

April 2025

THE 
Cresset



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

Annual Parish Meeting

**Tuesday
29th April
7:30pm**

**Sports
&
Social Club**

**What
projects are
going on in the
village?**

**Are there plans
for amenity
improvements?**

**Can we have
a play area?**

**How do we
know about
planning
applications?**



**Can we plant
bulbs in the
village?**

**Where does
my Council tax
money go?**

**How do we voice
concerns about
Bottisham like
graffiti, verges,
potholes?**

**What's being
done about
roads
& parking?**

**Whether you've
lived here for
years or just
moved in,
we would love to
see you**

**How do I
contact
Parish
Council?**

clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

Spring is surely Sprung!

Please let there be warmer weather. The old saying is that March comes in like a Lion and out like a Lamb. Well, I think it was more like a Polar Bear than a lion at the beginning of March.



Then as usual we get the warm spell and we are caught out and fooled into thinking spring is here, but as I write the recent few warm days have been replaced again with polar winds from the north and winter showers which may well turn to sleet. I can only hope that by the time you read your Cresset, the warm will be back and staying.

There is a lot to report on in the magazine this month. Notice of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 29th at the Social Club. This is the meeting when you get the chance to hear what is going on which affects us all here in Bottisham and also the opportunity to ask questions directly of the various councillors and representatives of the police, schools etc.

There is an update from Tony Jolley on the Neighbourhood Plan which is coming together thanks to the hard work of the initial working party. I hope you took the opportunity to go along to the public consultation that was held and have made your views known.

Sad and disappointed to read of the ending of the MHA Communities project which was evident in Queen's Court hosting day visitors, Saturday Morning's Bacon Rolls and coffee get together and the Thursday Lunch Club at the Social Club. Clearly MHA pulling back to manage their core business of running the Care home. Let's hope it comes back.

Saying all that, pleased to read that the lovely Nicola Flack together with the Social Club are planning to continue with some of the events. Watch this space for more news.

I should also mention at this point, "Meeting Point" (no pun intended), run by volunteers at the Social Club on a Wednesday morning at 10.30. Anyone and everyone are welcome for a coffee, a biscuit, a chat and a raffle!

The VE Day celebration looks like it should be a great fun day for the village to commemorate and remember the end of WW2 and the sacrifices that our forebears undertook.

Few of us can relate to what life was like for those who lived through it or have the capacity to imagine what life would be like if it happened again. But we would quickly find out!

Also in the magazine this month, "Bird Brain" gives us another insight into the life of the Corn Bunting. Believe it or not this is the twenty sixth article that Gerry has written for us on birds and every one a delight to read. Not forgetting that this follows a huge number of Sport Nut articles. We owe Gerry a big thank you.

If you have an interest with a story attached, then why not share it with us.

If you have a view on life in Bottisham, then we would love to hear from you. Good or bad, The Cresset welcomes your comment. However, if it is bad, then we would also love to hear your ideas for making it better. As the businessman said, "Don't bring me problems, bring me solutions".

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

Our cover this month is a reminder of life in Bottisham over 100 years ago, with a view looking East along the High St.. A clue as to exactly where, is to be found in the front bay window of the old Anchor pub on the left, still there as a private house and the old house immediately on the right, now where the frontage of the Rank's garage development is. But the real interest is the total lack of vehicles. How peaceful and quiet it must have been.

Easter coming as well and possible holidays for some, have a great month and see you in May.

Your Editor

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

As I write, we have entered the Christian period of Lent. During this time Christians remember the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and being tempted by the devil. Lent started on Ash Wednesday 5th March and ends on Maundy Thursday when we remember the Last Supper when Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples. Many give up some luxuries during Lent, such as alcohol or chocolate and donate the money saved to worthy causes. Widely publicised however is Shrove Tuesday, the day prior to Lent when many eat pancakes in abundance, (often associated with pancake races), prior to the fasting of Lent.



Also, at this time of year we have to re-elect our Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council (PCC) members. PCC's under the chairmanship of the Vicar or Churchwardens are the bodies responsible for running the Anglican Parish Churches throughout the world and it is no different in Bottisham! Our churchwardens will be elected at the service on Sunday 6th April while the PCC will be elected at the Annual Parochial Church meeting, which will take place at Swaffham Prior Primary School on April 9th at 7.30pm.

By the time you read this we will have had our first Coffee and Cake concert when Sarah Maxwell with her beautiful soprano voice, entertained us with her singing accompanied by John Marsh. The second will take place on Saturday 10th May at 10.30am when Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE former organist and choirmaster at Worcester Cathedral, St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle and St John's College Cambridge, will play a variety of pieces on the organ including arrangements of Handel's Water Music, Walton's Crown Imperial and finishing with Widor's Toccata. It is suggested that a £5 donation would be appropriate for adults. There will be no charge for children. The concert will last for about 45 minutes. Do come at 10.30 am and enjoy a coffee (or tea or juice) and some cake before the music begins.

We have a small number of willing helpers who clean the church and keep it tidy – the rota comes around about twice a year. We are looking for one or two more to help with this task. If you are willing to help please contact Helen Cole (01223 812573), who kindly organises the cleaning roster.

