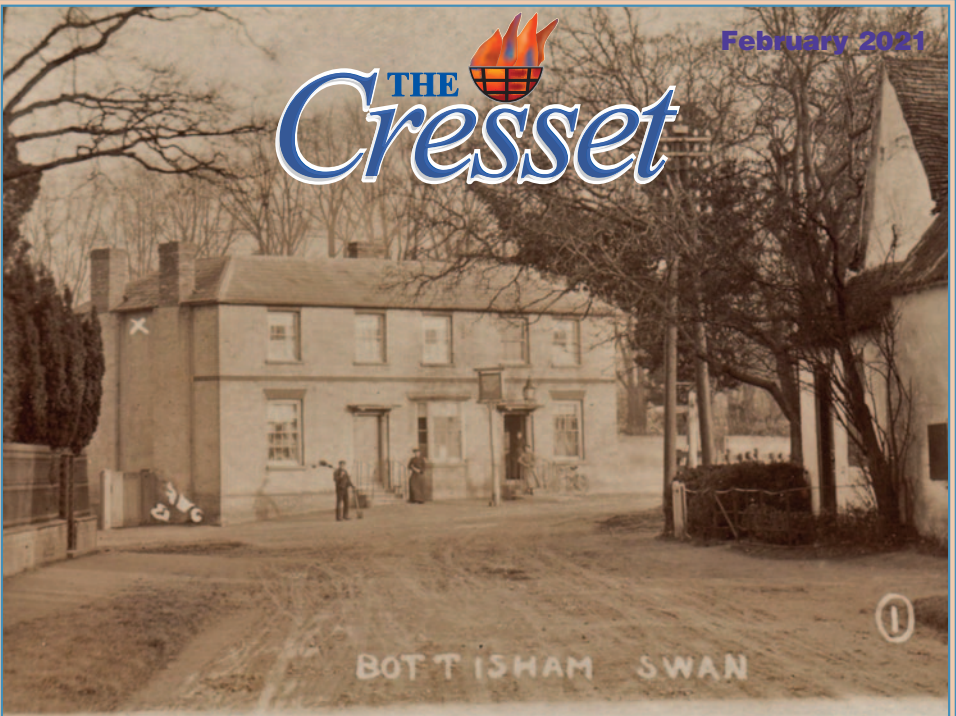


February 2021

THE Cresset



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

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

We hope you were able to have as good a festive season as was possible in the current circumstances. Please continue to follow the guidelines to keep safe and well.

Information about NHS 111: The health adviser taking your call will follow very strict pathways, a flow chart. If this suggests that the patient needs another service, they can put you through to clinical advisers for clinical support. Clinicians in the clinical assessment service are generally a GP.

The number of call handlers on the 111 service has been increased.

When you call you will be given the option of a video consultation or telephone call. If the health professional is concerned then you could be called in for a face to face consultation. The consultants have the same information that has been provided to 111 and have access to relevant patient records. If a patient is given a time slot for this and the time is not convenient, then an alternative would be offered.

If a visit to A & E Department is felt to be required then you will be given a time slot for that by the 111 service, who can also book patients into the hospital that is closest to them if away from home. The 111 service would support the patient if they had transport issues, maybe offer a home visit from their GP. Do not attend A & E directly unless the patient is in a life threatening condition.

Appointments: The Practice will continue to work as it has been doing since the start of the pandemic and remain available for all health problems. Please remember your face masks when attending the practice.

Covid Vaccinations: The COVID vaccination programme for Cambs City Primary Care Network (which includes Bottisham Medical Practice) starts imminently. Patients will be contacted via text message or phone to arrange an appointment. Please do not contact the practice unless you have been contacted to arrange an appointment. Patients will be called in order of priority starting with those over 80 and all care and nursing home residents and staff. To begin with a central vaccination hub will be used and patients will be informed as to where this will be at the time of booking the appointment. If you are struggling with transport to get to a vaccination hub, please speak to our reception team who will be able to assist you. We will update the website as and when we move on to the next cohort of patients. The phone message will also be updated as and when things change. Below are frequently asked questions and further information about the wider vaccination programme and the other ways you may be contacted for a vaccine.

Also anyone prepared to volunteer to help with these clinics please message patientsgroup@outlook.com.

Dispensary Deliveries: Bottisham Medical Practice have launched the dispensary delivery service and you will receive a leaflet with further information the next time you pick up your prescription. See the website also for further information and details on how to sign up.

Next meeting: To be arranged and will be held virtually via Zoom. If you would like to join the zoom meeting please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite.

Well, the New Year has brought little joy yet, by way of a lessening of the impact of the Covid pandemic. Indeed, it has clearly stepped up a gear and is having an unwelcome and depressing affect on us all. With the schools closed and children home schooling again, the effect on families is intense. With parents either working from home or having to organise childcare if they have to go to work, there are a lot of balls to juggle in the air.



I am sure I am not the only one who thinks that schoolteachers and nurses should be much higher up the priority list if not at the top, to be given the Covid jab. The analogy I think of is the instructions of the flight attendant giving the safety preamble on the plane, in pointing out that parents with children should put their own oxygen mask on first, before attending to their child or baby. No point in trying to do it the other way round. However, I hope and trust the 'experts' know best.

It is also becoming clear that the eagerly awaited 'Jab' will not get to the vast majority of people until well through the year. Some better weather will help, allowing nature to come to our aid and start to bring the numbers down as well.

I hope you found the article last month on the work being carried out at Holy Trinity Church interesting. This month I have included the second part. The work has now been completed and hopefully Covid allowing, the replaced pews will be used again soon.

I have had warming comments made about the 'Advent Windows' that were in place in many houses over the festive period. It clearly brought some much-needed cheer at a time when we all wanted something to make us smile. I am sure that there may well be more of those next year. If those who saw them and liked them, also did one, it could expand to become an annual Bottisham feature. Could be fun.

