

September 2024

THE   
*Cresset*



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



## Village Litter Picks 2024

Fresh air, friendship  
and looking after our wildlife  
*Bring your gloves and join us  
for refreshments afterwards*

Starting Location	Date	Month
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	September
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	October
Queens Court Care Home	16	November
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	December

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am  
Ways to keep in touch with updates:

- ✓ Join the [Bottisham Village Litter Pick WhatsApp Group](#)
- ✓ Visit either the [Bottisham Events Facebook Page](#)
- ✓ Visit the [Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page](#)

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# September already!



Is that the end of Summer? I hope not. As I write this in the middle of August, the weather is up to its old tricks. Yesterday it was a cool 19-21°. Today 32.7°! Tomorrow's forecast 23° again.

That is the problem for us in this country. If it was a constant one or the other, we could get used to it. And as we are so far from the coast where a pleasant breeze would help, we have the uncomfortable humidity to deal with as well. I find it is that, rather than the temperature, which is more difficult to deal with. At least the grass doesn't need so much cutting.

The schools are back again about now and autumn will soon be round the corner. However, we usually get a few decent days this month and next, so if we get them, make the most of them.

Lots of info in this month's issue, and also some interesting articles to read.

The Parish Council report updates us on developments that have happened over the summer.

Great to see the donation of a second defibrillator to be sighted at the shops, an ideal site. If you didn't know there is another sited in the doorway of the Sports and Social club in Downing Close.

A constant complaint is about the state of the footpaths which get minimal maintenance and can sometimes become unusable with nettles and weeds. Good to see the PC involved in their upkeep.

Interesting comment as well from Robert Stevens about the cycleways and footpaths. It raises a point which may have been missed by both Robert and the PC.

Rightful concern about cyclists on the road not using the cycleways from Robert, and the PC reporting on their involvement in maintaining the hedges and cycleways including using flails to cut the hedges. Well, there lies the rub!

Cyclists often avoid and don't like using the footpaths because of the high risk of punctures from hedge flailed thorns. If hedges are to be flailed, that MUST be followed by clearance/ blowing the debris well back into the undergrowth. If that was done and seen to be done, cyclists would have more confidence in using the cycle routes. It is all very well spending millions in developing fancy cycleways, but lack of thoughtful maintenance makes it worthless. It is like buying a Roll Royce, then saying you can't afford the petrol! It becomes a waste of money.

Lot's more to read in this month's magazine with an update on the neighbourhood plan which links into what is reported in the DC report. Vital for the future of this village.

Finally, this month's cover picture comes courtesy of Toby Limmer, and should be of note, because it is a view (and a beautiful sunrise one at that), which is soon to disappear when the retirement 'village' that has been foisted on us by developers and remote landowners will start to be built. It has been taken from the back of Cedar Walk, across the wildflower meadow where sheep are grazing and ancient trees grow. Keep it for the memory.

*Enjoy the Month - Peter*

## *News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham*

Finally Rev Max Osborne and his family are part of the Bottisham Society! Max and his family moved into the new vicarage at the end of July and are now working to become fully integrated members of our community. A delay by BT in getting his new landline and internet connection added to the initial frustration of his move. Details of his telephone number are in the back of the Cresset and in addition his email will be displayed on the church notice board. We are sure that a new and exciting era will now be starting in Bottisham and the Anglesey Benefice. If you would like a home visit from Max give him a ring on 01223 481187. But even better come along to meet him on Sunday 1st September at 10.30am when he will be leading our Holy Communion Service.



Around the north side of the church the rendering on the north chancel buttress was found to be damaged and dangerous. As I write scaffolding has been erected and Steve Allen, using his considerable experience of work on listed buildings, is kindly doing the necessary rectification work. Thankfully the monies raised from your generous giving to our Easter Appeal will largely cover this work.

I am delighted to announce that we have been awarded a Bronze Award under the Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Scheme in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust. Many thanks are due to Alison Martin who led this project and to Ian and Helen Cole who have worked tirelessly over many years to help maintain the churchyard. However, grass cutting and major tree maintenance is funded by the Parish Council under a longstanding arrangement relating to a 'closed church yard'.

The 'Peaceful Prayerful Art Group' on a Thursday morning in church from 10.30 – 12 Noon is proving to be so popular that Ruth Blundell who organises this, is going to try extending into Thursday afternoons in addition, for September at least This is for anyone over the age of sixteen and will cater for all skill levels. For further details why not contact Ruth on [rutheblundell@hotmail.com](mailto:rutheblundell@hotmail.com) or just turn up and see what is happening?

The popularity of our Toddler Group has meant that with extra support from those not usually involved, this activity has continued throughout the school summer holidays on a Tuesday morning. We are very grateful for this extra commitment from our members.

Our services for September will follow our usual pattern with Rev Max Osborne leading Holy Communion on the 1st and Sarah Maxwell our Morning Prayer on 15th September which will be our Harvest Festival Service.

