

June 2024



THE
Cresset



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



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D-Day 80

To mark this date on the 6th June 2024 and to commemorate the momentous events of 1944, The village will be raising the official commemorative flag on this day at the village sign and flagpole.

All are invited to attend at 9.00am opposite the church. The flag will then remain flying for the following week.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Back from our trip up North with the thought that we might have instigated a good change in the weather. When we arrived there had been, as here, days, indeed weeks of indifferent weather. Everybody was saying we must have taken the good weather up with us, because apart from one wet day, we had two plus weeks of great weather which has continued since we came back. We will see how long it lasts, but at least my shorts have seen the light of day again!



I always ask when I get back if there have been any major things happened while we were away. It would appear not which is reassuring in one way. Saying that, there are several articles and reports in this month's magazine which shows just how much has been and still is going on in Bottisham.

Final preparations are in place for the village event on the 8th. Which, from what I have read, should be a day where there is something for everybody at some point over the day. See all the detail in the centrefold.

Historically this month sees the anniversary of a momentous event which quite literally decided and set the the way we live today. D-Day on the 6th June 1944. It is no exaggeration to say that if the action of thousands of brave men and women had not prevailed that day and in the days and months that followed, we would not be living the relatively comfortable life we have. Join with others in this village to mark that occasion.

The Parish Council have been busy and report back on the Annual Parish meeting and other developments. Closely linked is the initial report from Tony Jolley on the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan, and the progress of the committee set up to pull this necessary plan together. For this, there is also a further request for people to take up the opportunity to be involved in these decision-making processes. Read Tony's report for detail.

Good to see we have at last got a new vicar in place. I say new, but Max Osborne is well experienced having been in Newmarket for many years. We look forward to seeing him take up residence in July.

Bird brain has another fascinating article to educate us on all things avian. This time it is all about The Swallow and House Martin.

I have included this month a copy of the current bus timetable for the Stephenson No. 12 service going to Newmarket and Cambridge. Reading the PC notes there may be, just may be, the addition of new services in the future. Let's hope, or better still, write supporting letters to the mayor as requested.

Our cover picture this month I could not resist. The picture of the Irises in Steve and Sheila Allen's garden on the high street were too lovely to miss. Thanks for those.

Finally, can I remind you that there will be a combined July and August magazine (we all need a break), and so if you have anything up to the beginning of September that you want to notify, then I need to have that by the 14th of June copy deadline to be included in that issue.

Enjoy the beginning of summer!

You Editor

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

The day finally arrived! After a vacancy lasting 15 months a new vicar was Installed and Inducted to the Anglesey Benefice at Holy Trinity Church Bottisham on Friday 19th April. The Rev. Canon Malcolm Eric (Max) Osborne was welcomed into the Benefice by the Rural Dean Rev. Canon Dr Eleanor Williams. The Institution was conducted by the Bishop of Huntingdon and Acting Bishop of Ely, The Rt Rev. Dr Dagmar Winter and the Induction and Installation was conducted by the Archdeacon of Cambridge, The Ven Dr Alex Hughes. The Anglesey Benefice comprises churches in Stow cum Quy, Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior as well as Bottisham. The beautifully decorated church was packed with over 150 persons who enjoyed refreshments afterwards in the Sports and Social Club, with a chance to meet Max, Alex and Bishop Dagmar informally. We are very much looking forward to Max joining us later in the Summer when we are sure that a new and exciting era will be starting in the Anglesey Benefice. He will start taking services from July and will move into the new vicarage later when the refurbishment is finished.



Thank you so much to those of you who generously donated to Holy Trinity Bottisham Parochial Church Council as part of this year's Easter Gift Day. This is very much appreciated. We raised an amazing £11,679 which means that urgent work on the chancel north buttress and repairing the leak in the south aisle roof have been commissioned immediately.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting - held on Thursday 18th April - all Parishes in the Benefice, including our own, agreed their reports for 2023 and we elected our Parochial Church Council for 2024/5. In addition to myself the others elected were: Dr Sarah Maxwell (Secretary) Mr. George Jenyns (Treasurer), Mrs. Julie Bard, Mrs. Ruth Blundell, Mrs. Doris Foster, Mrs. Carol Kitson, Mrs. Alison Martin, Mrs. Sue Merry and Dr Mike Young.

In the meantime our services continue. Holy Communion at 10.30am on 2nd June will be led by Rev. Keith Morrison while our Morning Prayer on 16th June will be led as usual by Dr Sarah Maxwell. The first service our new vicar will take is Holy Communion on

Sunday 7th July at 10.30am. – why not come along, give him a welcome and enjoy coffee, tea and biscuits afterwards as well as a good chat!?

Our regular Toddler Group continues to meet on a Tuesday morning in the church at 9am and would welcome more parents and children to play and chat with our regulars. Why not come along and try it out. Another chance to enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits?

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

Stuart Field, Churchwarden.



Left to right - The Ven Dr Alex Hughes - Archdeacon of Cambridge, Rev Max Osborne, The new Vicar of the Anglesey Benefice and The Rt Rev Dr Dagmar Winter, Bishop of Huntingdon and Acting Bishop of Ely.

