call - become an on-call firefighter

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking to recruit more on-call firefighters to help serve local communities across the county. CFRS is looking for men and women from all backgrounds to become on-call firefighters and provide emergency cover from either their home or their workplace.

On-call firefighters are a vital part of our Service and community. They respond to a wide range of incidents, from fighting fires, attending road traffic collisions, animal rescues to supporting other emergency services. In addition to responding to emergency incidents, our

on-call firefighters support their communities by providing information and advice on a range of community safety topics.

They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available plus additional payments for attending incidents and drill nights (one evening a week for two hours).

It's a hugely rewarding role, and we hope to encourage members of the community from all backgrounds to contact us to find out more about becoming an on-call firefighter.

For more information or to get in touch contact us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or on 0800 9179994. Like us on Facebook for regular updates www.facebook.com/cambsfrs or follow us on Twitter @cambsfrs.

Bottisham Bowling Club

You no doubt will be pleased to hear that we opened the green on Saturday 4th July at 14.00hrs.

We will need to follow 'Bowling and Covid-19 Bowls England Recommendations 02.06.20 which are summarised as follows:-

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Enjoy your bowling.

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The Club re-opened its doors on 4th July after fifteen weeks!

In the latter half of the lockdown we had take-away evenings on Tuesdays and Fridays which proved very successful. Thank you all for your tremendous support. You can of course still come and see us for take-away beer.

Now we are open again we need your support more than ever.

Initial opening hours are:

Tuesday 17.00 – 19.00

Wednesday 17.00 – 19.00

Friday 17.00 – 21.00

Saturday 16.00 – 21.00

Sunday 12.00 – 14.00 and 16.00 – 20.00

These could change so please look at the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk

You will notice some changes in The Club.

A ONE-WAY SYSTEM: Fewer tables and chairs to accommodate social distancing. Only one person allowed at the bar at a time and no standing at the bar. One set of toilets in use and no indoor games at the time of writing, although this will be reviewed as Government guidance changes. All areas are also cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. We have purchased additional outdoor seating so hopefully we will get some decent weather to make full use of it. One thing we have not done is put our prices up, so please come along soon and support your local club. We look forward to seeing you.

If you are not a member we would welcome you joining.

The membership year runs from 1st October and membership renewal will be £20 but anyone joining now can enjoy all the benefits of membership now with a renewal date of 1st October 2021. Initial membership costs £21. That is £20 annual subscriptions plus a £1 share. Please come along and join us, we would be very pleased to see you.

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W.I. - Gardening Club Bottisham Community Library

COMBINED REPORT

Written in mid-June we are still in a state of Limbo, nothing has happened and so little to report.

The only stroke of luck in this lockdown period was that we avoided the fierce rainstorm on the afternoon of 6th June when we would all have had fund raising stalls at the Bottisham Summer Fete.

The news from **THE LIBRARY SERVICE** in general is that all library service charges have been suspended and the due dates of items will be extended until at least the end of the Government lockdown for shielded individuals. If you do not at present have a library card you can join to listen to books and use the on line resources at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries. Our library which is on school premises will not be opened until at least September and usage may still even then be restricted. I hope many of you borrowed your full complement of books and jigsaws before lock down commenced and we shall be pleased to see you when we can re-open. There is a separate advert about the summer reading scheme elsewhere.

THE NEXT W.I. MEETING is in the lap of the gods. We do not meet in August but usually have an outing arranged. Once more we are dependent on our meeting venue re-opening this time Queens Court. As a group we have not kept together as perhaps some other institutes have. Possibly this is because of our ages as many of us are not that technically minded and do not use Zoom etc. We are however remaining in contact with our members on an individual basis.

THE GARDENING CLUB can not even think of meeting again until the Poppy Room at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club is open.

I think that all these groups and also **MEETING POINT** which is sorely missed will have problems in future with social distancing but we will do our best to overcome them.

Personally I have enjoyed my hibernation (in part). The house has had a spring clean, the garden a good tidy up and my husband has painted the shed and front door and completely cleaned and rearranged the garage. Not thrown out as much as I would have liked though. I have got through a number of books that I had saved for a rainy day, completed jigsaws and knitted squares for blankets. No different to any of you I expect. Missed family, holidays to the Lake District and a river cruise in Germany. Found lots of new walks around the villages and enjoyed watching spring develop. I have been keeping a diary too so watch out for the next Booker short list.