**We hope to see you soon at one of our services.**

*Stuart Field, Churchwarden.*

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## *Bottisham Community Library Association*

**Lego Club and Rhyme and Story time sessions dates are 14th September and 12th October. This starts at 10.30.** *Please could you keep any books or jigsaws you wish to donate for now until we have more space to store them.*

We had a presentation at our recent AGM from Ally Clarke who runs the Mobile service team. The van visits Bottisham on the last Thursday of the month at 10.30 in Downing Close near Queens Court. Free NHS hearing aid batteries, stamps, and replacement ferrules for walking sticks fitted too are available.

**The summer reading challenge** - Marvellous Makers – presentation of medals is on Saturday 14th September.

**BOOK SALE, LODE WI CAKE STALL, BOTTISHAM GARDENING CLUB PLANTS.** - SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER *see advert elsewhere in the magazine*

*Sylvia Overton*

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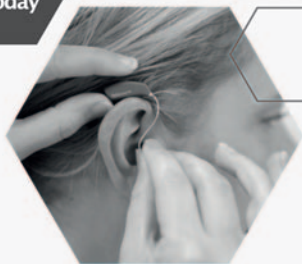
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## *Services in the Anglesey Benefice*

### SEPTEMBER

<b>Sun. 1</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Bottisham
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Village Worship</b> , Quy Village Hall
<b>Wed. 4</b>	<b>8pm</b>	<b>C by C, a contemplative service</b> , on Zoom
<b>Sun. 8</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
		<b>Holy Communion</b> , Quy
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b> , Swaffham Prior
<b>Sun. 15</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Swaffham Bulbeck
		<b>Harvest Festival</b> , Bottisham
<b>Sun. 22</b>	<b>3pm</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b> , Quy
	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Swaffham Prior
<b>Sun. 29</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Lode
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b> , Swaffham Prior
<b>Each Thursday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Lode

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Please check the Church notice board for any changes;  
or email [admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk),  
which is also the address to request the Zoom link.  
You are very welcome to attend any of these services.

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## *Letter to The Editor*

Dear Cresset

I hope that through your pages, I can pass on our thanks and appreciation to the lovely people of Bottisham, who have been so supportive to dad Keith, and myself Kev Millard at the loss of my lovely mum Sylvia.

Coming back to the village after nearly 50 years away has been very emotional in so many ways and the compassion and kindness from every single person I've seen, has shown me why they both loved this village and the people in it and never wanted to move away.

It was lovely to see so many in the Church at mum's funeral on 13th June and Addenbrookes have passed on their thanks for the £340 collected for the Trust through donations and the service collection.

Thank you all for everything you've done to help dad in so many ways.

Kev Millard

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# *Parish Council Report*

**The next full council meeting will be held by on 2nd September 2024, 7.30pm at the Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club.** All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. Please note that the clerk to the council does not keep regular office hours. Replies to emails and phone calls will be attended to as soon as is practicable. Details of upcoming meetings and Councillor Details are available from the Parish Council Noticeboard and from the website [bottisham-pc.gov.uk](http://bottisham-pc.gov.uk).

## **TREE WORKS**

Following on from the July edition, the Parish Council have now accepted and approved a quotation to carry out the works on the trees in the Cemetery. Some of the trees have a Tree Protection Order on them and will require a permit to be issued by East Cambs District Council. As soon as the permits have been received works will commence. Following closure of the churchyard in 1899, the Parish Council assumed responsibility for its maintenance and we have also requested a quotation for remedial work on some of the limes there. Moving forward the Parish Council will be carrying out regular audits on all trees that they are responsible for and preparing tree management plans to ensure that the health of the trees is preserved whilst not causing a public hindrance.

## **GREENWAY**

The Parish Council have not received any further information as of yet with regard to the planned Bottisham Greenway. As a significant period of time has elapsed with no communication from the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership, I will chase the project team to see if there are any updates so that we may update the community.

## **DEFIBRILLATOR**

As previously mentioned, the developer of the new homes off Bell Road is kindly donating a defibrillator for community use. Councillors have been busy identifying an area that would be of the most benefit for its placement. Negotiations have been held with the shop/homeowners around the triangle. Very kindly the Pharmacy have given the Parish Council permission to site the unit where the current community noticeboard is located. This is a location that will be easy to identify for both residents and those transient through the village.

## **VILLAGE MAP & COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

We need to remove the existing community noticeboard, as it is very tired and is no longer fit for purpose. It has therefore been discussed that a new noticeboard for community use will be purchased to match the Parish Council noticeboard and sited on the triangle. Posting in this board is to be confirmed later, as the Parish Council need to agree the access arrangements. It was also discussed that the current village map is now out of date as it doesn't not include some of the more recent developments. Moreover, the casing of the map is in a vulnerable state and requires work. The Parish Council appreciate all the hard work that was involved with the preparation of this map and wish to call for volunteers to come

*Continued on page 9*

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*Continued from page 7*

forward to create a new one to be included in either the Community board or the Parish Councils board. To express an interest in becoming involved in the project please feel free to contact me on 07369248998 or via email [clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk).