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BOTTISHAM PARISH VILLAGE EVENT

We are pleased to announce that following the success of last year's coronation event the Parish will be holding a similar event this year.

**This will take place on
Saturday 8th June.**

**Events will start form 10am so save the date and bring your
friends & neighbours.**

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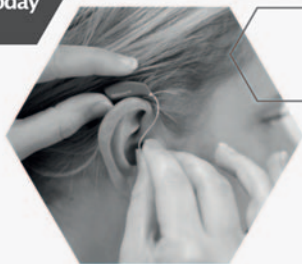
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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sun June 2nd	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Wed June 5th	8pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) – online via Zoom
Sun June 9th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion - Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship – Swaffham Prior
Sun June 16th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer - Quy
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer – Bottisham
Sun June 23rd	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Swaffham Prior
Sun June 30th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Lode
Every Thurs	10.30am	Holy Communion - Lode

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

NAAFI Break

Monday 1st May was another fabulous coffee morning and it's always great to see new faces coming for their first time, everyone settles in within minutes and that's the magic of being part of a Veterans community, we understand each other.

On May 7th about half of our group met with the Bottisham Outdoor Bowls club for an introduction into the art of Bowls. We were warmly greeted by their members but we weren't afraid of the challenge ahead. After the introductions we split ourselves into two groups of four and a Coach to teach us the basics needed to get four bowls as near to the Jack as possible. Martin and Richard were the coaches and well done to them for not making us run around the green if we made a mistake. The afternoon was an absolute blast, Peter Clowes and his crew really looked after us well, a fantastic afternoon's fun.

Next NAAFI Break is Wednesday 5th June and our bimonthly meal on the 12th June. If you're a Veteran or related to a veteran but aren't sure if it's something for you, please email me for further information.

Gary Fairbairn

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Parish Council Report

The next full council meeting will be held by on 1st July 2024, 7.30pm at the Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club. Due to the late meeting in May, there will be no Parish Council meeting in June 2024, but matters will be attended to in the absence of a meeting under delegated authority. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. Please note that the Clerk to the council does not keep regular office hours. Replies to emails and phone calls will be attended to as soon as is practicable.

I am writing this before we have our 16th May Council and will report on key matters discussed next month. The major event for the Council in April was our Annual Parish Meeting at the end of the month, where our Chairman and County & District Cllrs gave a report on the last year. The reports are available on the Parish Council web site for you to read.

We are saddened that, due to increasing work pressures, Neil Winkcup has recently decided to step back from his role as a Cllr. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Neil for his several years faithful service to the community as Cllr and, more recently, as Vice-Chair. He will be sorely missed. It means that we now have a vacancy to fill on the Council. We would also like to have more residents on our Neighborhood Plan working party. If you would be interested in either of these opportunities to serve your community, please contact me for more information.

At our May meeting Cllr Cundell was elected as Vice-Chair, to serve alongside our other Vice-Chair Cllr Wilson.

Now to a bit more detail on current matters.

CRIME & PARKING

At the Annual Parish Meeting, the police shared with the Council recordings of crime and anti-social behavior (ASB) in Bottisham Ward since the New Year. It was pleasing to hear that recordings generally are down with “no robberies, sexual offences, theft of MV/person/bike, arson, drug supply or weapons offences. No ASB incidents reported to us in Bottisham ward.”

The Police Community Support Officer had been in Bottisham on 23 out of the previous working 42 days (over 50% of her shifts). She had issued 6 tickets – it was pointed out this does not include warnings she gave, or occasions when the driver drove off when she approached.

BUSES

Many of you filled in the travel survey put together by the B1102 Group. Thank you. The results have been invaluable in helping persuade the Mayor to propose a new service that will not only connect Bottisham with the B1102 villages, but create a completely new service to previously unconnected locations.

The proposed service will run from Newmarket along the B1102, then through Bottisham, Wilbrahams, Fulbourn, Addenbrookes to the sixth form colleges. We think this will be an excellent step forwards and details of the new route is on our website. We have been encouraging residents to write to the Mayor to help ensure that the proposal becomes reality.

Continued on page 9

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PROJECT PLAY

After many years of searching and consultations, the Council finally accepted that it had exhausted all options to build a new play area inside the village envelope and decided that the only option was to look again at purchasing new land for a larger multi-use play area. So last year, we initiated a new resident's working group (Project Play) to review potential options around the village. A number were suggested by the group, and we commenced communications with local landowners - including the Village College. Sadly, our interactions confirmed what we have always found previously - which is that there is no land to be had unless you come waving a very large cheque (which would be well beyond our means) or offering planning consent for a new residential development.

The good news is that the developments that have been approved recently are opening up new play opportunities for the village. The Bottisham Meadows development off Bell Rd will have a good new play area for younger children (plus some allotments). There is also a belt of woodland between Bottisham Meadows and the Ancient Monument, which is currently being transferred into the ownership of ECDC by the developers. ECDC see an amenity opportunity here and are interested in working with the Council and residents to develop this into a woodland play area - with potentially some wooden play equipment suitable for older children installed on the scrubland just to the north of the wood.