Further response to my 'memories' bit about the school last month has brought a lovely letter from Janet Pearson which brings more of that story to life.

Janet has also provided me with a lot of material which I will enjoy going through and sharing in future magazines.

Tony Jolley raises the much-discussed issue of the increasing amount of road noise now emanating from the A14. Much disguised currently by the Covid effect reducing its use. Several factors are causing the noise levels to rise which increases the need for something to be done about it. The massive improvement in the route from Brampton Hut to the Quy turn-off has made the A14 route to the continent much more attractive to lorries than going down to the M25. Then there is the huge development of the container docks at Felixstowe already done, with more yet to come. Add to that the increase in weight limit of lorries and the poor road surface on the stretch past Bottisham. All in all, there is a pressing need for something to be done.

Sports Nut is always a good read. Even for those less sporty, Gerry makes entertaining and informative reading.

At the risk of repeating my comment last month, I hope by the time you read this, the light at the end of the tunnel will be just that bit brighter.

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

However, that will inevitably depend on how good we are at restricting the spread, so keep your distance, wear the mask and stay safe.

Finally, our cover this month is a couple of old Bottisham views which will be too old for some but will be recognisable to all. A view of The Swan pub as was (First copy now), from what was the main road past that end of the village, now Bottisham Place.

The second is a view up the High St. past Holly cottage, the Old Anchor Pub as was and on down to another pub at the time, The Golden Ball, both now private houses.


I shall include other old pictures from time to time.

P. W.

The Late Rene Maltby

Ron Maltby would like to warmly thank all those who donated to Dementia UK after the funeral of his beloved wife Rene in the autumn. A total of £120 has been passed on to Dementia UK from the funeral directors, Southgates of Newmarket. He also would like to thank everyone for their cards and words of sympathy.

Martin R Kitson (son in law).



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Contents

Bottisham WI, Bottisham Gardening Club, Bottisham Community Library Association.....	4	Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club.....	19
Services in the Anglesey Benefice....	5	Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service.....	19
Mothers' Union	5	Red2Green News	21
Part two of the Progress Work at Holy Trinity	6-7	Dear Editor	23 & 24
Bottisham Memories	9	Public Transport Matters.....	31
Parish Notes	11 & 13	Thoughts of a Sports Nut	41 & 43
District Councillors' Report.....	13	Jolley Old World.....	45 & 47
Planning Notes	15	East Anglian Air Ambulance	49
Sales, Wants and Swaps.....	15	Dear Editor.....	49

College Combats Climate Change!

Students at Bottisham are acutely aware that Climate Change is becoming an ever-growing issue and so we took it upon ourselves to start making a difference. The school's Eco Club have focused on raising awareness about Climate Change over the last few years, including an appearance on a local radio station last year explaining their vision and passion for the cause. In addition to raising awareness, the school submitted a bid to The Woodland Trust and were successful in securing 105 trees to plant on our school site, in order to offset our Carbon Footprint.

On Wednesday 25th November 2020, these trees were planted with each section assigned to a specific year group. Larger trees were planted at the back of the field to help minimise the wind and the noise from the A14.

As well as planting the saplings, the students will also have responsibility of caring for their trees throughout their time at Bottisham and have been supplied with watering cans to ensure the successful growth of the trees.

Although this is only a small change, we hope this will be the first of many and that the trees will be there for generations to come.

Bottisham WI

Bottisham Gardening Club

Bottisham Community Library Association

Sorry but there is nothing to report other than that we are all ready to meet again when we can. I have therefore resorted to one of the messages my family sent me which I found quite funny.

SERIOUS LOCKDOWN ADVICE

Everyone PLEASE be careful because some people are going crazy being locked down at home.

I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my tea, and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING! I certainly couldn't share with the fridge, because she's been acting cold and distant!

In the end the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon be ironed out!

The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic...told me to just suck it up! But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed, and didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!

You can surely guess what the curtains told me "pull myself together!"

Made me smile.

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

February 2021

Although it had been hoped that live services could take place in churches during January, when Lockdown 3 started the Bishop of Ely advised that people should not be encouraged to travel out of their own village or given the opportunity to mingle after services; so to ensure everyone's safety it was regretfully decided for to hold services online only for the time being. A morning service will continue to be held via Zoom every Sunday at 10.30 am. Afterwards, there is the chance to (make a cup of coffee and) socialise in breakout rooms for anyone who would like to do this.

"C by C" will continue to be held via Zoom on the first Wednesday evening of each month at 8 pm. This is a contemplative service which lasts about 30 minutes.

Everyone is very welcome to attend either of these services! Please contact admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk and ask for the joining link to be sent to you.

Up to date information about the situation with regard to live services can be found on the Benefice website page: www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk.

Finally, some quotations which sum up the trust we can have in God during times of uncertainty:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

"Hope...is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out." (Vaclav Havel 1936-2011)

Sarah Maxwell



Mothers' Union

As we continue to be in lockdown and it is still unknown when we will be able to resume our meetings. I bring you information about our ongoing "Thank You key workers appeal"

WHY WE ARE RUNNING THIS APPEAL

There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers. However, this has not come without some cost. We are very aware that because of their personal sacrifices quality family time has not always been possible.

Families and supporting family life have always been at the heart of our work, and we recognise the importance of making time to step away from the stresses of everyday life, reconnect and create memories - enhancing wellbeing is essential to healthy lives and healthy families.

This is why we are extending our existing Away from it all Programme (AFIA) to say a special "thank you" to key workers in these unprecedented times.

We were very excited to secure enough funding to get this project launched. Now we are hoping to raise more funds to provide experiences to as many key workers as possible.