### **HEDGES & FOOTPATHS**

It is that time of year when hedges and footpaths get overgrown. Highways maintenance has been delayed, as a result of the absence of our local Highways Officer due to illness. However, we are grateful that we now have a replacement who is working hard to catch up on outstanding matters.

But we can all play our part and we are grateful to a resident from Lode especially, who has been working hard to bring the hedges along the Lode Rd cycle path under some control. Following communications between the Parish Council and Anglesey Abbey (who are responsible for some of it), we are hoping to see the Lode Rd hedging cut back further with a flail in September. This will improve safety by encouraging pupils and residents to use the cycle path, rather than the road.

**If you need any further information relating to anything raised in this report or anything you wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, then please do not hesitate to contact me via email, [clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk) or via phone 07369248998.**

*Sam Chambers-Turner - Clerk to the Council*

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## ***District Councillors' Report***

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The Full Council meeting took place on Thursday 25 July. Unfortunately, due to a fatality on the rail line, Charlotte was unable to travel to the meeting from London.

### **Corporate Plan action plan**

John joined the rest of our political group on the Council in abstaining on the Administration's proposed Corporate Plan action plan. There were some elements we supported, such as the work on inclusive play, which we had initiated. But some elements did not go far enough, some were unevidenced, and some such as the Mepal crematorium we continue to oppose.

- The Plan said the Council would be 'engaging' with the Combined Authority's ongoing bus reform work—just days after the Leader of the Council had abstained on it at a Combined Authority Board meeting.
- And the 'Road Safety Volunteer Scheme' that Conservative Councillors have pressed the police into taking on was mooted in the autumn of 2021 and three years later there is nothing to show for it.
- A few priorities were identified, but had no actions associated with them.

It was not clear what the Action Plan would do to address the challenges the report identified such as the cost of living, and recruitment and retention of staff. Meanwhile it complained about priority and capacity concerns at the Combined Authority, but not those at East Cambridgeshire District Council for which it is directly responsible.

*Continued on page 11*



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*Continued from page 9*

## **Neighbourhood Plans**

Council ‘made’ the two Neighbourhood Plans for Mepal and Sutton, so they now form part of ECDC’s Planning Policies.

Neighbourhood Plans play a vital role in the planning process. They are not just a means to forestall inappropriate development. They give an opportunity for local people to consider and discuss what makes their community work, what is needed to meet the challenges of the future, what most needs protecting and enhancing, and where appropriate development can provide the right sort of housing and amenities for current and future residents.

### **Changes to national planning policy framework**

The Government has launched a consultation on plans to amend the National Planning Policy Framework and other planning reforms ([link below](#)).

Many of the changes will primarily affect District Councils as local planning authorities in their local plan and development management functions.

### **Some of the main changes proposed are as follows.**

1. The new method will include a stronger affordability ratio driver and the removal of the clause about previous oversupply in an area – to give a combined national target of 370,000 new dwellings per year.
2. The need for Councils, Housing Associations and other providers to deliver genuinely affordable homes—changes will be delivered through increased Government investment, changes to borrowing rules and rent stability.

This will have obvious implications for East Cambridgeshire, whose Local Plan is now nine years old, and where the building of affordable homes has been below what is needed for many years. (4,548 dwellings have been completed in the last twelve years, of which fewer than 18% have been affordable.)

### **Bus Franchising Consultation**

The CPCA will be engaged in a consultation on bus franchising which may provide the County with an opportunity for a strategic bus policy, and to provide new routes.

### **District Council Surgeries**

We are resuming our face-to-face surgeries and the next one will be at Bottisham Sports and Social Club on Wednesday 25 September from half past six until half past seven in the evening.

You are always welcome to contact us directly, either by email or telephone.

*Charlotte Cane and John Trapp*

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## ***Planning Notes***

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**New applications-** None

### **Planning Applications approved by ECDC:**

24/00481/FUL: 26 Peacock Drive. Single storey rear extension and internal alterations

24/00694/TPO: Bottisham Village College. Tree works permitted

23/00421/FUL: Land to rear of Howgar House 41 Bell Road: Construction of two storey 3/4 bed detached house on garden land

### **Planning application withdrawn:**

24/00328/FUL : Rothbury Cottage 122 High Street. Single storey side extension to existing dwelling



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## *Charlotte Cane MP writes, August 2024*

Thank you for electing me as your Member of Parliament – it is an amazing honour to represent the constituency of Ely and East Cambridgeshire. I look forward to working with you and to representing our beautiful area at Westminster.

As I write this, I have been your MP for one week, and it's been busy! My first meeting was on Friday afternoon, about 10 hours after my election was announced. After a busy weekend, I packed my bags and headed to London on Sunday evening.

Monday morning, I headed to my first in-person meeting and in the afternoon I entered Parliament and was given my pass and met my 'buddy'. Each new MP (there are about 330 of us) has a member of staff assigned to us who showed us round and has been on-hand since to answer questions.

My buddy showed me the Members' cloakroom, where we really do have a pink ribbon with which to hang our swords, as well as a coat hanger for more prosaic attire! We then went to get my IT equipment and have various briefings on finances, security, standards etc. She showed me around parliament, but I still get lost all the time and am grateful to the staff who set me back in the right direction. Even the floor levels are confusing – Parliament has a ground floor, a principal floor and then first and second floors.