Sylvia Overton

M&P

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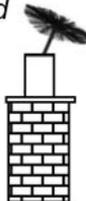
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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

We hope you are keeping safe and well in the current situation.

In these changing times these are the current ways the Practice is working, as at time of writing.

Appointments: Continuing to operate by phone and video link, only calling patients in who need to be seen face to face after they have been triaged by phone or video.

Dispensary: Dispensary is going to open as normal with patients collecting both acute and repeat prescriptions. The practice will help those shielding or unable to get out, to arrange a volunteer to collect on their behalf if they have not got a friend or relative who can.

Attending Surgery: All patients who enter the practice need to be wearing some form of face covering. Either a cloth mask or scarf which covers the mouth and nose.

Delays: The Practice continue to operate on a reduced number of staff and ask that all patients be understanding that there may be longer wait times for the phones.

On line Appointments: They are releasing more online phone consultation appointments for patients to book into if you have access to online services. These are bookable on the day.

Social Prescriber: She is available to help all those needing assistance at home and will work with patients to help them get the support they need. If you are struggling at home during this time please phone the surgery and an appointment can be arranged for a phone consultation with the social prescriber who can assist you with accessing the appropriate resources.

Routine 'Flu Vaccinations: The surgery will be contacting patients who have previously been offered these, but not taken up the offer, to see if they wish to do so this year in order to be able to arrange a sufficient supply.

New website: A new website will be launched shortly for the practice. Hopefully patients will find this easier to navigate than the old site.

Routine Blood Tests and Addenbrooke's Appointments: No change at present.

Next Patient Group Meeting: Currently on hold.

Bottisham Patients' Participation Group

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 August.

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

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Rev. Sue Giles writes

The first exciting thing to share is that with changes in Government guidelines most of our church buildings are now open again for private prayer. You would be very welcome to drop in on your walks around the village. Sit and enjoy the peace of the building, bring those you love to God in prayer, share your hopes and concerns with the God who is closer to us than the air we breathe. Lode, Bottisham and Swaffham Prior are open each day, Quy is open on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons 2-5pm. The only church not open at present is Swaffham Bulbeck because we are anticipating major work to install the long-awaited toilet in the next few weeks (bats permitting!).

Although the church buildings have been closed for worship over the past 12 weeks the church family has still been gathering for worship on-line. Church members, along with other wonderful volunteers, have continued to offer practical help and support in the villages. The church has sought new ways to support those who are grieving and has adapted the way funerals have taken place to make them the very best they can be for families. We have continued to work with the couples who should have been celebrating their marriages in our churches. As part of our reflection on what we have learnt over the past weeks and what we have missed, I asked everyone on the electoral roll some questions about worship and the church. The questions were linked to Pentecost the festival of the coming of the Holy Spirit which we keep as the birthday of the Christian church. The following are some of our reflections.

Whilst most people who could access the Zoom services were grateful for the technology which gave us the opportunity to see and talk to each other and enabled us to worship together, there were some constant themes which surfaced. Many people said they found it more difficult to worship in this way. Christians can worship God anywhere and at any time. There is no need for a special building, we can pray and worship at home, in the garden or the countryside, on the bus or at work. However, many people find that sacred spaces whether a building or a holy outdoor space, help them to connect with our transcendent God and help us to sense the numinous. Those spaces, often very beautiful and hallowed by many generations, give a sense of continuity and have helped people to feel the otherness of God who is close yet is not like us. Churches were built, often by past generations, to glorify God and that communicates itself to those who come to spend time in them today. It is that feeling which draws many visitors to cathedrals and other sacred sites across the world.

When we worship at home we are often surrounded by the ordinary, by the things that have piled up around us that need to be done, homes are full of everyday “stuff”. Home may also be a place of varied emotions and it could be full of sounds with the television or music playing in the next room. So, what have we learnt? Well, perhaps we have learnt to value once again the buildings that are part of our heritage. To appreciate their beauty and tranquillity and to value the illusive sense of holiness they often convey. We have also learnt that it is important to be able to connect in a similar way at home or wherever we find ourselves. Lockdown has taught us an important lesson about working towards that same

sense of connection and sacredness amongst the ordinary places of our lives. That requires practice, sometimes it needs concentrated effort to ignore the things that are clamouring for our attention or the noises beyond. Lockdown has helped us to understand that whilst for many of the regular congregation our buildings are a great help, their otherness and dislocation from ordinary everyday life can be a barrier to those who are unused to them. People searching for a way to connect with God and those wanting to explore their own spiritual nature often find the strangeness of church off-putting whereas on-line they have been able to access worship from the security of what they know and feel comfortable with. Even to participate whilst not being seen. Lockdown has enabled us to recognise God's grace at work even through difficult times. We have learnt some new skills, re-evaluated some ancient truths and faced some current challenges and in all these things God has revealed more of himself and his involvement in our lives.