More information is available on www.mothersunion.org/thank-you-keyworker-appeal.

Ann Langran

Part two of the Progress Work at Holy Trinity

A quick recap where we finished last time. **Inside.** The N aisle pews, pew platform and wall panel had been removed and the foundation excavated to reveal graves, post holes and evidence of the original extent of the Allington chantry chapel. **Outside (and Inside!).** A downpour had revealed a leak in the N aisle roof, but no water ingress with 'normal' rain. **Outside.** The concrete apron against the wall of the N aisle had been broken up and removed and the course of the drains to the existing soakaway traced. The drains extended a mere 2 m away from the gully and the soakaway itself was much too small. Now read on.



OUTSIDE. The plan to extend the drain to 5 m and to dig a soakaway 1 m square seemed simple enough, but hit a snag. The chalk encountered about 1 m down was much harder than had been anticipated and would have been difficult (and expensive!) to dig to the planned depth. Instead the surface area of the soakaway was considerably increased (right). The disadvantage of this was that the remains of rather more of the former inhabitants of Bottisham came to light than had been hoped. Perhaps surprisingly, at least to me, there were no complete or even partially complete skeletons. However, it kept the archaeologists engaged for longer than we would have wished (cost £2,850 + VAT!). Just as well that there was nothing for them to get excited about. (But no pot of gold found either.)



The soakaway has been filled in and the ground levelled. Eventually it will be seeded. The hold up in completing the work on the drainage is that Lodge are still waiting for the clay traps that the downpipes will empty into to be delivered. So at the minute there is no connection between the downpipes from the aisle roof and the drain to the soakaway. The word is 'Shouldn't be long'. Watch this space.

All the excess soil from digging the drainage channels and the soakaway has been spread along the eastern end of the south wall of the churchyard - the soil may not be removed from the churchyard. The bones recovered from the internal and external work have been stored by the altar and will be given a reburial in the churchyard. For that we shall need a fair sized hole! One sees a terrible circular problem developing, but happily Richard had to dig a large hole in a quiet corner of the churchyard to get topsoil to finish the drainage area. We we'll dig there!

NORTH AISLE ROOF. Once the drainage channels and soakaway had been levelled the cause of the leak through the N aisle roof could be investigated. The days when a lad would have nipped up a ladder for a quick (and cheap) look have long since gone (right). The problem lay where the downpipe from the nave roof empties onto the N aisle roof. Exactly where water

penetrated was not obvious. No great surprise. In a real downpour a large volume of water is thrown onto the aisle roof and in a strong wind can be driven under the joint/overlap between the lead sheets. In 'usual' rain/wind this doesn't happen. (Each sheet stretches between the battens, around which the joint is folded, see below.) We had a similar problem where the other downpipe from the N nave roof comes down (to the right between the clerestory windows in the photo right).



The solution, we hope it is indeed the solution, was the same, i.e. to construct a short diverter to direct the water down the side of the batten opposite the joint between the sheets.

The access tower is gone: happily without any villains trying to use it to get at the lead, although the roof alarm was still functional and the church floodlit for the whole of the two nights that the tower was up. However, Ecclesiastical Insurance had declined to insure the lead while the tower was up, so we can now all breathe out again.

INSIDE. The voids revealed during the excavation - graves, post holes - have been filled and compacted and a limecrete base laid. There has, of course, to be some problem with plan A and it turned out to be that the specified Norfolk pammments, 12" square handmade clay tiles, couldn't be delivered in the preferred colour until into the new year. However, a sufficient number of tiles were available if a mix of colours was acceptable. The advice, from more than one source, but thanks particularly to Steve Allen, was that the tiles darken with sealing and with use. In any case they would be largely concealed under the pews. (In all of this we keep an eye on the possibility that one day the pews, installed in 1840 and considered to be of historical importance as an example of box pews persisting into the Victorian period, may be removed and the floor then fully in view. (That moment is not yet here!) The PCC were consulted and the decision made to go for it.



When it actually came to it and the tiles delivered and laid on a mixture of lime and sharp sand, the result was considerably more homogeneous than the sample we had seen had suggested. Full marks to the layers of the tiles. These really are handmade tiles, varying not just in colour, but in dimensions and thickness. Laying them is not so simple, but the level playing field achieved would surely delight the heart of any EU negotiator.



There is still work to be done tidying up the edge of the existing brickwork around the tiles and laying a 3" border. Not so easy. After that, the lower part of the wall of the aisle needs to be limewashed to match the existing colour and the pews reinstalled. Nothing can go wrong.

Mike Young



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Bottisham Memories

After reading last month's article, I was delighted when Janet Pearson got in touch to add some personal notes to her recollection of one particularly important person in the photograph of the Primary school football team. For the teacher at that time was her grandfather Harry Morgan who moved to Bottisham from Cambridge to take up the post of headmaster in 1912.

Janet also enclosed a copy of a poem written by F.T. Unwin. Clearly a treasured possession. Fred wrote a whole series of books about his boyhood memories here and in Cambridge and sold them door to door in the 80's and 90's. Your Editor remembers well, his calling and buying a copy of one of his books.

If you have recollections like Janet, which you can share, I would love to hear from you.

Janet's grandfather was clearly a well-liked and respected man. The kind of teacher I would love to have had.

THE BOTTISHAM SCHOOLMASTER.

Harry Morgan's trim figure strode the village street.

As though Jack Hobbs was going in to bat.

Small boys stared, with eyes afraid to meet,
Their father's mood was never quite like that.

In centre of school hall, he stood, Dignified.
Read out each name, plus misdemeanour deed.

Stiff as boards, they stood. Terrified.
Until called out in relevance to his need.