Tuesday was largely training sessions, with some time to use the hot desking to start reading and answering emails. We were told it will be a month or two yet before we get an office, meanwhile we have a locker and hot desk space.

On Wednesday, we had our first session in the Chamber – to elect the Speaker. A great deal of pomp and ceremony, but also a chance for all the Party leaders to make short speeches to congratulate the Speaker. Then they started swearing in the MPs, starting with the cabinet moving through long-standing MPs until eventually reaching the new MPs. I took my oath on Thursday afternoon. That was when it finally sunk in as I introduced myself as Charlotte Cane representing Ely and East Cambridgeshire and felt the weight of responsibility. I will do my best to represent you all.

Parliament didn't sit on Friday, so I made my way home to Reach. I recorded a television discussion and then had a zoom meeting about Sunnica Solar Farm, only to find out about an hour later that planning permission had been given by the Secretary of State.

On Saturday I was able to get to the Ely Farmers' Market, for my bread, cheese, samosas, cherries and strawberries. Then I went to the World Pea shooting Championships in Witcham. I am certainly not competition standard, but I did at least manage to hit the practice target a few times.

Over the next few weeks I need to learn my way around and recruit a team of staff so that I can properly respond to all your queries and concerns. But I do, at least have an email address so you can contact me – [charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk)

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**Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 September.**

*Please send material to the editor at [BottishamCresset@gmail.com](mailto:BottishamCresset@gmail.com)*





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# *A Neighbourhood Plan for Bottisham*

Dear Resident,

August 2024

We last updated you with progress on the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan (NP) in the July edition of *The Cresset*. These updates are also available on the Bottisham Parish Council Website. Due to the summer months marginal progress has been made and this has been primarily concentrated on gathering evidence to support the aspirations you gave in the 2023 Survey project. The structure of the plan and its contents will be discussed by the Bottisham Working Group (BWG) at its meeting planned for the middle of September, when we also hope to be able to set a date for residents to view and to comment on the plan so far.

The survey was delivered to 1000 Bottisham households from which 168 responses were received – this equates to a 17% response rate. 160 responses were from the 40 plus age group. 73 responses were submitted online and 95 responses were submitted on the form provided with the survey.

The most frequent concern expressed by residents in the survey is that Bottisham could not withstand more housing. Other less prominent but important concerns were that; there was too much traffic, poor infrastructure/transport, few community activities for young people, not enough affordable housing, limited employment opportunities, poor local services, size/growth of education provision, too remote. Another frequently listed concern is the view that local infrastructure is not able to absorb a larger population.

The survey results and previous consultations have been collated and built in to a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats table – otherwise known as a SWOT analysis. These results are being used to steer and guide the objectives and policies of the NP. As mentioned, the NP will be available to view and for comments later on in the process, and the SWOT can be accessed via the Bottisham Parish Council Website.

It is essential that the NP exercises every effort to ensure the themes listed in the SWOT are taken into account. But in so doing the NP must also be pragmatic and strategize to meet a potential need for additional housing with suitable amounts and types of mixed housing. Residents also tell us that they would like to protect and preserve the topography of the countryside around us, and that they value the tranquillity this characteristic brings – but, above all, that they wish to have a much greater say on the future development of their local area. The BWG is also working on the theme that our protected areas and local green spaces should be kept entirely free from all forms of development. Whilst the plan cannot address all of the individual issues identified in the SWOT directly, they are nevertheless recognised.

Given the demands that will inevitably be placed upon the village by central government and by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for additional housing, we believe we have struck an equitable balance that will have minimal effect on our quality of life and on the historic village settlement – whilst also offering sufficient scope to absorb probable housing growth over the decades to come.

BWG

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# Growth over Paths in Bottisham and Lode

There has been a lot of rapid growth of vegetation over public pavements and footpaths this year. Unfortunately, this is not slashed away by passing lorries as it is on roads. Vegetation growing beyond property boundaries should be cut back by home occupiers to allow free and safe passage for pedestrians, especially those with disabled mobility scooters or impaired sight or movement.

Vegetation overhanging the shared-use path between Lode and Bottisham has been cut back beside the sections of land owned by the National Trust. The path is now easily usable all the way and is much used by students to reach the bike racks at the southern end of the College. These hedges used to be lower and cut further back and hopefully will again be in the future.

It is a pity that only a minority of adults cycle on this path. If on the road and two or more motor vehicles are passing in both directions they are at significant risk. Having to slow down to alert pedestrians seems to be of more concern to them than the risk of serious injury. Recently seen were cyclists towing small children in carriers on the 60mph section of road. The Highway Code states that cycle paths should be used when it is safer to do so. It is hard to see how it could be safer to cycle on a 60mph road only 6 metres wide. The safety of car occupants should also be considered.