The second great insight from our new ways of worshipping is that not only is place important, but people are too. Yes, we have been able to see each other, we have been able to chat over coffee but we have not been able to gather in person or see each other face to face. There is something very significant about being together in the flesh. We should not be surprised at this since God made us to be embodied and at the heart of the Christian faith is the Incarnation, God taking flesh in Jesus and being with us physically. It's difficult to explain why seeing each other is not sufficient but many church-goers remarked on how they had missed being with other people, sharing the physicality of holy communion, singing together, the immediacy of how our bodies are involved in communication and the importance of touch. Communicating on Zoom is tiring and not completely satisfactory. We cannot easily gauge moods or read emotions expressed through another's body language and instead we have to gaze at their faces for clues. Going forward this too should inform our worship and our outreach. Whilst it is very good to help people to feel welcome at worship from the comfort and security of their own home there is no substitute for the immediacy of being part of a loving and caring community which is focusing its collective mind and heart upon the physical expression of worship. In the Christian tradition that physical expression is found in the lifting of hands in praise or in kneeling to pray or receive the sacrament. It might also be found in the action of making the sign of the cross. All these things remind us that we are an embodied community and our faith is expressed physically in worship and practically in service of others.

There were many other things which came out of the congregational responses and it has been good to stop and reflect together. Going forward our worship may not be as it was for some while. In fact, it may never get back to precisely what we were used to. However, we thank God for all that he has shown us and challenged us with during this time. We are looking forward to building, with his grace and help, worship which will sustain his people so that we may serve Him in the world. We thank God for showing us new ways of reaching out to include others as we worship Him.

May God bless you.

Sue

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EVERY LIFE MATTERS...

Like many I have been following the narrative on recent events and sadly much of what I have read and heard in the media seems to me to be unprincipled and misleading journalism, wantonly divorced from reality. Some even argue that this lack of journalistic scruples is in fact encouraging divisiveness in our society.

With the current BLM protests being so excitedly promoted in the British media, many Britons feel unable to speak out in support of safeguarding British culture and history. Is this for fear of being branded racist or prejudiced I wonder?

But the line of tolerability was surely crossed when BLM activists started berating British patriotic songs as celebrating colonial suppression. Clearly they are unaware that 'Rule Britannia...' did not originate as a song of imperialism but as a poem born out of freedom from slavery - hence the famous refrain: "Britons never will be slaves!" The same theme is repeated in the Royal Navy's 'Heart of Oak': "To honour we call you, as freemen not slaves". No doubt these very same people, and possibly many others like them, have not heard of white slavery when thousands of white Europeans, including the British, were enslaved during the 17th and 18th centuries by the Corsairs on the Barbary Coast of North Africa. This is the side of history never taught in school when white slaves or 'White Gold' as they were called, were captured in their thousands along the British coastline and sent into slavery. History illustrates that no group of colour or of creed, however allegedly hard done by, has the exclusive right to feel aggrieved...

Yes, of course Black Lives Matter - every life matters. But can you and should you attempt to eradicate history by railing against it using uncivilised, destructive and violent protest? Surely we learn from the nuances of history by properly educating ourselves about it - not by censoring it textually and visually. And we mitigate any injustice through the civilised freedoms of the democratic processes we are all fortunate to have in this country. Could it be that many of the activists, and others to whom the rule of law does not apply, are the product of an education system that has spawned a generation, or possibly two, who know their rights but who fail to acknowledge or even understand their responsibilities? And have teaching institutions, such as Oxbridge, played a big part in this by pandering to the 'no platforming' and 'safe spaces' of obsessive ideologies? If so they have failed to uphold the very essence of the time honoured ethos of a university education.

I therefore find it shameful and offensive that there are those around us, particularly in the world of academia that wants to wipe out a narrative that does not conform to their 'woke' chronicles on social justice. And if what we have witnessed over recent weeks is the manner in which BLM militants identify with probably the most tolerant country in the world then the empathy that many had for the 'cause' has been weakened or even lost.