The village headmaster of yester-years,
Forged characters of boys, apart from school.
Life's lessons were purchased oft times with tears,
But tears welled into waves of golden rule.

Respect for others property was taught;
Harry Morgan's idealism brought to bear,
On boys whose future days were sought;
He gave his all to lads beneath his care.

Years passed by, the boys turned into men.
Respect for Mr. Morgan never waned.
For technology or science they had no yen,
Only for the points of life they gained

F.T Unwin



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OPENING TIMES

Monday and Wednesday

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Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9am-12.30pm



We began the year with a Parish Council meeting on the very evening that the Prime Minister announced a new lockdown. In the earlier lockdown, a number of volunteers came forward to support residents who found themselves unable to go out to get shopping and prescriptions etc. The very suddenness of the first lockdown meant that few were prepared and volunteers were initially very busy. Over the months many of those who had sought help developed new support mechanisms and, at the same time, a number of volunteers returned to work. So the shopping service was wound down at the end of the summer. Sue Giles (the Vicar) and Bill Sunner from the village shop, feel that a slightly different approach is required this time. For those people who don't have local support available, Sue will find a volunteer on a one to one basis to support them. This might include taking prescriptions to the surgery or arranging shopping by combining two households weekly shopping. If you need help, please call her on 01223 812726.

As I reported last month, the Parish Council has been working on its response to the amended application for the Retirement Village to be developed behind 163-187 High Street. The main change to the application was the addition of around 50 affordable housing units in the corner of the site near Rowan Close, off Beechwood Avenue. In brief, our response reaffirmed our previous comments that there is no need for a retirement village of this scale in Bottisham and which justifies breaking into an area of Green Belt long recognised as being of high landscape value to the village. Under government guidelines, provision of affordable housing is one of the few permitted exemptions for development on Green Belt. However the village has significantly increased affordable home provision in recent years, with the Green Belt development off Bell Rd - with permission given for another 50 homes to be built. The Bell Rd development was supported by the Parish Council, but we now see no need for further provision. We further pointed out that the affordable provision off Bell Rd is integrated within the wider development (in line with government guidance) - while that proposed for the retirement village is not. On that basis, the Parish Council objects to the application for the retirement village being approved.

A number of responses to the application raised concern about the adequacy of infrastructure within the village to absorb a development of over 200 units. This was brought into sharp focus over Christmas when heavy rain overwhelmed the pumping station on the High Street not far from the proposed development, with one house inundated with sewage contaminated water for the third time in 5 years.

Details of the application and all the responses can be seen by following this link: <https://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/> and then entering the reference 20/00296/OUM.

I am delighted to report that, following my note last month, the Council has co-opted John Wilson onto the Parish Council. Although relatively new to the village John has wide experience we can call on, having previously served on Cottenham Parish Council. We look forward to benefitting from his knowledge as he joins us formally in February.

Last month I mentioned the work being done by the Greater Cambridge Partnership on the Eastern Access into Cambridge. The Parish Council has submitted a response seeking greater involvement in the planning and decision-making for the parishes most closely affected in East Cambridgeshire.

Continued on page 13

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Continued from page 11

Alongside these large projects, the Council continues to work on areas important to local residents. We are close to finalising plans for renovating the bus shelter in the High Street and installing bollards to prevent parking on the triangle in the centre of the village.

I hope you all keep well and safe, and that, once the vaccinations have been widely rolled out, we can return to a more social way of life in the village.


District Councillors' Report

As we write this, England is in lockdown due to Covid-19. The rules and guidance change frequently, so please check the government website for the latest rules - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. The simple message is to avoid leaving home unless you have to, or for daily exercise, and avoid contact with people who are not in your household. When you have to go out, eg on public transport or at shops, wear a face covering. Use the disinfectant made available while you are out and wash your hands thoroughly at home. Following these rules will help keep you and our community safe. If you need any help or advice, East Cambs has advice and links to other advice at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/covid-19-information-and-support>. There is government help and voluntary help to cover most needs, so if you need help please ask John or Charlotte or follow these links.

The vaccinations are being rolled out to care homes and people who are 85 and over and will then be rolled out further. Our local vaccination centres are the Burwell Surgery and Addenbrookes, with volunteer drivers to transport people to their nearest centre. This holds out hope for the future, but it is vital that we keep ourselves and others safe by staying at home as far as possible.

We shall be holding our next Councillor's Surgery by Zoom on Monday 15th February from 6.30 p.m. The Meeting ID is 631 542 4066, and the Passcode is 938720. If you prefer to follow a link, it will be on Charlotte's Facebook page – fb.me/charlottecanelibdem. If you prefer to join by 'phone, you can join the meeting by dialling 0203 901 7895 and entering the meeting ID and password when prompted. If you join for the Surgery, you will be held in the waiting room if there is already someone in the meeting with us, so that any discussions with us during the Surgery remain confidential. The Surgery will be followed by 'Meet your Councillors' on the same Zoom link, and this will be a group meeting to listen to, and discuss, your ideas and opinions with others.

Charlotte Cane - charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk – 01638 741064



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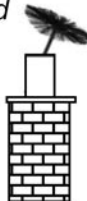
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Planning Notes

A) APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

20/00296/OUM, Land rear of 163 to 187 High Street, Development of retirement care village: Amendment and additional information to address ECDC's recommended reasons for refusal of permission.