National Cycle Route 51 runs on the pavement along the western side of Bell Road from near the Quy border on Newmarket Road. It stops just before The Bell but recent pavement resurfacing has covered the End marking. It resumes on the pavement on the eastern side of Tunbridge Lane opposite The Triangle and heads along Park End. The part south of St Peters Field has been badly overgrown so has been reported to the County Council, who have contacted the landowner.

Growth out of the surface of public footpaths should be controlled by the County Council. Several paths with tall grass and nettles were reported to it in early June but were not cut until early August, following emails to and from the local Footpaths Officer. Two other paths were obstructed by crops. All public footpaths in the two parishes are shown in purple on the County Council's online 'Report a Highways Fault' map and one can mark the exact location and describe the problem.

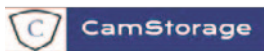
*Robert Stevens*

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In June we started our meeting with a minute's silence for both Sylvia Millard and Diana Jennett both past members of our branch who had died recently. They will be missed.

Jenn White standing in for Sandra Clarke read Sandra's delegate's report from the AGM in early June at the Albert Hall. The most inspiring speaker who received a standing ovation was Nazir Afzal OBE who was Crown Prosecutor for NW England for 24 years. He was the chief prosecutor for the "Rochdale Grooming Gang" and he produced guidelines for stalking, forced marriages and honour killings and was involved in the case of Stuart Hall. A most inspiring speaker. Mel B from the Spice Girls was then interviewed by Victoria Derbyshire and spoke about the ordeal of her 10 years of domestic abuse marriage. The final speaker on this theme was Timothy Watson who played Bob Titchener in the Archers a part that used coercive control and domestic abuse of his partner further explained by Teresa Parker from Women's Aid. More information can be found on line at [takeaction.womensaid.org.uk](http://takeaction.womensaid.org.uk).

Our speaker in June was Margaret James entitled "No Way Home". An enigmatic title and we did not get an explanation in the talk. She went to Saudi Arabia for 5 years with her husband and two small children. She worked as a Primary School teacher. There was a very restricted culture for women (this was in the early 80's) and she lived in a compound heavily guarded. They as a family could go out into the desert tobogganing down sand dunes and having paperchases but on a picnic with other English families a sandstorm suddenly started and her young daughter was lost. She had run back to the car and was not seen again for several hours. This prompted her to write a fictional ending to her life in Saudi Arabia following this traumatic event. I bought her book to find out why "No Way Home" and solve the enigma. I will let you know the outcome!!

We had 30 visitors to our July meeting when Alan Gray MBE spoke about his career at Wimbledon as an umpire, line judge, and trainer for the ballboys. He officiated at 6 finals and had many interesting and amusing stories on the well - known players he met. As a Scotsman he was full of praise for Andy Murray who would have won many more titles if had not been around at the same time as Federer, Nadal and Djokovic.

He left in 2012 as players started querying his decisions and took up golf. His MBE was awarded for his services to victims of crime so he probably has another talk to entertain us.

**Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th September when Kevin Boardman will make a return visit and talk about, "Life for women on the Oregon Trail"**

*Sylvia Overton*

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## *Bottisham Bird Brain*

During the hot weather of recent weeks, I hope people have noticed plenty of Buzzard activity in the skies over our local countryside: soaring, hunting, bickering with Corvids or Kestrels, demonstrating the skills of survival to their young, and generally making the most of the warm air currents which afford them maximum lift for minimum effort.

We have not always enjoyed the privilege of having these magnificent birds in East Anglia, though. Shortly after moving to this area in the early 90s, I remember being unfeasibly excited to see a Buzzard soaring above the trees along the A1303 towards Newmarket! Previously, one had to travel to the more remote areas of the UK to enjoy such sights, for example the moorlands of Wales, the South West, or the North. But, like most opportunistic predators and scavengers, Buzzards have successfully proliferated into more populated areas over the past 30-40 years, and now the plaintive ‘mew’ or ‘pee-ooo’ call of the adults can be heard from almost any garden, any day, in and around Bottisham & Lode.

The Common Buzzard - *Buteo Buteo* – is found throughout Europe and numbers up to 80,000 pairs in the UK, having quadrupled its population since the 1970s when years of persecution by gamekeepers, coupled with myxomatosis ruining the rabbit population, had reduced Buzzard numbers to their lowest ebb. In fact, they are only absent nowadays from the conurbations and the high peaks. Despite being majestic flyers, Buzzards are not agile enough to catch prey on the wing, but they will take a wide variety of prey on the ground, ranging from rabbits, voles and mice to worms and even large insects if other food is scarce. But, understandably, they do very well from road-kill too, although they are competing with many others – including Corvids and other birds of prey – for these particular delicacies!

Buzzards favour areas where forest or woodland meets moorland or farmland. They mate for life and build bulky nests of twigs lined with broad-leaved foliage, usually near the trunk or main crutch of a tree, and they may repair and re-use a nest many times throughout their lives, rearing two or three young per year. It is not uncommon, though, for the youngest hatchling to starve to death at the hands of its stronger sibling(s), such is the uncompromising circle of life. Fledging typically happens around six weeks after hatching, by which time the young birds can feed themselves, but they will remain in the locality, even forming social groups, for up to a year before the adults will regard their presence as an impediment to raising a new family!

