

April 2022

THE 
Cresset



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

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Easter Editorial



It is difficult to start this village magazine editorial without talking about the bigger issues going on in the world at the moment.

We are now two generations away from having war directly affecting our own country, so even with the scenes we see presented on our TVs of the war in Ukraine, it is difficult to get the real sense of what the people of that country are suffering.

To live every day and night with shells and missiles falling all around is terrifying in the extreme. 4 million people have managed to just drop everything they have and that is EVERYTHING and made it across the border into Poland. Just think of your own life and what that would mean, particularly if you have young children.

At the time of writing the devastation is brutal, particularly in the southern city of Mariupol, which the Russians want for access to the sea. They clearly have no regard for human life or what devastation they cause. But at the same time, there are discussions and negotiations taking place which are showing glimmers of hope for some sort of deal or agreement which hopefully will stop the madness.

A couple of outcomes are possible beyond the end of these hostilities.

Firstly, that it brings clearly into focus, the lunacy which is the threat of nuclear weapons.

Most of us were not around when the Cuban missile crisis hit, (well yes, I was), but we are once again close to the brink of disaster. We must never take that step again. I hope it eventually triggers some further agreement to reduce their numbers.

Secondly it also highlights the fragility of the supply of fossil fuels, the impact they are having and the finite amount that we have available.

If those issues become more to the fore, then perhaps we can get back to addressing the global issues, which affect the human race as a whole, more than the territorial battles which we have at the moment. And ironically that would be a good thing.

Closer to home now and no answer or decision is forthcoming about the retirement home or the extension/expansion of the wood processing factory planning applications which are pending. Decisions may have been made by the time you read this.

I am sure there will be more discussions too about the 'Waste water treatment plant' planned for Honey hill. (What was wrong with 'Sewage works'!)

Plenty to read in this month's magazine with more and more events and organisations opening up as the spring and summer beckon.

I don't hear anything yet being discussed to mark the Queen's Jubilee. Is there nothing planned? If you are talking about it, or planning anything, do let us know.

One event which is worthy at least of note, if not a party, is that the Bottisham Branch of The Royal British Legion marks its centenary, having been founded on 4th April 1922.

Sadly, very few people get involved these days with the Branch and Covid dealt a blow to the traditional Poppy box collecting, which will never get back to where it used to be, with

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

more money now being raised via bank transfers and on-line donations. There are not the legs on the ground to do that now.

In a way that is also reflected in the fact that 'The Legion Social Club' has now disconnected and stands as 'The Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club'. Ironically, it is still referred to by many, as 'The Legion'. However, I suspect with time that moniker will also disappear. Either way it is still a great place to meet up for a chat and a drink, or to hold family or club get-togethers.

All the regular reads are here in your Cresset, with information, advice and humour. I hope you have a happy Easter break if you get one and enjoy the improving weather as and when we get it.

Cheers. - Peter W.



This months cover is a beautiful morning sky over our church taken by Anna Dearden

Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sun 3 April	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion , Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship , Village Hall, Quy
Wed 6 April	8 pm	C by C (a short contemplative service), Online service on Zoom
Sun 10 April - Palm Sunday	9am	Holy Communion , Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship , Swaffham Prior – also on Zoom
Fri 15 April - Good Friday	10 am	Open Air Service (if fine, otherwise in church), Quy
	7pm	Meditation for Good Friday , Bottisham
Sun 17 April - Easter Sunday	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion , Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer , Bottisham
Sun 24 April	9am	Online service , on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) , Swaffham Prior
Each Thursday	10.30am	Holy Communion , Lode

For the time being we would like to request congregations WEAR MASKS to sing at services in church

*Please check www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7378/benefice for current information;
or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk,
which is also the address to request the Zoom link.*

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Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 April.

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News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council, I am delighted to report that it has been agreed that the new hearing loop and sound system project will go ahead. This is thanks to several very kind and generous donations which to date total over £7,000, for which we are most grateful. This is half the amount needed. However, if you have not done so already and still wish to donate, please drop your donation into the vicarage or contact me.

Many of you will have observed that we now have a splendid new noticeboard outside the church. This will enable the weekly notice sheets and any other details of church related activities to be posted there. Helpful contact details are listed. In addition, we have created a simpler, easy to remember website:

www.bottishamchurch.org.uk

which links directly into the website which covers all the churches in the Anglesey Benefice and gives comprehensive details of all the Benefice activities.

EASTER ACTIVITIES:

On Easter Saturday 16th April, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt – just turn up at the church 10.30-11.30 am for the fun to begin!

On Easter Sunday 17th April at 10.30am there will be a Morning Worship service to which all are invited.

Finally, it has been agreed to use the church for more community-based activities. The Play and Praise toddler group will continue to meet in term time at 9-11am on Tuesday mornings. It is planned to hold a series of short concerts on a Saturday Morning entitled ‘Coffee, Cake and Concert (CC&C)’. The first of these will be on Saturday 7th May starting at 10.30am for coffee to be followed by the concert which will comprise several easy listening violin and soprano solo voice pieces accompanied by piano and organ. Admission will be £4 for adults – children free. We look forward to seeing some of you there.

Stuart Field

Community Library

We held another successful Quiz Night at the Club on 12th March, the last one was in February 2020 just before the pandemic. It ran on very similar lines and it was a good feeling to be back to normal. Congratulations to the winning team. Thank you for your support. I should like to thank once again Bill Sumner from our local Co-op for his generous donation towards the winners’ prizes and the raffle. The total raised was over £300 and will be a welcome addition to our funds

We have arranged another book sale on the Triangle for Saturday 21st May and hope that Bottisham WI and Bottisham and District Gardening Club will also have stalls on the day for cakes and plants. Please pray for good weather.

Please note we shall be closed over the Easter weekend, Friday April 22nd and Saturday April 23rd.

Sylvia Overton

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Parish Council Report

Life for the Parish Council continues to be busy and I want to highlight some of the important issues that we are dealing with at the moment.

Firstly, and most briefly, at the time of writing we are still awaiting the outcome of the Inquiry into the proposed Retirement Village. As soon as the determination is published, we will post details on the website and I will write about it in my regular article.