20/01309/FUL & 20/01209/FUL, 1 Bottisham Place, Proposed change of use (only) of existing redundant Grade 2 listed agricultural barn to B1 (light industrial) for manufacture of timber pods (no alteration to barn)

Amended plans for Highways in respect new access previously approved under ref 17/01876/FUL

20/01638/LBC, Bottisham Milestone S of telephone exchange, adjacent to Chalk Farm Cottages, Newmarket Rd, Bottisham, Consolidation and reinstatement of milestone

20/01667/FUL, Little Tunbridge, 28 Lode Road, Bottisham, Replace existing 3 ft fence on boundary with 6 ft boarded fence

B) PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED

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

Sales, Wants and Swaps



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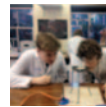
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The AGM in these exceptional circumstances will be postponed until the law permits us to hold it on the premises. Any queries regarding this please email the Secretary at bottishamcsasc@gmail.com

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NEWS RELEASE



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We are extremely pleased to hear that our Chief Fire Officer, Chris Strickland, has been awarded the coveted Queen's Fire Service Medal in the New Year's honours. Congratulations Chris.

Talking of the New Year, did anyone make any resolutions and, if you did, have they already fallen by the wayside? In January's Cresset we listed four resolutions for you, your families and friends which, briefly, were:

Smoke Alarms – Fit, Test and Check that they are audible throughout your home. TEST WEEKLY (red testing sticks available from me. First come, first served 811600)

Even more importantly, during these Covid restricted times, ensure that family, friends and neighbours alarms are fully functional.

Safe and Well Visits – these are ongoing and can be arranged with CFRS via 0800 917 9994.

Be sure in your mind that, should you be unfortunate enough to have a fire (as we did in 1966), you have a Plan of Action – usually along the lines of:-

Shout FIRE, get everyone OUT, CALL 999* and STAY OUT!

Michael White

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Red2Green supports adults with learning disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder through our Options activities or our Aspirations learning programme. We have two sites, Harvey's Barn in Swaffham Bulbeck and the Community Café and Garden at Lode Road in Bottisham.

We continue to support the most vulnerable of our learners and have expanded at Park End, Swaffham Bulbeck into an additional barn to enable us to socially distance. People still attend Red2Green either because they are living with informal carers who need the support, have mental health challenges that would suffer dramatically, or they are living alone and have no access to the internet for our remote service.

We have a rigorous programme to keep our learners safe, which includes PPE, hand washing, sanitising and deep cleaning. You may see us around the villages as we spend as much time as possible outside.

For those who do not attend we are running online services, making telephone calls and sending them activity packs. We miss them so much, and look forward to the time when they will be able to return.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ AND GARDEN - We are continuing to keep the community café closed, as we need to keep our learners safe. However, we are still growing plants and these can be bought through our website or at the honesty box at our Lode Road, Bottisham site. We have also been making products to sell, including lavender bags using our own lavender.

Some of you may remember Pauline, who ran the café. Unfortunately, Pauline became ill, and passed away at the end of last year. This was a sad time for Red2Green and she is greatly missed.

COGS2COMPUTERS - Our Cogs2Computers project is well underway with the learners and students within Swaffham Bulbeck coming together to learn about the history of computers.

In December, we all came together over a one-week period to explore computer programming. Much fun and learning was had!

We are now looking for older members of the community to talk to us about how computers have changed the way they live and communicate since Covid-19 has made its impact. You can either have a one-to-one conversation with us, which we would like to record, or we would like for you to join a small focus group of other people just like you.

If you are interested in speaking with someone to learn more, please do contact us at: info@red2green.org and ask to speak with Claire O'Neill.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT US: - if you would like to support Red2Green so that we can continue our work, then there are a few ways that you can do this, the first three at no cost to yourself:

- If you shop with amazon, use smile.amazon.co.uk and set Red2Green to be your chosen charity. Amazon then donate 0.5% of what you have spent to us!
- For other shopping sign up with thegivingmachine.co.uk and set Red2Green to be one of your charities. Download their app and extension for your browser, and then do your online shopping through this. The browser extension will remind you when a shop you visit could give us a donation. Each day you can also press the 'daily donation' button, and we receive money without you doing any shopping!
- Tell your friends about Red2Green and get them to do the above two things
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One of the benefits of being confined to quarters is being able to sift through old papers and I came across an article by Mike Petty taken from the Cambridge Evening News of June. It relates to a report in the June 1910 edition when the Post Office was situated at Holly Cottage, next to The Anchor. It might be of interest to Cresset readers.

Margret Coles

The Bottisham Post Mistress.

“One of the most profoundly respected and widely-known characters in Bottisham and district has passed away at the ripe old age of 66-odd years. Though carefully tended by a whole host of friends, not a single relative of the deceased was present when death took place shortly after 8.30 in the morning.”

Few Bottisham inhabitants have secured by sheer force of personality such an abiding reputation for imperiousness, combined with a haughty good temper. For the past 30 years, she had held undisputed sway, subject to occasional supervision by the Misses King in the Bottisham post office. Anyone who entered during the past 30 years was immediately made aware that it is not the essence of politeness to put one elbow on the counter and lounge as though in a public bar. Through years of practise she'd learned to correct such bad tendencies by neatly biting a piece out of the offending coat and then scurrying off. It was rather summary treatment of course but she came from Australia and no doubt in her blood there always ran a strong strain of the bluntness of the hardy Colonial. It was also always rather unwise to leave letters on the counter as on more than one occasion she unofficially opened them, censored the contents and tore the paper to shreds.

But all was not quite what it seemed, for ‘Pretty Poll’ was a white and lemon crested cockatoo, the pet of the village post office, the autocrat of the counter and the terror of several generations of Bottisham children. Though owning a cage and the usual luxuries accorded to a tropical bird, Poll always preferred the counter as a promenade.

Thirty years earlier Poll had been sentenced to death by its owner, a London lady, who probably found her pretty ways rather too expensive to be satisfactory. It was here that the kindly hand of fate intervened. The lady took the bird to a London chemist, Mr George Kind, who in his early youth lived in Bottisham. Poll immediately caught his eye. Exactly what passed between the two in that look is not known. It was silently agreed however that the fates should be outwitted.