So, how do you identify a Common Buzzard? The first thing to understand is that there are actually three species of Buzzard seen regularly in the UK, but the good news is that, in this area, you can almost completely discount the Honey Buzzard - *Pernis apivorus* - (rare, secretive and only seen at protected sites) and the Rough-Legged Buzzard - *Buteo lagopus* - (very rare winter visitor only). The general plumage of the Common is brown, mostly dark on the back and wings but can become paler with wear, and whitish feathers are visible on the underside of the body and wings. If you get a close look, you’ll see yellow lower legs and feet, and a partially yellow bill, but often you’ll need to identify a Buzzard by its shape.

*Buteo buteo* can vary in size but is always larger and heavier than any Crow or Rook, and the habit of gliding & soaring with its wings in a shallow ‘v’ shape will distinguish it reliably

*(Continued on page 23)*

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*(Continued from page 21)*

from the Corvids. The wings are broad and rounded and the neck and wedge-shaped tail are relatively short. Level flight is a slightly laboured affair, but it won't be long before the bird returns to gliding or soaring or, very occasionally, hovering like an overgrown Kestrel (which hovers habitually in a more winnowing, less flappy, style). In spring and early summer you may also be lucky enough to see the courtship display known as sky-dancing, which can feature high circling, tumbling, upward sweeps, dramatic folded-winged dives, and some exaggerated wing flapping designed to show off their patterned plumage.

There are two other birds of prey prevalent in this area which need to be discounted when identifying Buzzards. The Marsh Harrier, which breeds on the fen, has a slimmer frame, longer wings and tail and will soar less, generally flying much lower to the ground; and the (now ubiquitous) Red Kite has relatively longer wings than a Buzzard, with a more obvious 'elbow' and a very pronounced forked tail. (I'll produce a separate piece on Red Kites in due course.)

Oddly, there is a paradox about what the Buzzard represents in literature and culture. On the one hand, the Buzzard can be a harbinger of doom and destruction, and on the other, a symbol of transformation and rebirth. Both views have their origins in the fact that this is a bird of prey and its nature is to kill. But its nature is also to clean up decay and create opportunities for the nourishment of new life. Beware, however, in America the term 'buzzard' can refer, colloquially, to a vulture, particularly the enormous Turkey Vulture which has a more obvious association with death and impending doom. I am guessing that Ravi Shankar's description of "hissing, hopping, tearing, gorging" in his poem "Buzzards" refers to vultures rather than the birds we know. Personally, I think we can regard our UK Buzzards wholly positively, representing survival, adaptability, loyalty and, of course, mastery of the skies!

*TTFN - Gerry Daish*

**"Buzzards float upon the sky  
Shrilling a metaphysic cry"**

From the poem 'Nuptials' by Allen Tate c. 1922



*(NB. Given that John Orley Allen Tate was a Kentuckian, he may not have been writing of Buzzards as we know them, but this remains a beautiful description of our Common Buzzard's behaviour.)*



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## ***Bottisham and District Gardening Club***

We had a most enjoyable visit to Kelmarsh Hall in Northamptonshire in June. It was unfortunate that the Hall itself was closed that day as filming was taking place but the refund for the short notice given paid for a delicious lunch.

The gardens were superb, designated by English Heritage as a garden of national significance. A walled garden, long and double borders, a rose garden, a wilderness and a woodland river walk. There was an abundance of colour beautifully maintained mostly by volunteers. The gardens are renowned for their haphazard luxuriance and relaxed charm. Plenty of seats around too to sit and enjoy. Fortunately the weather was excellent - the beginning of summer. We ended the day with a visit to an RHS garden at Finedon, most interesting but on a much smaller scale where we had tea and homemade biscuits. It will be hard to find such good venues for next year's summer outing.

The Poppy room looked most welcoming for our summer party in July in with tables laid with flowers and plenty of nibbles and we enjoyed Pimms and strawberries. Many members had brought a rose and members judged (with pennies) the best exhibit for the Don Bedford cup. This was won by Dora Gale with a beautiful salmon pink rose. We had a short quiz and each table was presented with a block of plasticine to make a vase of flowers. Sounds silly but the finished articles looked quite good and were judged by Katy Rowe the Club Steward. Cindy King's table were judged the winners.

**Our next meeting is Tuesday 24th September when Barry Robertson will talk to us about Science, Plants and Us.** We meet at 7.30 in the Poppy Room and visitors are welcome

We are joining with Lode WI and Bottisham Community Library at the Triangle on Saturday 7th July and having a plant and produce sale. Do support us.

*Sylvia Overton*

## ***New Bottisham Village Map***

Bottisham Parish Council are preparing to organise a new community noticeboard. This will go in the same location as the Bottisham Map and be open to community notices in replacement of the board by Elite. The Council would like to invite any of the parties involved in the creation of the old Bottisham village map to help the creation of a new map. OR If you would like to help us and have the skills to produce a new map with us then they would love to hear from you. If you would like to be involved then please email: [clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk)



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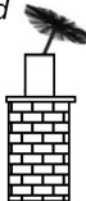
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**JUNE 20TH AND 18TH JULY MEETINGS 2024**

On a sunny afternoon on June 20th we welcomed the Reverend Paula Spalding to our meeting. As well as working as Associate Priest at St Mary's in Burwell, Paula is the Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain.