Secondly, the Parish Council had a presentation from Ridge Clean Energy who are proposing to develop Six Oaks Renewable Energy Park on land between the A14 and A11 to the south-east of the village. The Park would comprise solar panels generating electricity, which would feed into the grid at Fulbourn via underground cables. They are committed to engaging with the community and will be staging an exhibition in the village to outline their plans and answer questions from residents. You may have already received notice of this by the time you read this – if not, they hope to stage the exhibition before the end of April. At this stage the Parish Council is committed to studying the proposal, in order to determine its view and we encourage all residents to do the same. The presentation made to the Council can be viewed by going to the “Noticeboard” (under the “Village Information” tab) on the Parish Council website.

Last month, I referred to the concerns raised locally about anti-social behaviour within the village. Since then there has been substantial work by the Village College and Police in exploring options to better engage with and support both former and current students. It is hoped that the school leadership can join us at our Annual Meeting (see below) to bring us up to speed on progress.

The Police have praised the joint work of the College, Community and Parish Council in raising the key issues, which are similar to those being experienced in other areas.

On a more mundane level (but still an issue which affects our daily life in Bottisham) the Parish Council is continuing to press for a durable solution to the flooding which regularly affects the centre of the village. This covers both the requirement for proper diagnosis of the problem and the assurance that, once tackled, regular maintenance will prevent its recurrence.

Work is proceeding apace with plans for the new cemetery. We are expecting final “sign-off” by the National Trust Trustees by the end of March - at which point we will be free to make a planning application. Our planning consultant and the Council are working hard to draw together the application and required studies, so that we are “ready to go” as soon as possible after the “green light” is given by the Trust.

Finally, a date for your diary. Now that we are returning to a more normal routine, I am pleased to tell you that we have fixed the date for the Annual Parish Meeting. This will take place in the main hall of the Bottisham Sports & Social Club on Tuesday 24 May at 7.30 pm. Those of you who attended the Covid-delayed Annual Meeting in October last year, will recall the success of a new format we trialed. This minimised the amount of formal sitting down & listening, with extended opportunity for informal discussion with councillors & representatives of public organisations that serve our village. Everyone clearly enjoyed and welcomed the new format and we intend to follow this approach again. I would encourage you to attend and use the opportunity to be a voice in helping grow our village as a great community to be part of

Jon Ogborn, Chair of Parish Council



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Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9am-12.30pm



Planning Notes

a) New Applications

22/00153/FUL – Dunkeld, 70 Tunbridge Lane, Conversion of existing garage into granny annexe

22/00204/FUL – Site to south and east of Ox Meadow, Proposed agricultural access to land at Bell Road

b) Approved by ECDC

21/01657/FUL – 4 Bradfords Close, Proposed demolition of existing garage, single storey front, rear and side extensions, window replacement and external rendering/cladding

21/01816/FUL – 11 Bradfords Close, Extension and alteration to existing domestic property

c) Planning Appeal

21/00033/REFAPP – Land to rear of 163-187 High Street, Proposed Retirement Village – Planning Inquiry hearings closed 4 February 2022 – Inspector’s decision is awaited.

Lucy Frazer MP Writes

Residents in Bottisham have contacted me with their concerns about hare coursing so I wanted to update you on some recent government actions.

The Police, Crime and Sentencing Bill was recently passed by the House of Commons. This bill cracks down on illegal activity including hare coursing. I have spoken to many constituents whose lives are affected by this activity - last year there were 794 reported incidents of hare coursing across Cambridgeshire - and it is right that we are taking further action.

Currently, hare coursing offences are handled as poaching offences, carrying a fine of £1000, but more often than not, a lower fine is issued. Under measures now approved under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill I am pleased that the punishment for hare coursing will now include an increase in the maximum penalty for trespassing in pursuit of game to an unlimited fine, introduce for the first time, the possibility of up to six months' imprisonment and introduce two new criminal offences - trespassing with the intention of using a dog to search for or pursue a hare, and being equipped to trespass with the intention of using a dog to search for or pursue a hare.

Additionally, the courts will be given new powers to order on conviction, the reimbursements of costs incurred by the police in kennelling dogs in connection with a hare coursing-related offence giving the courts new powers to disqualify an offender from owning or keeping a dog.

These steps build on practical work I know that Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner has been taking in response to this sharp rise. He has boosted funding to Cambridgeshire Countryside Watch by £25,000 and county borders have been removed, making it easier to use certain tactics to apprehend and prosecute offenders.

This is welcome news and I know it will bring some relief to constituents who have raised their concerns with me.

Lucy Frazer MP.

Member of Parliament for South East Cambridgeshire

Financial Secretary to the Treasury

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District Councillors' Report

The Council budget for 2022/23 was passed on 22 February, including a Council Tax freeze to recognise the cost of living challenges facing many residents. We supported the Council Tax freeze and proposed an amendment to devolve the Rural Services Delivery Grant of £169,000 to Parish Councils, and to allocate £10,000 to investigate options for Civil Parking Enforcement, to address the problems caused by illegal parking around the district. This would have been funded by joining the Combined Authority's Community Led Housing Support service, saving the costs of providing it in-house and drawing on the extensive experience of ACRE in community engagement. We also proposed to cut the £25,000 (33 per cent) proposed increase to the Council's PR budget. This amendment was defeated. East Cambs is a relatively small part of the total Council Tax bill, which includes tax for the County Council, Police, Fire services and Parish Council, so our Council Tax bills will increase from April, even though East Cambs' element will not increase.

We also unanimously passed a motion thanking residents in East Cambs for their exemplary behaviour during the lockdown periods, during which very few Fixed Penalty Notices were given to our residents for breaching Covid Lockdown rules and volunteers helped those in need. We also thanked health professionals and all those in public office and leadership positions who worked hard to lead by example. The administration deleted the section which would have shared the severe disappointment of many East Cambs residents that this leadership and responsibility had not been demonstrated by the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson

At this meeting, the questions from the public revolved around actions to address the Climate Emergency. One asked about the provision of electric vehicle charging points and highlighted how few points there were in East Cambs and that many of those had not been working for several months. Another asked for the Council to bring pressure on the Local Authority Pension scheme to disinvest from fossil fuels.

Our bin days changed at the end of March to make the routes more efficient and save 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. Your normal collection days are Monday, but this will change temporarily around Easter and the May Bank Holiday. So your April/May collections are Monday 4 April, Saturday 9 April, Tuesday 19 April, Monday 25 April and Tuesday 3 May.