Another opportunity is on the new retirement village site, where the outline planning consent includes provision for a play area and 3 ha of amenity land. It is early days and detailed plans are yet to be presented. However, Project Play and the Parish Council will be working together to make sure that we make the most of this opportunity for the village.

SECOND WORLD WAR MEMORIALS

6th June marks 80 years since the D Day landings. In memory of this important event in our history, Bottisham will be joining other communities across the country in raising a specially designed "Flag of Peace" to commemorate this event.

The ceremony will take place at 09.00 on 6th June beside the village sign opposite Holy Trinity. We would invite you to join with other residents in this ceremony. The flag will then fly for 7 days.

Bottisham was significantly impacted during the war by the arrival of a large number of US personnel operating out of the air base to the south of the village. August this year marks the passing of Col. Thomas Christian, commander of the 361st Fighter Group, who lost his life in action. Many of you will be aware of the memorial at the entrance to Thomas Christian Way unveiled by his daughter in 1988. Over the years local residents have sought to keep it clean but, after many years' weathering, it is looking a little tired. So, we are grateful to volunteers from the Bottisham Airfield Museum, who have offered to carry out some cleaning, repointing and repainting of the lettering at no cost to the village. They are proposing a short ceremony of rededication in August. More details to come in due course.

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

Sam Chambers-Turner - Clerk to the Council



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District Councillors' Report

May is always a quiet month for Council meetings, because of elections. Locally, we had the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Elections and a District Council by-election in Ely, as well as two Ely City Council by-elections. Congratulations to Darryl Preston (Conservative) for his re-election as our PCC and to Ross Trent (Liberal Democrat) for his election as a District Councillor for Ely West. The turnout for the PCC elections here in East Cambridgeshire was only 21%, in contrast to a 33% turnout for the Ely West by-election. During the past municipal year, the waste collections have largely happened on schedule, but street cleansing is still not meeting targets and the service has overspent again by up to £200,000. Costs have now risen from £3m in 2022/23 to £4.6m in 2024/25. Over the new year we will press for further improvements to the service and better financial controls. There will also be major changes agreed to the services. Residents will finally get black bins instead of black sacks and a food waste caddy which will be collected every week – hopefully putting an end to the horrible sticky mush at the bottom of green bins and the fly problems in the summer. There are lots of details to be decided and these are currently being considered by a working group before the recommendations come to committee, with a timetable for implementation.

Work has finally started on a new Local Plan, but no sooner had this begun than Government threw a spanner in the works. Members had asked the officer to draft a chapter which included higher environmental standards than the minimum set out in national planning policy. East Cambs has extra challenges, such as water shortages during hot dry spells and waterlogging and flooding during wet spells – like this winter. So, climate change with increased severe weather and rising sea levels is a major risk to people locally. Members wanted to ensure that new buildings did not add to climate change pressures and would withstand the effects of predicted climate change. But in December the Government revised planning policy to prevent local Councils from enforcing higher standards than are set down in national policy. This is being contested through the Courts, as it contradicts the policy set out in an Act of Parliament, so it may be overturned allowing Councils once again to set higher standards. Members have therefore asked Officers to put this piece of work on hold and concentrate on other aspects of the Local Plan.

Although many people complain to us and other Councillors about unsafe and illegal parking, the administration have still refused to take on responsibility for parking enforcement. This leaves the responsibility with the Police, who do not have the resources to routinely enforce parking regulations. East Cambs will shortly be one of just three local authorities who refuse to accept responsibility for parking. We do raise specific concerns with the Police, who do try to fit a visit to problem areas into their schedule, but they cannot have the same affect as wardens who can enforce the regulations regularly.

Our next Councillors' Surgery will be on Thursday 20 June at 6.30pm in Reach Village Hall.

Copy deadline for combined July/August issue is 14 June.

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





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a) New applications:

24/00404/CCA: Bottisham Primary School Beechwood Avenue. The retention of a 7-bay (21m x8.7m) mobile classroom for a temporary period with the retention of two scooter pads

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

b) Planning Applications approved by ECDC:

24/00182/FUL: 19 Pound Close Bottisham. Alterations to the ground floor layout to create an enlarged kitchen and study. Extension to porch. Replace flat roof with pitched roof over the altered and extended spaces. Install solar panels and rooflights

c) Planning Application refused by ECDC:

23/00888/LBC. Spring Hall Newmarket Road Bottisham. Change of use of barn to events venue - retrospective



Village Litter Picks 2024

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Starting Location	Date	Month
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	15	June
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	13	July
Queens Court Care Home	10	August
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	September
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	October
Queens Court Care Home	16	November
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	December

Further Information:

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am

Ways to keep in touch with updates:

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



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Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan Progress

Dear Resident,

You may recall completing a consultation in 2023 asking for your views on the way you feel Bottisham should develop over the next ten years or so. One of the main drivers for this was the impending decision on the Retirement Village at the east end of the High Street, and on land with a number of levels of protection. Alas we now know that this development will go ahead despite the valiant efforts of Parish Council and the efforts of a large group of local campaigners. The village must now come together and collectively ensure that this development (and all others that may follow) meets all of the stringent conditions placed on it by the Planning Inspector. To that end Parish Council has formed a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group known as the Bottisham Working Group (BWG).