Mr Kind sympathised with the lady in her desire to compass the death of the cockatoo. But he also mentioned that he thought he could find ‘a happy home’ as he phrased it for Poll. Eventually the lady agreed and Poll journeyed to Bottisham Post Office to commence a further span of 30 years. Since that day, all Bottisham had learned to know, love and respect Pretty Poll.

One great friend the bird had was a cat, which used to be on such familiar terms that she was frequently permitted to have the run of the bird's cage. Poll was an inveterate gossip and when the long afternoons in the post office became too dull, she used to whistle the dog

Continued on page 25



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and call the cat with such human skill that caused it sometimes to positively cackle with laughter at the dog snuffing round for the owner of the whistle.

One shocking trick she played on the village parson was practically the only black spot on a blameless life at Bottisham. The incident occurred one Sunday when the clergyman called on the way to church. Poll, probably thinking that the visit had lasted long enough, caught up the parson's hat. The parson made a wild dash to make the bird drop it and Poll, taking offence, bit him on the lip. The wound was not serious but he delivered his discourse that afternoon with a thick lip more in keeping with the features of a prize-fighter than a clergyman.

As soon as the death of the famous bird became known at Bottisham, an informal lying-in-state was held which was attended by at least 50 children, curious to see at close quarters the governing manager of the shop who had always inspired them with much awe. *R.I.P.*

Dear Editor

Like many interested in local sport, I was sad to hear that Dick Bradford had passed away, also Graham Barker a while back. Thankyou Mike, for a very interesting and moving account of your Dad's life.

When we moved to Bottisham in 1966 Dick was a regular member of a very successful Cricket team and Graham was a promising 13-year-old batsman. A second team was later set up to encourage younger players. For our first game, two lads playing tennis were asked to make up the team, both became regular members. During the following years we played lots of cricket. We had two teams playing in the Cambridge Cricket League(CCA) at weekends and the Bottisham & District League in the Evenings .We also played in many Cup Competitions including the locally supported Ingham Cup and Fairhaven Trophy.

One unfortunate memory of Dick was when I took him to Addenbrooks with a cut eyebrow, a common occurrence (no helmets in those days).

Many Cricketers and Golfers often get involved in Lawn Bowls. I think your 1932 photo may include Neville Darling, he probably played Cricket with Dick and later become a very good Bowler.

I started playing Bowls in 1986 at Frank Turner's. He used to play with Neville at The Abbey Bowls Club. Frank often said that when he retired, he had the choice of a grandfather clock or a Bowls green. We had many happy years playing there. Graham become a very good Cricketer and later excelled at Bowls until his untimely passing. This area has produced a lot of good sportsmen over the years, the latest being Neville's great nephew Harry who has just made his 50th appearance for Cambridge United Football Club. I hope your readers of a certain age will find this interesting.

Frank Routley

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Public Transport Matters

When you read this, I am not sure what Stagecoach bus service we will still have. They have warned me today the 12th January to ring in a couple of weeks to check the situation. National Express have already cancelled their services. Buses are still essential for people who have to go to their workplace and can't work from home - NHS and care staff for instance. Buses are still taking children to school and then taking them home. Often no-one on the local buses during the day just a few early morning and early evening. Stagecoach customer care telephone number is 01223 433 250. Rail fares are frozen until March and then due to rise by 2.6 % after the Government's multi million pounds bail out of rail operators. Flexible season tickets could be introduced by the Spring. The Government has asked train companies to submit proposals for services reduction to prevent empty services operating and save taxpayer money.

It is suggested that now would be a good time to boost freight trains and take lorries off the roads. There could be zero carbon emissions if they were electric and fed by overhead power lines using renewable energy. Jumbo freight trains up to half a mile long are being introduced. Great Northern is also introducing longer trains of 8 carriages to help with social distancing. It is hoped to decrease the amount of diesel trains by using human and food waste to power them - BioUltra trains are being developed. Electric or battery powered trams are being suggested for metropolitan areas. Locally a new busway link from Waterbeach to the north of Cambridge and Cambridge North station is suggested but there is a lot of opposition to it but it was hoped it could alleviate the A10 congestion. The new station at Soham development has turned out to be very interesting as they have found Great Crested Newts. They have been released to a new habitat nearby.

The former Trans Europ Express was abandoned in the 80s but is now being restored as the TEE by France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. 4 new sleeper train routes to meet their carbon emissions targets.

HS2 and the local Cambridge Metro plans continue to be discussed and argued over especially over the routes and rising costs.

Rail info - 08457 48 49 50

Traveline - 0871 200 22 33

Happy travelling - take care, keep safe and well - Paddy James

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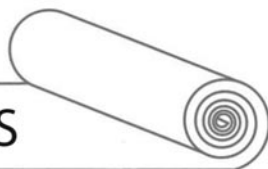


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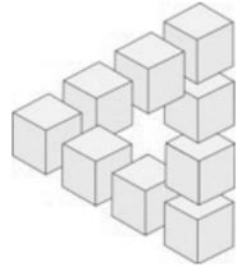
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

So, as expected, Lewis Hamilton duly acquired his knighthood in the New Year's Honours List and one has to admit that, despite some small reservations previously discussed, he has done his job phenomenally well. Sir Lewis now holds the records for most Grand Prix wins (95), most pole-positions (98), most podium finishes (165) as well as being tied with Michael Schumacher as a seven-times World Drivers' Champion. For a man who left the UK to escape from media scrutiny he is not slow to use his fame to voice his opinions on political & social issues of the day. In principle, the idea of raising awareness of important matters is to be applauded, but I thought it was a tad condescending when he paid tribute to the NHS workers whilst picking up his Sports Personality of the Year award at his £10million tax-exile home in Monaco.