Our next Councillors' Surgery is on Wednesday 27 April at 6.30, by Zoom. Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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

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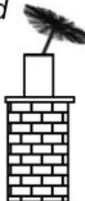
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Welcome to our Village

RECENTLY ENJOYED

- **Bottisham Book Club** The group have read various titles, (by April they will be on their 6th book) all suggested by those who attend. Some members borrow or purchase their copies to read while others opt for audio book versions. Meetings every 1st Wednesday of the month, in the cosy setting of The Bell Pub Function room, where there is always plenty of discussion enjoyed by all. Check out the Bottisham Events Facebook Group or email helenlstone@gmail.com and join us!
- **Bottisham Baking Club** This mid-week adventure welcomed new participants in the month of March and saw yet more delicious treats and displays of skill brought into The Bell Pub Function room. Inviting all those who like baking, or eating the result, to gather-together to swap tips and treasure recipes. For more information see the Bottisham Events Facebook Group or email helenlstone@gmail.com
- **Bottisham Community Library Quiz** In March there was a very enjoyable and well attended village event raising money for our local library, complete with a Ploughman's at half time, a raffle and spoons for the 'loosing' team. The competition was stiff, but the atmosphere was one of fun! Well done to everyone who organised this annual fundraiser and well done to those who attained the highest scores!

REGULAR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

- **Toddler Group** every Tuesday (term time only) 09:00 at The Holy Trinity Church
- **Meeting Point** every Wednesday 10:30 in the Poppy Room, Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club
- **Carpet Bowls** every Wednesday 19:15 at Bottisham Village College
- **Bottisham Book Club** every (first) Wednesday of the month, 19:30 at The Bell Pub
- **Bottisham Baking Club** every (second) Wednesday of the month, 19:30 at The Bell Pub
- **Wool & Wine Wednesdays** every (third) Wednesday of the month, 19:30 at The Bell Pub
- **Bottisham Boardgame Club** every (fourth) Wednesday of the month, 19:30 at The Bell Pub

continued on page 15

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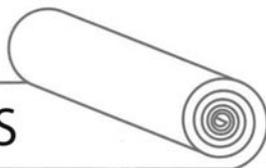


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- **Bottisham Men's Walking Group** every (last) Friday of the month 09:30 (For further details contact Ian Cole on 01223 812573)
- **Storytelling** every (first) Saturday of the month 10:30 at the Library

THINGS IN THE MAKING

- **Village Yard Sale** if you're interested in supporting this fabulous idea, the second of its kind (we had one Oct 2021) contact amyvcole@hotmail.co.uk
- **Bottisham Village Fayre** If you're interested in creating a late summer, all weather, large scale event for all, working with our local organisations, facilities, businesses and talent, join the organising committee by emailing bottishamcommunityevents@gmail.com
- **Bottisham Village College** are looking for volunteers to provide a cafe facility to support village events, if interested email enquiries@bottishamvc.org
- **Lego Club Leader Wanted** Bottisham Community Library are looking for volunteers to if interested email enquiries@bottishamvc.org ask for Sylvia

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - APRIL 2022

- Saturday 9th April **Bowls Club Quiz** Starting at 20:00, at the Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club, contact the BCSSC for more details, email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com
- Saturday 16th April **Live Music!** Starting at 20:00, at the Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club, contact the BCSSC for more details, email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com

If you have a village group, club, society, or event you would like to advertise please email bottishamcommunityevents@gmail.com for inclusion online or join the Bottisham Events Facebook Group or send your poster direct to The Cresset Magazine via bottishamcresset@gmail.com (Please observe the print deadline for inclusion.)

CELEBRATING LOCAL

- **Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club** We have a lovely local facility in the heart of our village, where you can have a pint with friends, hire a room for a group, club or society, and check in on the many village activities throughout the year. My family and I spent a fabulous Friday evening playing pool and chatting to neighbours, having received a warm welcome. With regular opening hours, the lighter evenings and better weather on the way, why not take a walk down and have a glass of something and see what's on. Non members welcome, but membership for the year is very reasonable, providing discounts on events. Give the BCSSC a call on 01223 812063, drop them an email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com or checkout their website <https://www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk>

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COMMUNITY HERB BED PROJECT UPDATE by Sarah Brown

- “On 6th March, Jan and I gave the two beds a good tidy, removing some invasive wild garlic and adding a couple more herbs. We were generously offered a cup of tea by Fiona, which was very welcome on a chilly day. More village residents stopped and chatted, which made our 2.5 hours go more quickly.

We will return again soon with Bernadette to continue working on the beds, getting them ready for more herbs to be planted. We are slowly adding some labels to help people to recognise different herbs. When established, we would invite residents to ‘take a snip for dinner’. If you also wish to get involved, please contact me at brownsjc46@gmail.com.”

- **HERB OF THE MONTH - ‘Thyme’** (more information can be found on <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/> and www.gardenersworld.com)



Thyme is an aromatic, earthy herb with small, grey-green leaves.

This popular herb grows in Europe, especially the Mediterranean, and is a member of the mint family. There are many different varieties, but the most readily available in the UK are the common or ‘garden’ thyme, and lemon thyme, which has slightly larger leaves and a flavour that is overlaid with a lemony tang. Both types work well with Mediterranean vegetables, eggs, pork, lamb, fish and game. It’s quite hardy, so can withstand long cooking times.

STORAGE Fresh cut thyme should be wrapped in damp kitchen paper, placed in a perforated bag and stored in the fridge. It will last for up to 5-6 days. Dried thyme should be kept in an airtight container in a cool, dark place, it should last for 4-6 months.

GROWING Thyme is easy to grow and looks attractive all year round. Grow thyme in well-drained soil in full sun. Some varieties of thyme work well planted in gravel gardens, cracks in paving or as an alternative to a lawn. Others do best in pots, which you can bring indoors in autumn. Cut back thyme after flowering and protect tender species in winter.

RECIPE - Jan’s Tasty Thyme Puff Pastry Cheese Straws

METHOD

Use a little flour on your surface to prevent the pastry sticking

- Brush the pastry with beaten egg
- Sprinkle with fresh thyme
- Sprinkle with the grated cheeses and press into the pastry
- Cut the pastry into strips
- Twist the ends in opposite directions until the pastry is spiralled
- Place on a baking tray lined with baking paper
- Brush with beaten egg
- Cook at 160 degrees centigrade for 15 to 20 mins

Enjoy!

K.J.P.