The BWG comprises residents and Councillors and currently numbers twelve members. Although this is a village wide project, the total process is facilitated by the BWG as an off shoot of the Parish Council. The group has been active over the past few months collating all of the input arising from the 2023 village consultation. Additionally a company by the name of Nupremis has been commissioned to guide us through the rather lengthy and daunting process and to help source demographic and geographical data. The finance for this has been made possible by an annual grant provided by central government.

Some have asked why a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is necessary. Neighbourhood Planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. An NP is even more necessary now with the unrelenting expansion of Cambridge into the countryside and the pressure this has and will continue to place on pastoral land in Bottisham. The persistent construction of 'executive style' homes will only limit the number of homes for our young people and homes for those wanting to downsize.

Once brought into legal force the NP will form part of the statutory local development plan. In this way communities will be able to choose where they want new homes, shops and business units to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided. This is a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of local development to meet local community needs.

From the data collected so far an analysis of village Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (otherwise known as a SWOT Analysis) has been created to help guide the BWG to form a collective community vision. There will be issues that can't be delivered, or that sit outside of the remit of a NP, or are over ambitious or not pragmatic at this stage. However, with the help of the SWOT, four foremost priorities have been identified by the BWG who are working on the objectives needed for delivering these:

a) Housing Needs

b) Natural Environment

c) Facilities and Services

d) Climate Change

When completed the draft NP will be presented for local community consent in the form of a public presentation and a formal referendum.

BWG

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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

AGM: We were pleased to see a number of patients attend this meeting to hear Dr Shackleton talk about general practice in the future. Once the minutes have been agreed at the June meeting there will be a resume of this talk on the Practice website.

STAFFING: The Practice continues to improve and build resilience in its staffing structure so they would like you to join them in welcoming Dr Joglekar and new Receptionist Catherine who have both joined the team within the last few weeks.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM: The new system was installed in week commencing 22nd April. The new system has many new facilities, which over time will be used to measure and where possible improve service.

DISPENSARY: Unfortunately, the Practice still continues to experience delays from suppliers, particularly after Bank Holidays, so your patience is requested and, as always, appreciated. To clarify, when they advise that they need five working days, this is five full working days, the date of submission is not included. Please also note that the Government has increased prescription charges from £9.65 to £9.90 from the 1st May 2024.

APPOINTMENTS: As previously publicised, this Practice is in the top 14 of the area with one day wait appointments and 90.7% face to face appointments. However, in April, there were 28 appointments where patients failed to attend. It is understood that there will be some circumstances beyond the patient's control, but where possible, it is requested that if you are unable to attend an appointment it is cancelled so another patient can utilise it.

NEXT MEETING: Will be at 6.30pm Thursday June 27 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meetings, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or speak to reception.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

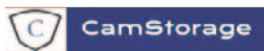
Bottisham Bus Timetable Cambridge & Newmarket

STEPHENSONS

12 Cambridge Drummer St - Cambridge Airport - Bottisham - Newmarket Bus Stn

Cambridge, Drummer St.	715	810	915	1018	1118	1218	1318	1418	1518	1618	1718	1820
Cambridge Airport	727	823	927	1030	1130	1230	1330	1430	1531	1631	1731	1832
Bottisham, High Street	735	834	935	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1542	1642	1742	1840
Newmarket, The Guineas	752	852	952	1055	1155	1255	1355	1455	1600	1700	1800	1855

Newmarket, The Guineas	630	720	825	930	1027	1127	1227	1327	1427	1527	1627	1730
Bottisham, High Street	647	737	842	947	1044	1144	1244	1344	1444	1544	1644	1747
Cambridge Airport	656	746	851	956	1053	1153	1253	1353	1453	1553	1653	1756
Cambridge, Drummer St.	710	800	905	1010	1107	1207	1307	1407	1507	1607	1707	1810



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At our last meeting we were treated to confectionery delights courtesy of husband and wife team, Alison Wright and Tim Hayward co-owners of Fitzbillies. The bakery has been famous in Cambridge since 1920 and the couple rescued the business in 2011 when it went bankrupt.

The couple delivered a potted history of the bakery and its development from a single shop into a thriving business with extended premises and new branches.

Fitzbillies was founded in 1920 by Ernest and Arthur Mason, using their 'demob' money from the First World War. Their initials are still visible in worn-out gold letters on the shop front. They were the sons of local baker 'Ticker' Mason, who had a shop further up Trumpington St, where the newsagents is now. Ticker was a bread maker, so his boys specialised in fancy cakes, and of course, Chelsea buns. The bakery quickly became popular with undergraduates as the bakery was right in the middle of the colleges and no teatime would be correct unless there was a Fitzbillies sponge cake on offer along with cucumber sandwiches and Chelsea buns. The recipe for the original sponge contained eight eggs!

The bakery suffered the ups and downs as many businesses during the war time and in recent times a devastating fire closed the baker for two years in 1998. However the worst was to come in 2011 when bankruptcy closed the doors and Stephen Fry wrote a lament for the last tray of Chelsea buns.

Alison was born in Cambridge and had enjoyed the delights of Saturday treats and birthday cakes from the shop. Despite being based in London, with a background in advertising and no experience of running a shop, she was determined to take on the business alongside food write husband Tim. What she did have was a love of food and baking and convinced the Master of Pembroke with a sound business plan and a home-made Bakewell Tart!