Did anyone else feel a sense of "too little, too late" when Jimmy Greaves and Ron Flowers became the last two surviving members of England's 1966 World Cup squad to receive Honours List recognition for their achievements? Flowers had a long and distinguished career for Wolverhampton Wanderers and England in the 1950s and 60s and was rightly rewarded, but I'm sure he would be the first to admit that Jimmy Greaves was one of football's best-loved characters and was among the world's truly great players – easily the most prolific goalscorer ever in the English game. At professional club level he scored 386 goals in 566 appearances and, for England, an incredible 44 goals in 57 games! I think it's nothing short of a national disgrace that Greaves only got an apologetic MBE once he was too old and sick to enjoy it.

From a national to an international disgrace... I see that FIFA has recently sent a file to the Swiss Prosecutor alleging the misappropriation of £420million worth of its funds by ex-President Sepp Blatter in connection with a football museum project in Zurich. He is already four years into a six-year suspension from all football involvement and I can only hope that the law finally catches up with this poisonous, 84-year-old charlatan before he is too old and sick to suffer it!

I was hoping to avoid talking about the dreaded virus but, given its dramatic effect on all sport – indeed, all aspects of our lives – it is becoming extremely difficult. At the time of writing, with much of Europe operating under severe lockdown or curfew restrictions until the vaccination programmes take effect, the landscape for 2021 looks pretty uncertain. Professional competitions are managing to operate in empty arenas, offering us a measure of entertainment on TV, but it's perhaps no wonder that many of us wander down the road of nostalgia and re-engage with moments of joy that exemplify the eternal appeal of sporting endeavour. Social media is awash with great Olympic feats, scintillating tries, huge sixes, impossible catches, holes in one, searing passing shots, beautiful goals and underdog triumphs. Personally I love the catches, and my favourite clip is Andrew Strauss' fabulous, one-handed, diving slip catch to dismiss Adam Gilchrist in the 4th Ashes Test of 2005. What's yours?

(Sports Nut continued on page 39)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

As far as local participation is concerned it seems that running and cycling are the only activities currently thriving; although it sometimes takes a huge mental effort to emerge from the duvet to brave the elements on a cold, drizzly, winter's morning. But I can tell you that the CB25er cyclists are doing our best, even under lockdown, to encourage each other to stick at it. Under the 'groups of six' rule, we regularly enjoyed a full turn-out including socially-distanced coffee stops on the longer rides; and now, under lockdown, we're making full use of social media to make sure no-one is slacking! The only trouble is that, with all the winter clobber, it takes nearly as long to dress and undress as it does to complete the ride!

Whilst we're talking cycling, the world's first appointment of a female sporting director to a men's World Tour team took place before Christmas when Cherie Pridham, former chief of Raleigh's domestic team, joined Israel Start Up Nation. She will be managing Grand Tour veterans, Chris Froome, Alex Dowsett, Michael Woods and Daryl Impey, among others, so this is a significant breakthrough for women in sport. I wonder how long it will be before we see a woman coaching or managing a men's professional football, rugby or cricket team. Professionalism in women's sports brings dramatic improvements in standards and a massive increase in exposure. Surely it's only a matter of time, isn't it?

It has become customary for me to use this column to express sadness and share memories of noteworthy sportspeople who have passed. So please indulge me in saying a few words about three individuals in particular who left us over the Christmas and New Year period and who I think the world is poorer without.

Some readers may have known my friend Don Page from Fen Ditton whose passion was local football. He was one of the founders of the Cambridge & District Sunday League and served as its Chairman for many years. He also enjoyed a long term as President of Cambridgeshire Football Association and I am one of thousands of football participants with reason to be grateful for his tireless, good-humoured efforts.

In professional football, there were few as modest and unassuming as Colin 'Nijinsky' Bell. Full of power and elegance, he graced the colours of Manchester City and England from the mid-1960s until a knee injury forced his retirement in the late 1970s. For an icon like Tom Finney to say that he was "as good as anything I've ever seen", you know that Colin Bell was something special – the 'complete' footballer of his day.

John Edrich was one of my earliest cricketing heroes, a considerable inspiration to a boy aspiring to become a vertically-challenged opening batsman! He was a fearless left-hander who took on the might of some of the fastest, most aggressive bowlers in history; Hall and Griffith, Roberts and Holding, Lillee and Thomson among them. I can remember sitting with my Dad on Lowestoft beach in 1965, listening to John Arlott's Hampshire brogue commentating the 3rd Test v. New Zealand on the transistor radio. (I had to look up which game it was – my memory is not that good!). Anyway, Edrich was unstoppable that day. He was past the 250 mark – on his way to 310 not out – when the siren of an emergency vehicle blared over the airwaves. Without pausing for breath, Arlott continued, "...and that'll be the fire brigade, come to put Edrich out"! Two geniuses at work.

RIP Gentlemen.

TTFN - Gerry Daish



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A MAJOR SOURCE OF IRRITATION TO MANY...

I wonder how many of you will recall ‘The Road to Hell’? If you said the A14 then you would be right. This was in the days when the road was more often than not gridlocked around Cambridge all the way through to Huntingdon and to the A1. But how many people remember the road back in the Sixties, when it was still called the A604, and hadn’t even been turned into a dual carriageway? Over the years the road has been through a great many changes, prompted, inevitably, by an ever-growing tide of cars, vans and especially outsized HGVs.