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United we Stand

What's your favourite wine? Does it come from France? Italy maybe? Or do you buy it solely on price or whether the label looks nice? Well, the simple answer these days is that it doesn't really matter. Most wine making countries make great wines to suit all budgets, even England. Or maybe, especially England as English wines have been upsetting the world order winning several blind tasting, including for champagne wannabes, much to the chagrin of our neighbours across the channel.

However, this month I was hoping to explore some wines from a country that, as I write, is in the middle of unimaginable turmoil. I'm sure that you have already shown your support for humankind already but maybe you could help their winemakers and buy some Ukrainian wine? (Note: I'm very conscious that by the time you read this, their world will have changed even more, and probably not for the better).

Thanks to Dr Google I have discovered that red wines seem to be the best bet but also that's quite hard to source in the UK. Maybe we should drink their vodka instead? GoogleTrends data shows searches for Ukrainian vodka from the country surged in early March. Nemiroff is the biggest exporter of vodka from Ukraine, and sponsors UFC. Other Ukrainian brands include Hlibnyi Dar, Khortytsia, Dima's and Zirkova. Good luck in your attempts to source this, perhaps, blankets, clothes and other essentials is a better way to show your support?

Back to wine and spring is in the air which means we can think about light reds and refreshing whites rather than the heavier stuff that's been keeping us going through the admittedly mild winter months. Pinot noir is a great varietal for Easter combining fruit, complexity and bags of flavour. There are options to suit all budgets from Chile to the rarefied land of Burgundy. It is also a delicious companion to your Easter lamb.

I'd love to hear what you enjoy drinking. Suggestions always welcome! Do drop me an email vinophile7@gmail.com

Incanto Pinot Noir Majestic £7.99 reduced to £6.49 if you buy a mix of six bottles Love Pinot Noir but don't love the price tag? Insiders look to Romania for fresh, juicy, approachable Pinot. It can't be beaten on price or flavour.

Cono Sur Bicieta Pinot Noir Co-op £7.95 A reliable favourite! The winemaker prides himself on achieving consistency of style whilst showcasing Pinot Noir's haunting aromas and delicate fruit. Sweet, ripe redcurrant fruit with a gloriously silky texture.

La Muse de Cabestany Pinot Noir Jean D'Alibert 2020 Corney & Barrow, Newmarket £9.75 Good French pinot noir doesn't just come from Burgundy. This central France product gives you French quality at new world prices. Silky and smooth on the palate, this elegant Pinot displays hints of rose petal, liquorice and a fresh, lingering finish.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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

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Reasons to be Cheerful...

In this mad crazy world in which we live, there are many things which upset or disappoint us. I have a silly sense of humour, and there are many things which make me smile as I go about my life. Road signs, TV adverts, clothing labels, people, animals, food packets, and all sorts of other stuff. Here are a few things which made me giggle this month.

- With our obsession about the weather, you would think that we could forecast it better
- You never see a fat giraffe, do you? Its because it makes a little food go a long way.
- How come there's enough Tarmac for speedhumps but none for potholes. (Facebook).
- Poor old Will. Everybody fires at him,
- Approximately 1 in 10 bones broken are in the foot. (Dr Sarah Jarvis, Radio 1).
- Only 1% of the earths water is drinkable. (Steve Wright factoids).
- The average Brit consumes 3.5 million calories from alcohol during their lifetime. (craftynectar.com)
- Britons spend £1.2 billion on fish and chips each year (Steve Wright factoids).
- The 1st advert on Channel 5, was for "Chanel number 5". (inews.co.uk)
- A road sign between Little Downham and Pymoor simply stated "JUMP".
- An Apple iPhone contains more than half the elements in the periodic table. (inews.co.uk)
- TITSUP is a military acronym for-Total Inability To Support Usual Performance. (mirror.co.uk)
- Why is Abbreviation such a long word?
- Word of the month: - Grommet (it's where you put your Aglets).
- Pot-Valor (boldness or courage resulting from alcoholic drink).
- Hyphenated or Non-hyphenated?
- Do you always open a packet of crisps the right way up?
- A group of penguins on water is called a raft, but on land is called a waddle. (Steve Wright factoids).
- Someone threw a bottle of Omega 3 pills at me. Luckily my injuries were only "Super Fish Oil" (Vicky Crown).
- Walter Arnold was given the first speeding ticket in January 1896 (Paddock Wood, Kent). He was travelling at 8mph, four times the speed limit. He was fined one shilling. (Steve Wright factoids).

Keep smiling - Peter Rayment



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OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday- 5pm to 11pm Saturday- 12 noon to 11pm
Sunday- 12 noon to 9pm

Have you returned to the club since covid? If not we hope to see you soon.

The members are the life blood of the club and new members are most welcome.

Parties are all the rage at present so come and party at your Village Social Club – to celebrate a birth-day, a wedding, a christening even a wake. **The Hall and Poppy**

Lounge rooms are available for all your functions.

Have you tried our new cocktails yet? Strawberry Dacquiri, Espresso Martini, Pornstar Martini, Sex on the Beach and French Martini.

Along with all the usual drinks we have a new premium pale ale, Icebreaker, 4.5%abv. Come along and give it a try.

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT UPDATE.

There is a remaining winners pot of £1,906. This will be divided between four Friday nights starting the 8th of April where there will be a guaranteed winning pot of £500 each night which must be won on the night. One card will be removed after each member has a failed attempt until it is won. Tickets are £2 each available to current members only present on the night. First ticket drawn out at 9.15pm.

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB

Pam Daish is back at the club- Easter Saturday 16th April from 8pm

Free entry to members - £2 non members

The Legionnaires77- Rearranged date Saturday 7th May.

Free entry for members and £2 for non-members

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

We will be holding a race night on Saturday 30th April with all proceeds going to help support Ukraine. First race 8.00pm. Please come along and show your support or perhaps even purchase a horse or tri-cast tickets in advance from the bar. Members and non-members all welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Don't forget we have BT Sport available throughout the year. Saturday morning Premier League games and most European games being shown.

Come along to enjoy.

Darts / Pool / Snooker / Billiards / Cribbage / Dominoes / Bar billiards/Table Tennis.

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Please refer to the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk for the latest information. If you wish to be kept up to date with the latest news, please email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com with your email address and you will be added to the mailing list.