Paula spoke movingly of her call to ministry and the journey that has taken her on over several years. She has felt strongly that God has called her to chaplaincy work; this is often supporting the needs of people in a workplace, a hospital, a school, a prison or in the armed forces. This can involve offering help in crisis situations, including family/relationship issues and bereavement.

Paula's work has included working at HMP Whitemoor's Visitors Centre near March, and contributing to Burwell Radio's show during Prison Week when they were able to broadcast the programme from both HMP Whitemoor and HMP Littlehey near Huntingdon. As part of the Visitors Centre Team, Paula set up making Christmas Stockings and Easter Treats each year for the visiting children and their families.

Paula has also been part of a multi-faith Chaplaincy Team at Cambridge Regional College, has been the Padre with Cambridge Army Cadets, and been involved with the Cambridge Workplace Chaplaincy. Paula described how much she had enjoyed all of her Chaplaincy placements where she made many friends.

More recently Paula has taken up the role of Chaplain to the Mothers' Union in the Ely Diocese. Together with the Parish Priest Duty, the Cathedral aims to have a chaplain present whenever the building is open; Paula can often be found walking around and chatting to visitors within this beautiful building.

After thanking Paula for her very interesting talk, we finished the meeting with tea and a piece of special birthday cake as Julie Bard celebrated her 80th Birthday at the end of June.

On Thursday 18th July we met in a garden in Lode, by kind invitation of Julie Sales, for the Branch Summer Afternoon Tea. The weather was beautiful, and we all enjoyed delicious homemade cakes and plenty of tea, all served on pretty china – very British! Donations were made in aid of the Mother's Union 'Summer of Hope' appeal; this supports work transforming the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa by providing literacy classes and agricultural training. A total of £80 was raised.

The meeting on Thursday 19th September will include a visit from Philip Baker, the Burwell MU Branch Leader (in the Fassage Hall, Lode at 2.30pm)

*Alison Martin*

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The Bottisham at War/Forties weekend on July 6th-7th was a great success despite the changeable weather, and everyone seems to have had a good time. We have gained another TripAdvisor award and have doubled our visitor numbers from last year on most months. The helicopter flights will continue on August 21st, September 11th and 25th, and October 9th and 23rd. Weather permitting of course. We have various group visits coming up, including from the W.I., Open Cambridge and a group of Canadians.

On the 26th of July the museum attended the American Flying Day at Duxford. We set up a stall selling museum clothes and mugs, pens, badges etc. We had our Mustang cockpit for children to have their photos taken in which was very popular, and a lot of leaflets were handed out. So far, the museum has a brilliant season but we do need more volunteers to



look after the new exhibits and events on Wednesdays and Sundays. Please contact the museum if you are interested on [info@bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk) or leave a message 01223 813952.

On Tuesday 6th August 2024 we laid a floral tribute on the grave in Bottisham Cemetery, of the New Zealand pilot who lost his life while on a mission from Bottisham Airfield on 6th August 1942.

Then on Saturday 10th August, we took part in a brief ceremony for the rededication, by Revd Max Osborne our new vicar, of the memorial to Col. Thomas Christian. It is 80 years since he lost his life while flying over Germany commanding the USAF 361st Fighter Group.

Around 25 persons attended, many from Thomas Christian Way.

*Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer.*

Have you ever stopped of a morning to sit down to have a cup of coffee in the house on your own, and thought it would be nice to talk to somebody?  
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## *News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group*

Statement from Bottisham Medical Practice about riots, racism and aggressive behaviour.

Throughout the UK NHS organisations including GP surgeries are having to close early and suspend home visiting services due to riots and aggressive behaviour towards staff due to racism towards staff from ethnic minorities.

Colleagues in some surgeries have been abused and assaulted in recent days as NHS staff have been targeted throughout the country. The NHS relies heavily on staff from all over the world, who are not UK nationals, who are skilled at what they do and without them the whole NHS system would collapse.

Dr Keith and Dr Shackleton will not hesitate to call the police and remove any patients from our list who are aggressive or racist towards any of our staff members. We have a zero tolerance to this behaviour. We are here to help each patient but must be safe to work.

**Good News:** We are pleased to report that the Practice is in the top ten of patient satisfaction compared with surgeries in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health Authority in a recent review.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday September 19th. Dr Shackleton will give a presentation on "Challenges facing the Practice". The meeting will start at 6:30pm and will be held in the waiting room, all patients of the practice are welcome.

*Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group*

# Newmarket Community Cinema

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## MISSING

### SET OF SKODA CAR KEYS

If anyone comes across a set of Skoda car keys in Bottisham, can you let me know on 07747 402816 and leave a message. I noticed they were missing on Sunday 11 August.