The business is now thriving and there are new bakery premises with eight bakers who solely work on producing 250,000 Chelsea buns to a closely guarded secret recipe. Other specialist bakers work on sourdough bread and wedding cakes along with many other delicious treats.

The evening was rounded off with the chance to eat one of their famous Chelsea buns or a flavoursome macaroon with a cup of tea.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 18th June at 7.30 when our speaker will be Margaret James and the subject is 'No Way Home'. Please join us at the Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club.

**Copy deadline for combined July/August
issue is 14 June.**

*Please send material to the editor
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Bottisham Bird Brain

Well folks, after covering two of our summer visitor Leaf Warblers last month, on the strength of the arrival of the Chiffchaffs, I have still yet to hear a Willow Warbler this year (at the time of writing anyway)! Perhaps they have found the unusually chilly north wind somewhat off-putting of late! Has anyone else had any luck, I wonder? But I did see my first Swallow in early April, just the one at the time. Upon announcing my 'find' to a friend, I was reminded solemnly that one swallow does not a summer make! With that wind persisting towards the end of April I can confirm, as a keen cyclist, that they never spoke a truer word... brrrr!!

The Swallows – *Hirundo rustica* – or Barn Swallows to the Americans, are arriving in some numbers now and one hopes that a warmer May will have swelled our summer population together with that of those other common members of the Hirundinidae family: the House Martins – *Delichon urbicum*.

So let us look at these two species so we can be certain about distinguishing one from the other... not always as easy as you might think in fast flight!

The Swallow (the more common of the two) is distinctive for its fast, easy, gliding flight, often quite low over the ground as it hunts for insects; and the first thing you might notice is its long wings and exaggerated tail streamers. And if you get a really good look, you'll see that it sports a beautiful red face, but you might have to wait until it's resting on a telegraph wire to fully appreciate its handsome countenance. The most attractive feature to a female Swallow though, according to research, is the length of the male's tail streamers – the idea being that a bird with the strength to grow longer feathers will provide good genes and reliable parenting for its offspring. So... size matters in the Swallow's world!

The House Martin is slightly smaller, with shorter wings, a shallow forked tail, and a completely white underside, including the face. But the most noticeable feature to distinguish it from all other species is the conspicuous white rump which is easily observed as it twists and turns in flight. The House Martin is perhaps more of a town bird than the Swallow, enjoying the insects in the warm air above



(Continued on page 23)

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(Continued from page 21)

the urban sprawl; whereas the Swallow is more at home over wider open spaces like parks, meadows and fens, where it skims the grass with high speed agility.

Both birds use the convenience of man-made structures to build their nests. The House Martin was once a cliff dweller before humans offered them sheltered areas under the eaves of houses. They will still nest under bridges or caves of course, siting their nests on a vertical wall, but you are much more likely to find them in the heart of town nowadays. The Swallow, by contrast, prefers a rather more sheltered option, often going inside a barn or outhouse to build a nest on a beam or a ledge of some sort. I can remember, years ago, Swallows nesting inside the public toilets in the wood at Wells-Next-The-Sea – oblivious to the comings and goings of tourists all day! The nests of both species are comprised of mud, grasses and roots and they will happily return to the same nest year after year.

How are these birds doing in the UK? Well, there are thought to be 860,000 Swallow territories in the UK but, despite fluctuations in recent years, an overall (but not catastrophic) decline is attributed to falling insect numbers. The House Martin is now ‘red listed’ – down to around half a million pairs annually, so not in immediate trouble; but of course, both species undertake a mind-boggling, 4-6 week migration twice a year between Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, during which they have to overcome any number of life-threatening obstacles, e.g. unseasonal foul weather, pesticides, persecution by south Europeans with guns and, not least, the Sahara itself.

But these birds have adorned our shores for thousands of years (and, hopefully, thousands more to come), to the extent that they have both claimed places in literature and folklore. The House Martin, for instance, was described by Banquo at Macbeth’s castle as “this guest of summer, the temple-haunting martlet”, and the ‘martlet’ often crops up as a symbol of continuous effort in heraldry.

In similar vein, Swallows have long since been associated with long-distance travel and the bird has been used as a symbol for sailors to signify a safe return. Traditionally, mariners would take a Swallow tattoo once they had sailed 5,000 nautical miles, then a second one at 10,000. And further back than that, the ancient Greeks and Romans considered Swallows sacred, as they carried the souls of their deceased children. This may well give rise, throughout the world, to the general association of Swallows with good luck; or could it be that the birds arrive in the northern hemisphere at a time when Spring is turning into summer and the warmer weather (normally!) helps everybody to feel a little more optimistic...?

TTFN - Gerry Daish

**The swallow of summer, she toils all the summer,
A blue-dark knot of glittering voltage,
A whiplash swimmer, a fish of the air.**

From ‘Work and Play’ – Ted Hughes



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10.00-12.00 QUEENS COURT - Kick things off with Breakfast Rolls, Ice Cream, Bric a Brac, Tombola and an Entertainer.