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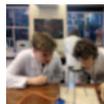
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Bottisham & District Gardening Club

Ray Nunn and his wife came to our February meeting with slides of a recent holiday showing pictures of Native and Non - Native plants grown in the Pacific North West of America. They stayed within a large garden given over mainly to clematis plants which grew well in the sandy dry soils but sadly many of them would not be suitable to be grown in the UK. We had good views of Mount St Helens and the Colombia river and many wooden carved bear statues. He was able to answer our many queries as he is an accomplished grower.

Final arrangements were made for the Annual lunch to be held on March 13th at Newmarket Golf Club.

Please come on Tuesday 26th April when Caroline Deeth from Darwin Nurseries will talk about Hanging Baskets.

We meet in the Poppy Room at the Club at 7.30pm.

Sylvia Overton

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Annual General Meeting: Our AGM is to be held on Zoom at 6pm on 27th April 2022.

The speaker will be Ali McCarthy, Social Prescriber for the Practice. If you would like to join us at the AGM please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. Please note the change of time for this meeting.

Regular Meetings: 25th May 2022 at 2pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

Hats for Premature Baby Unit Rosie Maternity Home

At long last the beautiful hats you knitted last year have now left my suitcase (all 348 of them) and have been delivered to the Rosie Maternity Hospital.

I was prompted to contact them to find out if they were ready for a further supply because I had a most welcome surprise parcel with more hats - nearly 50 I should think. Thank you to the anonymous donor. Your contribution has also been handed over.

Thank you to all of you that knitted hats in red, yellow or green from the pattern in the earlier magazine. The staff were well pleased with our efforts.

Sylvia Overton

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Carol Pook started her talk on the Life of Coco Chanel with a quote “My life didn’t please me so I created my life”

She became very rich and famous during her life but her beginnings were very humble. Her father was a peasant and street vendor and she was born in a poor house. Her mother died when she was 11 and she was sent to a convent where she learned to sew and embroider. She started her career by making hats. She gained her nickname - Coco from one of the songs she sang when she first came to Paris when she adopted a bohemian life style.

With the help of one of her (many) male admirers she opened her first shop in Paris in 1913 and in the 1920’s having started selling clothes as well she introduced the little black dress, made of jersey fabric, affordable, easy to wear (no need for corsets) and it was soon sold around the world. At one time she had 2000 women working for her. She introduced her Chanel perfume originally given to her customers but only ever had 10% of the profits from this source. Her perfumier must have made a fortune.

She closed her fashion house in 1939 as war broke out and having already had a series of aristocratic lovers – including the Duke of Westminster one of the richest men in the world (she never married - probably as she was seen as of lower - class beginnings) she became involved with a German diplomat and went to live at the Ritz Hotel. This relationship was highly frowned upon but she was not paraded through the streets or had her hair shorn as did many other French women. Was this because of her friendships with Winston Churchill and the Duke of Windsor??

She spent time after the war in Switzerland but returned to Paris and reopened her fashion house in 1954 (at the age of 70) as she was bored and it was at this time that she introduced collarless jackets and bell - bottomed trousers.

An interesting life story, she died in the Ritz in 1971 aged 91

Idea is wanted as to how to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee and members to volunteer to arrange our August meeting.

Make a note in your diary for Wednesday 20th April when one of our members, Maggie Harrop will continue telling us about her holiday adventures – this time to Georgia

We meet at 7.30pm in our new venue (at least until Easter) the Poppy Room

Hope to see you there - Sylvia Overton

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

*Please send material to the editor
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Mike Procter was our guest speaker in February. He gave a presentation on the interdenominational missionary organisation 'Reach Beyond'. Explaining how he became involved with the organisation shortly before he retired, when FEBA (the Christian radio he worked for) combined with HCJB radio in a partnership. In 1985 HSBJ was renamed 'Reach Beyond'. The organisation started in 1931 as an International Christian radio service, broadcasting long-range from Quito, Ecuador, but soon branched out into humanitarian activities, such as water, hydro-electricity, hospitals and clinics. Radio ministry in current times still exists, and Reach Beyond has planted many radio FM stations and continues to support them. Once up and running they are run by local Christians. With modern technology innovative ministries are on the internet and social media to reach new people, especially young adults. Reach Beyond is involved in disaster relief and refugee aid, as well as the more traditional missionary services such as medical, educational, and development work. Aid was given to the Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos (described by the media as 'the worst refugee camp on earth'). The camp was originally built for just 3,000 refugees, but expanded into the olive groves and held 20,000 by summer 2020, among whom 7,000 were children. The camp was destroyed by fire in September 2020 and most refugees eventually moved to the mainland of Greece. Mike illustrated with bible verse, that Reach Beyond is being the voice and hands of Jesus all around the world. The organisations main offices and studio are located in Bradford at the Millside Centre. Bradford has many ethnic variations, and many people in need. Reach Beyond is engaged locally through the Centre, which hosts many community activities for people in need. Further information can be found at <https://reachbeyond.org.uk>

Our on-going project to expand the collection of used postage stamps for the Leprosy Mission within the Anglesey Group is now complete with collection boxes in Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck and Quy churches. Any contributions to the project will be much appreciated. Please leave a good amount of envelope around each stamp.

We will be holding our Spring Social and Bring and Buy Stall on 21st April. You are most welcome to come and join us in Lode Church at 2.30pm.

Ann Langra

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 April.

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

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Public Transport Matters

The number of people using the buses is still low. They are still running to time and Stagecoach is obviously having to pay the running costs but with a lower income. The Department of Transport's Bus Recovery Grant is due to end on April 5th or 6th. This is also having an impact on the number of new buses and coaches being built. The Society of Motor Manufacturers has asked for help from the Government by releasing funds from the Bus Back Better. In 2020 Stagecoach East introduced electric buses and they say this has saved 74 tonnes of CO2. They use regenerative braking which recharges every time the bus slows down. There is a triple battery design and they can run for about 160 miles.

There does not seem to be support for the proposed 132 million pounds busway and the Greater Cambridge Partnership has been asked to reconsider. Over 80% of respondents to a survey did not support it. There is support for the Greenways project and the Chisholm Trail but people say it is taking too long. Any route closures require a 6 week notice period so operators need to have been told.

There is a two year programme of consultation over the area at the centre of the new North East Cambridge core - housing, shops, workplaces and open spaces also new education, community and leisure facilities. This is due to the proposed relocation of the Anglian Water waste treatment plant between Horningsea and Fen Ditton.