*Thanks. Henry Fitch.*

# Anglesey Abbey

Following a super busy and fun Summer of Play, we'd like to say a huge thank you to our staff and volunteers who helped us to welcome visitors throughout the school holidays. And to anyone who visited us, we hope you had a wonderful time!

We now turn our attention to the **Dahlia Garden** at Anglesey Abbey, which is open until mid-October. Boasting 60 varieties of dahlia, the flowers are planted in a large semi-circle, inviting visitors to walk further into the garden to admire the vibrant flowers and colours on show. The best time to see the garden is in September and into early October.

We will have a **free event in the Plant Centre** on Sunday 8 September with specialist dahlia grower and flower show judge, Peter Wilson. Do drop by if you'd like to ask some questions and find out about the difference between a show-stopping and a prize-winning dahlia as well as tips and tricks for looking after dahlias in your garden. On Tuesday 10 and 21 September, you can also take part in some yoga sessions in the Dahlia Garden and Herbaceous Garden. Head to our website to book your place; tickets include access to the gardens, a complementary hot drink and a dahlia posy to take home.

For the first time this September and October, you can join one of our expert guides on an accessible **statue tour around the gardens** to find out more about the history of the magnificent statuary collection at Anglesey Abbey, curated by Lord Fairhaven himself. There are just four dates, so don't miss out! Tour dates and times: Wednesdays 4 & 18 September and 2 & 16 October, 1.30pm – 2.30pm. No need to pre-book, simply turn up and join on the day.

We are pleased to be opening our doors again for the 2024 Heritage Open Days Festival between 6 and 15 September to non-National Trust

members. Please pre-book your free entry tickets on our website. And make sure you check out our **new second-hand bookshop** – see you there!



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Each week we will explore a different topic starting with the Sun-Filled Gardens of the French Riviera. This will be followed by A History of Wrest Park, The Unexpected History of the Garden Gnome, A 'Swashbuckling' of Plant Hunters and Women in the Garden: Weeders, Writers and Illustrators. (This is the proposed order which may be subject to change) There is something for everyone in this mixed border of garden-related delights as our tutor, Twigs Way, leads us down the garden path to discover places, plants, paintings and people.

Details of the topics for the second half of the course will follow in the October edition of the magazine.

The course will start on Thursday 19th Sept with a break for half term on 31st October and finish on Thursday 5th December. **Please note, there will not be a meeting on 10th October.** The cost will be £45 for the 10-week course, with an additional £5 for non-members.

**Meetings are held at the Bottisham Sports and Social Club in Downing Close (CB25 9DD) from 10.30am – 12.15pm**

To express an interest in this course please email: [bottishambala@btinternet.com](mailto:bottishambala@btinternet.com)

We look forward to meeting again. New members are always welcome.

*Helen Cole*

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**Copy deadline for next issue is 14 September.**

*Please send material to the editor  
at [BottishamCresset@gmail.com](mailto:BottishamCresset@gmail.com)*

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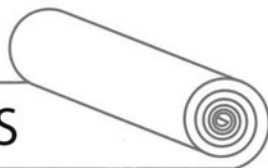


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### **OUR LINK WITH MARA, TANZANIA**

#### **Visit of Bishop George Okoth**

**Monday 23rd September 2024**

I am pleased to announce that we shall be visited by the Bishop of Mara and his wife on 23rd September. He would like to meet his many friends in our parishes to tell us more about the Diocese of Mara, which acts as a welfare state supporting many aspects of human need. Among these are the projects we have been supporting in recent years.



These include the Safe House which enables girls to escape Female Genital Mutilation, and the Bunda Girls' Secondary School, providing young women with secondary education, eventually leading to university entrance. Our donors supplied the equipment needed for the school science lab, and we support Angel, one of their needy students.

**Please come to meet the Bishop and hear about our African link.**

**7.30 p.m. 23rd September, in Swaffham Bulbeck School**

*The Revd Canon Max Osborne*



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## WHAT'S ON?

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September - Emma and the Dinosaurs**

**£5 members -£7 nonmembers**

Back by popular demand, come and listen to the sounds or even have a dance.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Bowls Club Cheese & Wine Evening**

**Tickets available from the club - £12.50 each**

Come and sample some cheese and wine pairings.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Roy Orbison Tribute Night with a Ploughman's Supper**

**£5 members - £7 nonmembers**

Stroll down memory lane with music from a Roy Orbison Tribute Singer

Also coming up

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Children Fancy Dress Halloween Disco**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Bowling Club Quiz Night**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Drag Night with Sissy Lea**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Newmarket Town Band and Christmas Draw**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December - NEW YEARS EVE PARTY with Rendition**

**PLUS, do not forget the Open Mic Night on the last Friday of each month.**

Come and listen to the local talent.

Please refer to the website. [www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk](http://www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk) for the latest information. If you wish to be updated with the latest news, please email [bottishamcsasc@gmail.com](mailto:bottishamcsasc@gmail.com)  
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## Useful Information

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<b>Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator:</b> kevin.g.evans@ntlworld.com .....	01353 614892
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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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THURSDAYS  
3.00-5.00  
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