12.00-14.00 BRING YOUR PICNIC - on the Dirt Hills.
Come along with your friends and neighbours, have a picnic and be entertained by 'The Lost Hobbos.'



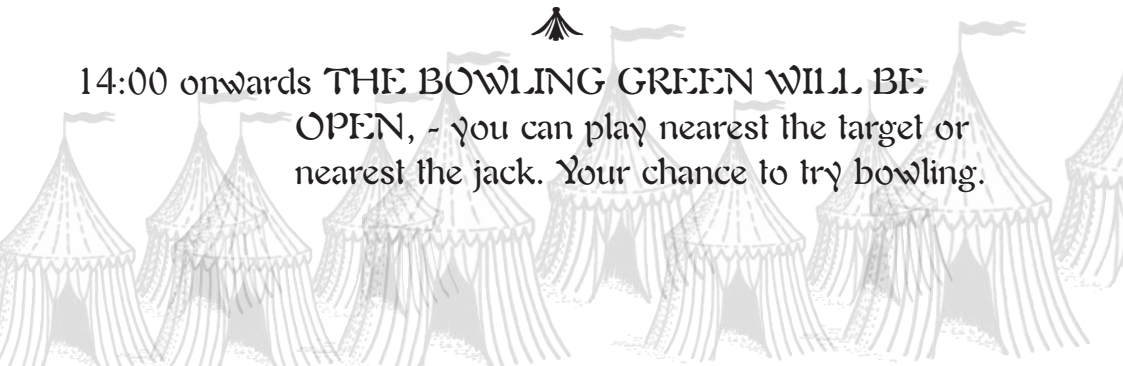
13.00-15.00 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - Walk off your picnic lunch and come and see the craft display. We also hope to have some bell ringing taking place.



14.00-16.00 CAFÉ IN THE SOCIAL CLUB POPPY ROOM. - Tea, coffee and cakes, with Fay singing lots of our favourite songs. (all proceeds to the air ambulance)



14:00 onwards THE BOWLING GREEN WILL BE OPEN, - you can play nearest the target or nearest the jack. Your chance to try bowling.



THE WHOLE VILLAGE!

15.30-17.00 MAGICIAN AND CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER. - If you like magic this is for you. The show is outside in The Social Club car park.



16:30-19.00 BBQ. - Time for tea. Hot dogs and burgers.



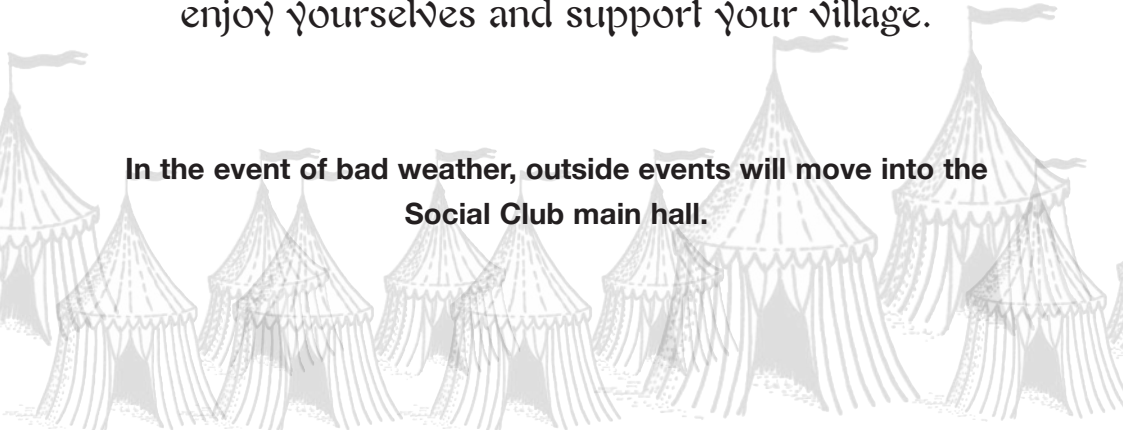
18.00-20.00 INSTRUMENTAL BAND - to entertain us as we relax with a drink at The Sports and Social Club.



20.00-24.00 ROUND THE DAY OFF- listening and dancing to the sounds of 'MIGUEL AND THE SHIPWRECK CREW.'

All entertainment is free of charge, so come along, enjoy yourselves and support your village.

In the event of bad weather, outside events will move into the Social Club main hall.



Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club.



OPENING HOURS

Weekdays – 5pm to 11pm

Saturday - 12 noon to 11pm

Sunday - 12 noon to 9pm

Come along and enjoy!
Our outside games – Jenga- Connect 4, Quoits.

We also have lots of new board games to entertain the family, just ask at the bar.

We also show sporting events on BT/TNT Sport.

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WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 8th June - The Village Fun Day - IT'S A BIG FUN FILLED DAY

It all kicks off at Queens Court at 10am, followed by events on the dirt hills and at the club. Café with singer, BBQ, children's entertainer and magic show, instrumental band and finally 'Miguel and Shipwreck Crew' are back for the evening. See more details in the centre pullout of this edition of the Cresset.

In the event of a wet day all activities will be in the hall.

Saturday 20th July - Pam is back.

Pam will be singing some of your favourite songs.