Stagecoach has cancelled its decision to merge with National Express and agreed to a takeover by a German fund manager. Now that we have the horrifying situation in Ukraine I wonder whether they might reconsider. National Express has said that it will make a further announcement. Mr. Souter has backed the National Express offer but his sister the other one. They are the founders of Stagecoach!

Network Rail has announced a 194 million pounds project set to improve rail services in and around Cambridge. This will see the replacing of signaling equipment much of which is over 40 years old. Alstom the French signaling company has been awarded much of the contract. It will provide a platform ready for such digital technologies as the European Train Control system. Seven level crossings are proposed to be upgraded and they will be seeking powers to compulsory purchase adjacent land. It is scheduled to be ready by winter 2024. There could be driverless Tube trains because of the problems with striking drivers. There is a rise of 3.8% in rail fares causing problems for commuters. People may opt to work from home. Edinburgh and the Highlands by Steam with rail discoveries 01904 730217. There is a book: Railway Atlas, Then and Now, which may be of interest. Rail info – 08457 484950 Traveline – cancelled.

Happy travelling - keep safe and well. - Paddy James

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News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

BOATS AND BIKES It feels like we are ready for spring, and with our boat trips starting up for the year, and cycle hire opening, both from 19 March, we have outdoor activities to enjoy at the Fen as a new way to explore the nature reserve. We will be running our boat trips Wednesday – Sunday, and cycle hire will be open 7 days a week. Boats are back to 12 passengers on each trip, and we are planning a regular schedule of Wednesdays – Fridays at 12 and 2pm, and weekends 11.30am, 1pm and 2.15pm. Times may change depending on staff and volunteer availability, so do call us to check if you are planning your visit around these.

SPRING WILDLIFE As the season turns of course, activity for the wildlife on the Fen is all about the arrival of migratory birds, nesting, young animals and other signs of spring. Some of the species on different areas of the Fen, including Burwell Fen, are rare, and vulnerable to disturbance. While the paths are great for dog walks, we would like to remind everyone that dogs should be kept under close control – and that really means if your dog does not instantly recall, it should be on a short lead. Even well-behaved dogs are perceived by birds as predators, so please ensure your dog stays on the path with you and doesn't run off into fields or through reeds and into water. We are looking forward to hearing cuckoos again, but their breeding success relies upon the reed warbler nests not getting knocked out of the reeds – of course the reed warblers would prefer that too!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY We are looking for volunteers to start with us as Dog Rangers – to chat to dog owners, let people know the best routes, where dog bins are, how to walk your dog around grazing animals, and also encourage responsible dog walking for everyone's benefit. If you are a regular user of our site, and interested in joining the Wicken Fen team in this role, please contact isabel.sedgwick@nationaltrust.org.uk – being a National Trust volunteer is a great way to get to know your local places and help with their conservation and upkeep.

EVENTS

EASTER EGG TRAIL Join us for an Easter adventure in nature at Wicken Fen. Discover our family-friendly trail with fun activities for you to do along the way. Complete the trail and earn your Rainforest Alliance chocolate egg at the end. 9 to 18 April 2022, from 10am last entry 4pm. No booking necessary, £3 per child. Normal admission applies.

OWL PELLET DETECTIVES Delve into the fascinating world of owl pellets to discover what's on the menu for the owls at Wicken Fen! Wednesday 6 April 2022. Suitable for ages 5+, £6 per child (1 hour session). Booking essential, online.

PAINTING THE FENS For the budding artist this is a great opportunity to get some expert guidance and learn the basic watercolour skills. Tuesday 12 April 2022. Suitable for ages 6+, £9 per child (2 hour session). Booking essential, online.

MUCKY PUPS Outdoor adventures at Wicken Fen, for pre-school children who enjoy getting grubby. Friday 1 April and Friday 6 May 2022. Suitable for ages 2-5 years, £6.50 (1.5 hour session). Booking essential, online.

For information and online events booking, visit our website
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen



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Community Enterprise Project in East Cambridgeshire

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Community Catalysts are working with Cambridgeshire County Council to support people in East Cambridgeshire interested in becoming sole traders or small community enterprises offering a range of care, support and activities for older and disabled people at home and in the community. Local people helping other local people. How they do that is entirely their choice - as a sole trader or maybe with friends they set up a co-operative or social enterprise.

While having a focus on Ely, Littleport, Soham and Burwell, all the East Cambs villages, including Bottisham, will also be part of the project as vulnerable groups face the rural challenges of care and support.

We have a local Catalyst, working with all the amazing groups, communities' teams and area connectors. The project will offer free support, helping folks to help their neighbours and understand how to run their own enterprise well whilst providing the best care and support. We are also able to advise small groups and organisations already established with developing or diversifying their business.

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What's on at Anglesey Abbey



With drifts of Daffodils out in their thousands, Hellebores, Crocus, and a variety of Spring bulbs are bursting onto the scene and waking the garden up. As we say goodbye to the last signs of winter, it's nice to get a feel for the season ahead and for some of the exciting moments happening at Anglesey Abbey this Spring.

We have begun our annual #BlossomWatch and are excited to see some blossoms in the Spring Garden, Orchard, and along Olympian way, already appearing and adding a touch of wonder to the garden. Blossom Watch is the Trust's, yearly celebration of blossom season, and we'll be encouraging blossom lovers to share their finds on social media by using #BlossomWatch.

The Easter school holidays will be kickstarted with the Easter Adventures in Nature trail, running for 2nd-18th April. Pre-booking is essential, which you can do by visiting our website. This year's trail has 10 nature-theme activities to complete across the garden before collecting your chocolate egg reward! So, join us to complete the trail and explore the Hoe Fen natural play area, Treehouse and Wildlife discovery area.

In the house we'll be highlighting some of most significant paintings in the collection and shining a light on some very exciting conservation work recently completed, check out our website and social media pages for the latest news from the property and join us to see what we've been working on.

Check out our website to see what's on: nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey

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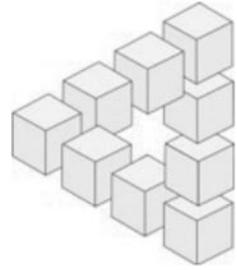
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

It seems trivial to be writing about sport whilst the tyrant Putin perpetrates unprovoked genocide in Ukraine. I dare say I am not alone in being hardly able to think about anything other than the plight of these hard-working, kind, innocent people at the present time. How can I give vent to sporting ephemera when the world is teetering on the brink of a dark, tragic phase of history, unimaginable a few short months ago? So please let me begin with a little personal tribute to one of my favourite countries.