And so finally it is with an element of sadness that this is the last JOW article for a while as, at this significant turning point in time, I wish to channel my literary energies elsewhere. As most sensible people realise there is always another side to the narrative on most topics and this is the line I've always tried to adopt in JOW - to get people to think about 'what

has not been said' and beyond the mainstream storyline. Over time Cresset readers have told me that they have found JOW a refreshing reflexion representing the sentiments of the silent majority, and for that I thank you. If it wasn't for your support I, like many others, would have been beaten into submission by those who, with their petty intolerance of the ideas and values of others, find such alternative narratives and perspectives offensive.

“Passion has always been a proof of the intensity, never of the correctness of a belief”.

Arthur Schnitzler - 19th century Austrian playwright and novelist.

Thoughts of a Sports Nut

Well it didn't take long for things to go wrong on the restart of the English Premier League, did it? You may have heard that, in the goalless draw between Aston Villa and Sheffield United on 17th June, the Villa goalkeeper stumbled over his goal line holding the ball, resulting in a clear score for Sheffield Utd. Except that the referee didn't see it, the 'Hawkeye' goal line technology system failed, and no fewer than seven VAR cameras missed it too... no goal! Cue: all the usual complaints, anger, excuses, eye-rolling and controversy that we have, sadly, become used to after nearly every match. It takes some swallowing that, with three months of inaction, during which the Premier League could have analysed and tested every element of their systems to kingdom come, it took just 42 minutes for their credibility to come crashing down, again!

The other odd thing, to my mind, was the inclusion of the Black Lives Matter slogan on the shirts of the teams now competing in the Premier League. My surprise is due to the piece of football law which prohibits slogans or logos of a political or religious nature on all players' and officials' apparel. I have nothing against the message itself, but I remember that this rule was invoked stubbornly by FIFA in 2016 when they fined The FA £35k for wearing printed poppies in a World Cup qualifier against Scotland! The poppy ban was subsequently lifted the following year in time for England's match with Germany on the eve of Armistice Day, on FIFA's acceptance that the poppy was neither political nor religious. But I am wondering where the line is drawn over exceptions to this rule, which applies to all football everywhere, or will everyone be free to wear propaganda of their choice in future? Then what if it offends someone?!

By the way, on the topic of offence, the talented Aston Villa captain Jack Grealish, hotly tipped to make Gareth Southgate's next England squad, managed to severely dent his chances during the early days of the Coronavirus lockdown by crashing into a number of parked cars, and failing to stop at the scene, whilst undertaking an unnecessary journey in his Range Rover! One suspects that his failure to gain an England cap to date has more to do with his penchant for idiocy rather than any lack of ability!

You could say the complete opposite of Marcus Rashford! Arguably brought into the England fold a little early after only a handful of games for his club, what a remarkable young man he has turned out to be! Sure enough, he has justified his selection with performances and goals

on the pitch, but his recent campaign to persuade the government to continue free school meal vouchers during the summer holidays, has instantly cast him as something of a folk hero and role model – something, one hopes, will be appreciated by the county’s youth, regardless of their football club affiliations. I’m sure he’ll receive a rousing reception at the next England match with spectators present.

Talking of England: did anyone have a go at selecting their all-time England team from players active in their lifetime? Lining up in 4-4-2 formation, I think my team would take some beating! Anybody?

Banks
Alexander-Arnold, Ferdinand, Moore, Pearce
Ball, Gerrard, Gascoigne, R.Charlton
Shearer, Greaves

Subs:
Shilton, Adams, Edwards, Le Tissier, Kane

Manager: Robson

I’m sorry that this and my previous Nutty lockdown articles have been so heavily skewed towards football, but there really isn’t much else that has caught my attention since the last competitive activity in mid-March. I must say, though, that I have enormously enjoyed some TV (and YouTube) re-runs of memorable events in various sports during the lockdown. There were some glorious ding-dong football battles in the 1960s between England and the magnificent Scottish team of the day. I should mention that Scotland staked a claim to be recognised as ‘World Champions’ after their 2-1 victory at Wembley in 1967. Ha ha... but what a team they had then!