Saturday 7th September - Emma and the Dinosaurs

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

Saturday 5th October - Roy Orbison Tribute Night

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

Saturday 26th October - Children Fancy Dress Halloween Disco

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

Come and listen to the local talent.

Please refer to the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk for the latest information. If you wish to be updated with the latest news, please email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com
31 Downing Close, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DD Tel. 01223 812063

Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Joe Sharman owner of Monksilver Nurseries in Cottenham spoke about Hellebores at our April meeting. He explained that there are only 2 species native to this country those with stems and those without. The stemmy ones are non - evergreen, like the shade and hybridise easily. They form isolated populations so there are very slight differences between those in Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck – not many people know that! Hellebores are found all over Europe, some in ancient woodlands which have never been disturbed and the most well - known is Hellebores Corsicus which is now widely grown.

In the 1960's there was a great interest in breeding new plants for colour, size and shape by Helen Ballard and Eric Smith but it took them a while to sort out the scent. An interesting talk with slides and a true gardening theme for our group. He had brought many plants from his nursery for sale and did a good trade.

The annual lunch at Newmarket Golf Club was enjoyed in early May by many members, partners and friends.

On Wednesday 19th June we have an outing to Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens in Northampton with afternoon tea later at the NGSS Cottage Garden in Finedon.

There will therefore be no meeting in June.

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Poppy Room at the Social Club. New members are welcome to come along.

Sylvia Overton

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June 17th

The Great Escaper (12A)

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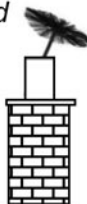
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We welcomed Angie Stewart, CEO, Cambridge Women's Aid (CWA) as our guest speaker. Angie has worked for 30 years in charity organisations, twenty-two of these at CWA. Angie began by thanking the Group for organising the collection of very generous Christmas gifts received each year from our local community.

CWA was established in 1977, resulting from the Women's Liberation Conference in 1970, and was set up by Cambridge Women's Liberation Network. Providing a safe place for women and children affected by domestic abuse. Angie shared with us some very interesting photographs taken at the first refuge on the corner of John Street. In 1990 the refuge was moved to Adam & Eve Street. A new purpose-built refuge was opened in 2005 and today provides support, advice and when necessary safe and very comfortable accommodation for up to 11 families. The families do not come from the Cambridge area. Local clients are guided to a refuge in another area ensuring their place of safety away from abuse they are suffering.

CWA is a small registered charity, which is service user led. Today it has 12 employed members of staff, and employs some women who have experienced domestic abuse themselves.

Angie briefly recapped on the many forms of domestic abuse: coercive control, psychological/emotion, digital on-line, stalking, physical sexual abuse, harassment. Over the 47 years of CWA things have change and there is now the 'Domestic Abuse Act' which became law in 2021. In current times CWA services include: outreach service where women can come of advice; direct support via live chat; 24 hour on call; Ask me community education programme; peer support and mental health group; partnership working with other charitable organisations.

CWA, as with all charities, suffered post Covid issues with the need for space and serious reduction in funding. Looking forward the organisation would ideally like to provide a refuge for local women, and collaborate closely with partner organisations to share resources and come together and provide combined services. If you would like to learn more about the invaluable services CWA provide visit <https://cambridgewa.org.uk/>

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month at 2.30pm in Passage Hall, Lode. Our guest speaker on 20th June is Rev. Paula Spalding, MU Diocesan Chaplain. You are most welcome to join us.

Ann Langran

Copy deadline for combined July/August issue is 14 June.

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Bottisham Community Library Association

I am writing this in brilliant, sunny, warm weather and hope it will continue for the May Bank holiday as our books and jigsaws sale is on Saturday 25th May.

Lego Club dates are 1st June and 13th July. Thanks to Laura Overton for running this club. This starts at 10.30.

Barbara Walden who has volunteered to run the Rhyme and Story time sessions (thank you) is currently undergoing safeguarding training and hopes to start soon. Probably on the same dates as Lego club.

We are currently hoping to find some new volunteers to help run sessions for 2 or 3 opening periods each month. We have lost a few volunteers recently as they have moved away or have more family commitments. Please think about it and have a chat when you are next in the library.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 16th July at 7.00pm in the library please note your diaries. We are looking for a speaker at the moment.

Please support us and use the library.

Sylvia Overton



Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)

As the month of June begins the museum is hosting the MG Owners Club summer picnic on Sunday 2nd June, and we are hoping to have between 40 and 80 MG cars attending. There will also be groups of reenactors giving demonstrations as part of the 80th Anniversary D-Day commemoration.

Our major event of the year is Bottisham at War/Forties weekend on the 6th and 7th of July. There will be a number of military vehicles and various military camps and demonstrations showing the different types of equipment that were used during WW2, as well as living history displays. There will be two wartime singers and other attractions on both days. Hot food and a beer tent will be provided, and as usual the Flying Tractor Café will be serving hot and cold drinks and snacks.

Admission prices are adult purchased in advance £10, or £12 on the day. Concessions (child under 16, senior 65) are £5 purchased in advance, or £7 on the day. There is also a family ticket for two adults and two concessions for £22 in advance, or £28 on the gate. For tickets and more information please see our website, Bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk

On Tuesday 30th April the funeral of Steve Gotts took place. Steve was born in 1946 and was dedicated to historical research and aircraft preservation from an early age.