It breaks my heart to review what I wrote in 2014, after enjoying three extraordinary football visits to Ukraine in the space of four years. “Kiev is a beautiful, thriving, historic city. The atmosphere in the centre, particularly around the famous Independence Square at the top of the arterial Kreschatyk Street, is delightful. It is clean and open, the people are friendly yet reserved, and you can somehow feel the hope hanging in the air that their future will be more colourful and progressive than their past. There are breathtaking churches and cathedrals with golden domed roofs and a picturesque old town under restoration, where you can find cheap beer and tasty morsels in the nooks and crannies or the marketplaces.”

There are too many memorable anecdotes in my journals to share on this page but, catch me in the Club sometime, and I’ll be delighted to regale you with stories about the mad drive from Kiev to Dnepropetrovsk and being mugged by the police in 2009; about travelling third class from Odessa to Kiev by train in 2012 and singing with the Ukrainians in the Fan Zone; and about visiting Chernobyl & Pripyat in 2013. Along the way, we got lost more than once; slept in some unexpectedly good and bad surroundings; rode in some ‘interesting’ taxis; swam in the Black Sea where the sand was too hot to stand on the beach; met some wonderful people from various walks of life; and drank some of the tastiest (and cheapest) beer in the world! And there was football too... packed stadiums, fireworks, lock-ins, dancing girls, singing, heroics, goals... (Welbeck’s back-heeled winner against Sweden in 2012, anybody?) Happy, happy days.

At the time of writing, our friends Viktor and Valentina and their little boy are hunkered down in Odessa, hoping this lovely city will not be reduced to rubble, and demonstrating the indomitable spirit typified by all their compatriots currently. He signed off his last text to me, “Victory will be ours”. I weep for them.

The government’s sanctions against Russia and the oligarchs suddenly arrived at the doorstep of Stamford Bridge in March, starkly illustrating the folly of having turned a blind eye to the influx of dirty money into our beloved sport for so long. Chelsea FC’s very existence is now under threat, as Abramovic’s companies find themselves unable to trade, and all I can say is, “Good riddance – you should have thought twice before you sold your souls for a few silver pots”! I wonder how long those badge-kissing ‘superstars’ will continue to give their all on the pitch when their obscenely inflated salaries dry up!

On a brighter note, it was good to see Danish player Christian Eriksen back in action recently, following his near-death experience on the pitch at the Euros last June. No matter which team you follow, it’s good to see Eriksen return to the Premier League and hats off to Brentford for giving him the chance. In fact, there was a lovely (and funny) moment during their visit to

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(Sports Nut continued.)

Norwich City in early March. Eriksen was perhaps a little zealous in his first game back, and fouled Norwich defender Brandon Williams, causing them to fall to the floor in a tangle. Williams was furious, grabbing his protagonist angrily but, on realizing who it was, changed his hold into a big, friendly man-hug and helped Eriksen up! A win-win for sport!

It's funny how even the bitterest rivalries can evolve into a more benign relationship in, or perhaps after, the cauldron of sporting contest. In British boxing, the animosity between Welterweights, Amir Khan and Kell Brook, had been building for 17 years until the two former world champions finally met in the ring at Manchester Arena in February. One wondered if Khan was simply there for a final payday at first, but he trained hard and stood tall for six rounds before the referee correctly called a halt with Brook clearly ahead. After a warm embrace in the ring, Khan was gracious in congratulating Brook: "Credit goes to Kell... he boxed out of his skin... the better man won", and Brook was equally humble: "Khan has had a fantastic career... we've shared the ring together and I think we're all right now."

At 35, both men should retire now and leave the division to younger men. Khan has made his announcement already. Will Brook be able to resist social media taunts from Chris Eubank Jr, or even Conor Benn? We'll see... but, as former World Champion Carl Frampton observed after the Brook-Khan bout, "What we learned last night is that boxing is a young man's game."

Sadly, on 4th March, we lost two of the most colourful characters, and best cricketers, ever to wear the famous baggy green cap of Australia. News of Rodney Marsh's passing hit the airwaves first and broadcasters were immediately waxing lyrical about his influence on the game, not just as a fine wicketkeeper-batsman (who remembers countless "caught Marsh, bowled Lillee" dismissals?) but also as a coach and academy director around the world. But just as the shock was subsiding, we heard that the finest spin bowler of all time had also succumbed to heart failure. Shane Warne had a unique talent that exploded into life in his first Ashes series in 1993 when his very first delivery memorably demolished Mike Gatting's stumps in the so-called "ball of the century". Warne went on to break many records, finishing with 1,319 first class wickets including 708 test wickets, and happily stayed in touch with cricket-lovers the world over through his efforts in the commentary box.

Rather than wallowing in sadness, though, those of us who enjoyed the careers of these giants of cricket can be thankful that our lives coincided with theirs. Both Marsh and Warne played, and lived, with the kind of joie de vivre that gives sport its true, universal appeal.

TTFN - Gerry Daish

"Live everyday as if it were your last because some day you're going to be right." - Muhammad Ali

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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Experience and ingenuity inevitably come from our foolishness...

Well it was inevitable that it would happen someday, that's right it's a traffic and pedestrian mapping system using sensors placed under the surface of a road and pavement. And my understanding is that Bottisham High Street is to be one of the early pilots put forward by the DoV partnered and sponsored by 'Polar Foil'. As the name implies Polar Foil uses a robust foil based sensor technology that was originally developed for location use in the Antarctic.

This quantum gravity technology has since been re-engineered and has already assisted in locating a burial tunnel one meter underground. Based on quantum physics principles, "the system utilises a foil sensor that detects changes in micro-gravity by manipulating natural principles at the subatomic level".

To date this new technology has been successful in research experiments, creating the possibility for commercial use in 'above ground' object mapping. Under its commercial guise the technology will contribute to pioneering traffic congestion and vehicle speed monitoring control. A further advantage would lower construction costs and reduce traffic delays as well as helping to record vehicles travelling at excessive speeds.

Moreover, the new technology can help create an entire traffic or even pedestrian mapping system from below the surface with which we can learn much more about what is going on a few meters above. The doing away with unsightly road traffic signage in favour of surface mounted LED signage will be one welcome benefit along with helping to reduce the load on traffic police and highway emergency patrols.