Also showing, among other things: Muhammad Ali in his perfect prime, dominating the heavyweight boxing division either side of his stint in the penitentiary for refusing to fight the Vietcong; epic tennis matches between the likes of Connors, McEnroe, Borg, King, Goolagong and Wade; England winning World Cups in football, rugby and cricket; and moments of ecstasy and heartache in historic Ashes series. Slow motion diving catches, I think, has been the skill that has inspired the most awe for me, though. There is nothing quite like an athlete taking off and plucking a cherry, travelling at perhaps 80mph, from the air one-handed whilst horizontal with the ground. Andrew Strauss’ ‘superman’ catch at Trent Bridge in 2005 springs to mind, but, for those of you with access to YouTube, please look up Fran Wilson’s double-handed effort in last year’s Women’s ODI against the West Indies... absolutely astonishing!

So how about doing the England Team Selection Challenge with cricketers? We are in the middle of the cricket season after all! Same rules: players who have appeared in your lifetime; and feel free to include a 12th man too. As before, I’ll give you my selection in the next issue of the Cresset.

Stay safe over the Summer period, people.

TFN Gerry Daish

THE CRESSET NEEDS YOUR HELP.

To assist in the distribution of the Cresset when we start printing again, we are looking for people to join the rota group who split up the magazines and take them out to the team of distributors who then deliver them around the village. With the right number of volunteers this is normally only required once every 3 or 4 months and takes just a few hours.

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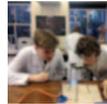
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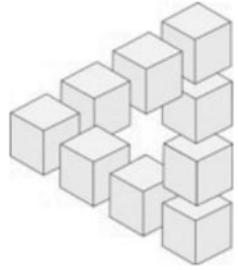
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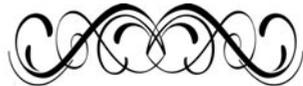
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Roman Catholic Priest: Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard	01223 211235
RE:NEW/Lode Chapel: Rev. Alan Brand	01223 812558
Bottisham Surgery:	
Enquiries and Appointments	810030
Out of Hours only - Urgentcare Cambridge.....	111
Bottisham Library:	812354
Library hours: Monday Closed; Tuesday 3-5pm and 6-8pm; Wednesday 10-11.30am Thursday 3-5pm; Friday 6-8pm; Saturday 10am-12noon	
Cambridgeshire Police HQ:	01480 456111
Cambridgeshire Police:(NON-URGENT MATTERS) ring 101 - In EMERGENCIES ring 999 Police community support officer Ann Austin PCSO 7353 at Ely Police Station.....	Contact through 101
1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies: Kay Pearce	811055
Bottisham & District Gardening Club: Secretary: Julia Green	811467
Bottisham Bowling Club: Keith Gibson, Secretary.....	811049
Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club: Nora Watson	812121
Bottisham Community Primary School:	811235
Bottisham Cricket Club: Chairman: Will Allen	07801 580604
Bottisham Local Charities Trustees: Clerk - Coral Hatley	811457
Bottisham Pharmacy:	812321
Bottisham Pool Association: Manager - Jason Rye	811121
Bottisham Royal British Legion Branch: Secretary. Peter Walker.....	811402
Branch Chairman: Dave Frost	www.Britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham
Bottisham Scout Group: Group Contact: Linda Jones.....	813040
Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club: Secretary Graham Darling, Bottishamcsasc@gmail.com 812063	
Bottisham Village College, School:	811250
Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information.....	811372
Bottisham W.I.: Secretary - Jenn White • mrandjw@btinternet.com	811600
Bottisham Youth Football Club: Jim Tideswell.....	812591
Cambridgeshire County Councillor: Mathew Shuter	01638 508729
East Cambridgeshire District Offices:	01353 665555
East Cambridgeshire District Councillors: Charlotte Cane 34 Swaffham Road, Reach	07976 607512
John Trapp 104 Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	01223 812120
Girlguiding Bottisham District: Cambs East County office • www.cambseastguides.org.uk	01223 813917
Parish Council Chairman: Jon Ogborn	07486 372780
Parish Council Clerk: Claire Fullwood.....	07914 219732
Queen's Court Day Centre:	811905
MP for Cambs South East Constituency: Lucy Frazer, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.....	
E. lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk W. www.lucyfrazer.org.uk	
Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Helpdesk:	0845 3030666
Saplings Preschool:	813226
Milton Road Tip: Apr to Sept - Weekdays 9.00am-8.00pm: Weekends 9.00am-6.00pm.....	860674
Oct to Mar - 9.00am-4.00pm	
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