He was a founding member of the 'Friends of the Eighth' air force and dedicated many years of his life to writing his book 'Little Friends', a pictorial history of the 361st Fighter Group. He was one of the three founders of the Bottisham Airfield Museum and served for many years as a Trustee. He will be greatly missed.

Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer

Have you ever stopped of a morning to sit down to have a cup of coffee in the house on your own, and thought it would be nice to talk to somebody?
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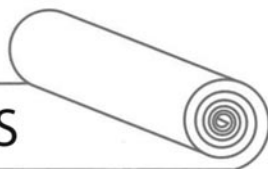


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Anglesey Abbey

Anglesey Abbey is full of beautiful blooms and butterflies enjoying some of the long grasses and wildflowers after a month of No Mow May. The first few roses are beginning to flower in the Rose Garden and we're looking forward to an even more impressive display of roses this summer.

We're thrilled to be working with David Austin Roses to extend the much-loved Rose Garden at Anglesey Abbey by 20 beds, 19 new cultivars and some 180 roses. The team have carefully chosen the new roses for their colour, vigour, abundance of flowers and pest and disease resistance. You'll be able to see English roses such as 'Gentle Hermione', 'Elizabeth' and 'Queen of Sweden' this summer, flowering from June through to November. Many will be available to buy in the Anglesey Abbey Plant Centre too.

The 'Artists of East Anglia' Exhibition is now open daily on the ground floor of the house, showcasing the works of Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable and Leonid Squirrel's local watercolours amongst other intriguing items associated with East Anglia. We're also looking forward to the opening of our brand-new Garden Office café this month – keep an eye on our social media channels for the grand opening!

As always, we have lots of exciting events planned in June and July for all ages. Our Under 5's Gardening Club is starting up from 3rd June on weekdays in the gardens and we will be celebrating Father's Day in style on 15th – 16th June – do drop by for some tasty food and family time that weekend. On 17th June, we're delighted to host The Rose Society UK who will be delivering a talk at 2pm and available throughout the afternoon to answer questions and share some valuable rose pruning tips with you. We will also be hosting a 'Masters of Mystery' evening in the House in July – a series of magic shows performed by award-winning magicians. Please head to our website if you'd like to buy a ticket!



Photo credit: © National Trust Images / Mike Selby, Rob Stothard



Copy deadline for combined July/August issue is 14 June.

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

You are Invited to an Art Festival

Private View of Paintings by The Great Bradley Art Group in
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Red2Green springs into action:

Date of summer fair announced

Spring is in the air, and our dedicated garden team has been buzzing with activity, fighting off the wet weather, and embracing the season with open arms and green thumbs! We've been busy bees, crafting beautiful hanging baskets and potting up an array of new plant arrivals that promise to sprinkle colour and life into our community spaces and your homes. Our garden is a hive of activity, with maintenance tasks being tackled head-on thanks to the invaluable support of our volunteers, helping keep our garden looking its best, and for that, we are endlessly grateful.

In our quest for inspiration and to broaden our horticultural horizons, the garden team recently had a day out to the Cambridge Botanic Garden. This outing, made possible by a community pass granting us 10 free visits each year, was not only a treat for the senses but also a fantastic learning opportunity. It allowed us to explore and understand the nuances of planting and growing across different seasons and environments. Days out like this help us inspire future gardening projects back in Bottisham and enable our clients to broaden their understanding of the importance of the natural environment around us.

Our new spring and summer bedding plants are now available for just £2.50 per pot! Additionally, for all your gardening projects, we've got your compost needs covered at £6.50 per bag. Remember, we're open Monday to Friday, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, and we're more than happy to deliver locally. Fancy a custom-made hanging basket? We've got you covered there, too. For more details, feel free to drop us an email at info@red2green.org or give us a ring at 01223 811 662.

But wait, there's more! We warmly invite the entire Bottisham community to join us on Saturday, 6 July, from 11 am to 2 pm, for our much-anticipated annual garden fair. It's going to be a day brimming with fun, featuring tea, cake, and a variety of handmade craft stalls showcasing the talents of our clients from across our services. Plus, with an abundance of indoor and outdoor plants for sale, it's the perfect opportunity to stock up your greenhouse while treating your taste buds. This event also offers a fantastic chance to dive deeper into the various ways you can engage with Red2Green, and to learn more about our mission as we excitedly approach our 25th anniversary as an official charity in 2025. Come along, celebrate with us, and let's grow our community together.

Copy deadline for combined July/August issue is 14 June.

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





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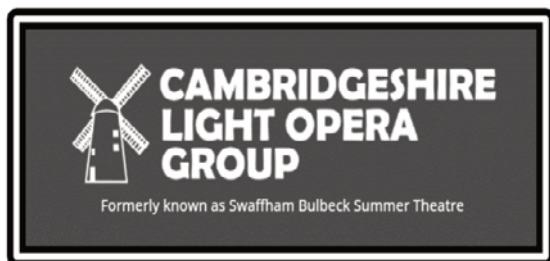
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