I was intrigued to find out how this might work in practice and after a bit of research I came across a couple of interesting probabilities. As far as pedestrian mapping is concerned the very sensitive underground foil antenna picks up the vibrations caused by walking on a hard surface. It's so sensitive that it even has the possibility of differentiating the gait between age groups - so for example you could plot the pedestrian routes preferred by young, middle age and mature people and even those with mobility issues, etc. A further possibility is to gather wellbeing data from wireless based personal fitness devices. A bit too 'big brother' for me!

The underground foil antenna or sensor for the highway variant can differentiate between cyclists and vehicles comprising cars, vans and HGVs thus plotting their respective preferred routes and other performance related quantitative data. I'm reliably informed that the remote FOBs used by many vehicles these days also carry unique data about the vehicle and of driver profiles and that one such current application traces the whereabouts of lost or stolen vehicles. Apparently this new foil based technology can be easily modified to detect like information and, for example, the first a motorist might find out that they have



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Continued from page 49

been recorded speeding is a summons in the post. Another use being considered is to monitor vehicle performance via its 'on board' computer management system and to warn the driver of any latent problem before it occurs.

Sponsored by the Polar Institute for Exploration (PIE) in Skye, the planned date for work to start is 29th February 2023 with a completion date of 1st April...

Why was Bottisham chosen? Well apparently it's because we're not as gullible as most!!

JOW

"Our wisdom comes from our experience, and our experience comes from our foolishness". Sacha Guitry - a French playwright of the boulevard theatre.



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This modification significantly reduces vibrations within the helicopter which means that the crew can undertake more life saving interventions. It is a smoother ride for patients with painful break injuries and increases the weight that can be carried meaning that we can more easily transport a loved one with the patient when required.

Spring Raffle! It is that time of year again and EAAA is pleased to announce the launch of our Spring Raffle 2022. The Spring Raffle is a HUGELY important part of the EAAA calendar. Last Spring, we raised over £210,000 from ticket sales and donations, and this year a top prize of £3,000 and a dozen others are ‘up for grabs’. If you are signed up to receive post from us your pack, containing Raffle tickets and entry form, may well already have arrived. If you are not signed up to receive post, please do play on-line at “eaaa.raffleentry.org.uk”. Tickets are £1 each, you must be over 18 to participate and the entry closing date is Friday 6th May with the draw being held on 13th.

At the end of February, we said goodbye to one of our long-serving pilots, Captain Rich Anderson. Rich joined EAAA as a co-pilot in 2015/16 and quickly established himself as one of the kindest smiley members of the crew. Since then, Rich became Captain, married and now has two gorgeous children – we wish you well in your new role Rich.

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To all who, one way or another, support EAAA – a heartfelt ‘thank you’ from all involved in this wonderful charity – pleased keep up the good work. If anyone has a potential; site for one of our red collection boxes, or knows of one, please contact us. Despite cash transactions reducing in number, we continue to derive a significant income from these boxes.

Together – we save lives.

Michael White

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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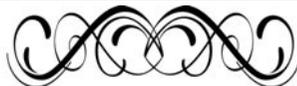
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Children need to bring a packed lunch and large water bottle (which can be refilled throughout the day) and dress for the weather. Please send children with a change of clothes and ensure they wear suitable footwear, preferably closed toe shoes such as hiking boots, wellies or trainers.

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Tuesday 19 April, 10.00 - 12.00 Wild Flowers of Wandlebury Gentle guided walk to learn about spring wild flowers at Wandlebury Country Park. Led by a knowledgeable CPPF Warden, who will help you to identify wild flowers using features such as colour, form and habitat. Please wear footwear and clothing for being outdoors. Meet at the large noticeboard in the car park. Free event, suggested donation £3. No need to book

Wednesday 20 April, 10.00 - 12.00 Wild Flowers of Coton, Coton Countryside Reserve Gentle guided walk to learn about spring wild flowers at Coton Countryside Reserve. Led by a knowledgeable CambridgePPF Warden, who will help you to identify wild flowers using features such as colour, form and habitat. Please wear footwear and clothing for being outdoors. There are no toilets. Meet at the large noticeboard near the Reserve car park on Grantchester Road. Free event, suggested donation £3. No need to book

Sunday 1 May, 5am-6am May Day Morris Dance As the summer sun rises above the Wandlebury woodlands the Devil's Dyke Morris Men dance to greet it. This traditional English dancing event takes place in the same beautiful spot on May Day each year. If

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Continued from page 55

you have never been before, we highly recommend it. Meet on the picnic field at Wandlebury Country Park (signposted from entrance), dancing starts at approx. 5.29am. Free event - donations welcome. Hot drinks & snacks available.

Sunday 8 May, 2.30pm-5pm Hinxton Watermill Open Day Come and look round this stunning working watermill that dates to the seventeenth century. On six Sundays during the summer the mill is opened and guides will show you how the mill works and tell you the history of this incredible building. There has been a watermill at this site since the time of the Doomsday Book in 1086.

Children can take part in the popular Where's Ratty contest and have the chance to win a prize! Owned by local charity CambridgePPF and run by dedicated volunteers the mill is set in picturesque surroundings on the River Cam, in the village of Hinxton. There are also walks along the river and picnic tables.

Members free, non-members £3 adult, £1 per child. No need to book

Directions: Wandlebury Country Park is on the A1307, 2.5km south of the Addenbrooke's roundabout. CB22 3AE. Parking is available on site and costs £3 per vehicle, members free.

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

Dear Editor

I am not usually one to express my feelings on articles read in any publication but, on this occasion, I feel that I must.

In response to the Jolley Old World feature in your February 2022 issue, I am appalled that such a politically biased 'opinion' has any place in a village magazine.

At my younger brother's funeral in January 2021, which had limited numbers, (due to the Laws at that time, not rules, as stated in the article) our relatives who had travelled across the country were not permitted, and did not, enter our home.

We did not hold any parties, did not attend any parties, as we, like most members of our local community, are unselfish and caring, helping to ensure the safety of others. Most of us made painful sacrifices. Perhaps the author should reconsider his view that we are all like him, having parties throughout lockdowns, by apologising in his next article to all villagers that obeyed the laws of the time. We don't all wish to sing along to his right wing 'one law for them, one law for me' mantra.

Yours faithfully, - Nicola Collicott

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