Once upon a time, it was part of the Via Devana, the road linking Huntingdon and Cambridge, and the only traffic on it was the sandaled feet of marching Roman soldiers. In the 1960s, as the A604, it was a 90-mile cross-country route between the A6 at Kettering and the A12 at Colchester via Haverhill, and the number of vehicles plying back and forth between was ridiculously light compared to today’s non-stop torrent. By the early 70s however, the road was getting busier due to the expansion at Felixstowe Docks with the predictable increase of commercial traffic and container vehicles. It was then decided the A604 had to be upgraded. One of the many improvements was a new section of road running from Cambridge - bypassing Bottisham - around Newmarket and then onto Ipswich and Felixstowe. This new road was adopted as the A45 whereas the old A45, running parallel to Bottisham, was renamed the A1303. Then in the 1990s a campaign began to get the road upgraded to motorway status. It was eventually upgraded and renamed the A14, but not to motorway standard and, despite lobbying, also failed to include noise mitigation measures as it passed Bottisham. As an inevitable consequence traffic increased and with it road noise which has remained a curse on Bottisham ever since. The A14 is now a vital part of the Strategic Road Network linking the East Coast ports with the Midlands. Now, three decades on, it has been revamped yet again attracting even more traffic coming past our doorstep...

Ever since the A14 became part of the Strategic Road Network it has been a constant nuisance and a major source of irritation to many who live in Bottisham. The incessant traffic and the ‘ear-splitting’ road noise it generates are at times a conversation stopper and a sleep blocker as many living along the High Street and beyond will testify. Moreover the environmental impact on health by traffic noise is second only to that from air pollution. ‘Experts’ say traffic noise causes or contributes to mental stress, sleep disturbance and even to heart attacks, learning disabilities and tinnitus.

In 2017 Parish Council received so many complaints about A14 noise that a project was set up with an aim to have Bottisham recognised as a Noise Important Area or NIA. This involved working with Cambridgeshire Highways, Highways England (HE) and DEFRA.

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Continued from page 45

NIA status enables noise mitigation measures to be implemented but it has to be preceded by a Road Noise Mapping exercise. Unfortunately for Bottisham we were not included in the 2020 NIA allocation published in October 2019, mainly because the noise mapping data available showed that traffic and road noise was at acceptable levels. The noise maps used however were based on outdated data taken way before the 2016 Felixstowe Docks expansion and before the new A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon road was opened in 2019.

With fresh impetus from Rhona Walker and a few other likeminded people including Parish Council, connections have been renewed with DEFRA, HE and CCC Highways. The aim this second time round is to have Bottisham recognised as a NIA in the next DEFRA assessment due in 2025.

The research to date shows that the latest Road Noise Map used to calculate traffic noise from the A14, to/from Newmarket and Cambridge, indicates that the southernmost part of Bottisham, essentially the High Street, falls within the 55dB to 60dB noise band which is on the outer limits of invasive noise. However the noise map does not account for wind direction and wind speed. Neither does it take into account the Nine Mile Hill factor to the east, where the A14 and A11 diverge, that is elevated above Bottisham in open countryside. Therefore wind direction coming from any south westerly direction through to and including an easterly direction has the effect of intensifying traffic noise which of course becomes even louder the greater the wind speed.

I've mentioned the Felixstowe Docks expansion and the new A14 road between Cambridge and Huntingdon. These two influences are now generating noticeably more traffic and with that traffic noise coming past Bottisham. This is since the last SRN Noise Mapping exercise undertaken in 2017/18. The most conspicuous effect post the new A14 road has been the lure of traffic away from routes taken previously to avoid the old A14 problems of congestion and standstills.

But NIA status will not happen without the support and input from those of you who believe that traffic noise from the A14 is a problem spoiling the enjoyment of sitting in your gardens and or your ability to sleep at night - especially in the summer when open windows are crucially needed.

Your village needs you to make you views known in writing either to Rhona or to the Parish Council through the Cresset – bottishamcresset@gmail.com or direct to Parish Council – clerk@bottishampc.co.uk

Documented communal concerns will be a valuable tool in the dialogue to achieve NIA status and to get something tangible done!

JOW



“To those who say it cannot be done I say get out of the way of those doing it”. A variation on Confucius - a Chinese philosopher who lived in the 6th century.

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On Sunday 19th September, post Covid we hope, the 2021 Chariots of Fire event will again take place on Queens' Green in Cambridge. Team registration will go live in April. Race Director Charles Hewitson said: "This is an exceptional year ... I am delighted that in 2021 Chariots of Fire will once again provide the stage for local organisations, colleges and supporters to join together and raise money for this deserving cause." East Anglian Air Ambulance is its chosen charity and beneficiary this year and, this year more than ever before, we need to maximise support on the day. We have to come up trumps with massive volunteer support. Our target is £97,000!

Whether you have done any charity support work at all, or perhaps just thought about it but not actually done anything about it, please do get in touch. We will need lots of volunteers both on an ongoing basis, to help raise funds, but also on this very important day. We have been offered this great opportunity to underpin our operation in a one-off way – please help us maximise the results. The sky's the limit! By supporting Chariots of Fire you will be helping to save lives in Cambridgeshire.

To volunteer, or to find out what's involved, please contact Debbie at debbie.howland@eaaa.org.uk

To round off – this year as of 12th January, EAAA crews have attended 31 missions and 25 Covid transfers.

Michael White

Dear Editor

Please pass my thanks to 'Meeting Point' for the generous and unexpected gift of Christmas treats. I came to Bottisham over 50 years ago and these past 12 months have confirmed how fortunate I am to live in such a friendly, caring village.

Best wishes for a healthy 2021.

Angela Humphreys

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BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

TUESDAYS

6.00pm-8.00pm

THURSDAYS

3.00pm-5.00pm

SATURDAYS

10.00am-12.00am

*Working in Partnership with the
County Library Service.*

Useful Information

Bottisham Website:	WWW.BOTTISHAMPC.CO.UK
Holy Trinity Church: Revd Sue Giles	812726
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: Jonathan Giles	07789 012761
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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