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Our monthly Holy Communion Service on the first Sunday of the month, April 6th, led by our Vicar Max Osborne assisted by our curate will include two Baptisms. This service will be particularly joyful because those being baptised are a teenager and a young adult who later in the year want to go on to confirmation. The confirmation service will be conducted by Bishop Dagmar in Saint Vigor's Church, Fulbourn in June. Our brief Compline by Candlelight held on Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month (April 2nd at 8.00pm) will be led as usual by Sarah Maxwell. Easter Services will be held around several of the Churches in the Benefice. Please see details elsewhere in the Cresset or on the Church Notice Board for timings. You will notice that there is no service in Bottisham on Easter Sunday; this is because everyone is being encouraged to attend one of the Communion services being taken by our Vicar at Quy (9am) and Swaffham Bulbeck (10.30am)

May I wish you all a very happy Easter and we would love to see you at one of our services

Stuart Field, Churchwarden

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 April.

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



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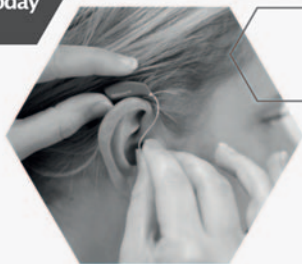
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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Wed Apr 2nd	8 pm	C by C (a short contemplative service), online via Zoom
Sun Apr 6th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Palm Sun	9am	Online service on Zoom
Apr 13th		Holy Communion - Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship – Swaffham Prior
Good Fri	10am	Good Friday service – Quy (in churchyard if fine)
Apr 18th		
Easter Sun	9am	Online service on Zoom
Apr 20th		Holy Communion - Quy
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck
Sun Apr 27th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion (BCP) – Swaffham Bulbeck
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Prior
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.

Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

A 4-WEEK COURSE ON ASTRONOMY

Starting on Thursday 24th April at 10.30 until 15th May

Jonathan Clough will present a varied course to include:

- Week 1: **An introduction to the night sky in April and May**
 - An Introduction to Cosmology**
 - Week 2: **The inner and outer solar systems**
 - Week 3: **Our sun - Galaxies**
- Week 4: **A meteorite show, with some very old specimens - Shooting stars**

BALA courses are held in the main hall at Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club in Downing Close CB25 9DD

The cost is £20 with an extra £5 for non-members.

New members are always welcome.

Any enquiries to Bottishambala@btinternet.com

Helen Cole

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Parish Council Report

The next full council meeting will be held by on Monday 7th April 2025, 7.30pm at the Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. Please note that the clerk to the council does not keep regular office hours. Replies to emails and phone calls will be attended to as soon as is practicable. Details of upcoming meetings and Councillor Details are available from the Parish Council Noticeboard and from the website bottisham-pc.gov.uk.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ENGAGEMENT EVENT

I am pleased to report that the Neighbourhood Plan Engagement Event held on 1st March 2025 was well attended by residents and that the working group have received some useful feedback and praise for the presentation. The Parish Council wishes to thank all those involved with the preparation of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and to those who gave up their free time to present the information on the day and answer any questions that residents had. The Working Group will be using the feedback in finalising the draft document to be presented to the Parish Council for approval, prior to submission of the Regulation 14 agreement consultation later this year.

The chair of the working group, Tony Jolley, has given a more detailed report on the event elsewhere in this magazine - so please look out for it.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

A reminder that the Annual Parish Meeting is being held on 29th April 2025 at the Sports and Social Club. This is an important opportunity for the Parish Council to understand what residents think. To that end we are changing the format this year to increase opportunity for residents to have their say in smaller groups based around the topics of Highways & Transport, Planning & Development and Community & Communications. Your County & District Cllrs, plus representatives from the police and our local schools will join in the discussions.

We would love to hear from as many individuals as possible at this annual residents meeting. I would also like to remind residents that at each Parish Council meeting, the public are permitted to attend and there is an open forum at the start of every meeting where matters can be raised to the Council. So, if there is something that you wish for the Council to consider please do come along or, if you would rather not attend a meeting in person, you can send me an email to clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk and I will raise this with the Council.

ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER

There has been much publicity about the Government's move to Unitary Councils of late. Essentially what this means is that the County Council and the District Councils will be abolished, and a new Unitary Council will take over the responsibilities of both the Councils as a singular organisation. We currently fall under East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) who serve a population of around 90000 and Cambridgeshire County Council - who are the upper tier of local government and undertake services for five district councils. But the move to a unitary authority will see the overall functions for approximately 500,000 residents being controlled by one Council.

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 7

Early indications are that the whole of Cambridgeshire is likely to have two mayor-led Unitary Councils - either North/South or East/West. We already have a mayor who is responsible for the Cambridgeshire/Peterborough area and will not be in the first round of the process (our changes are likely to come into effect during 2028). Both the County Council and District Councils are currently being asked to submit responses to the government by 21st March. ECDC has raised concern about merging, as they have been debt free for a number of years and the move to a singular Council could see them placed with Councils who are not in the same fortunate position. ECDC has been consulting with residents to aid them in their response on the 21st. The Parish Council is also submitting a response to ECDC. We will keep residents updated on any developments via Facebook, website and of course though the Cresset.

VE DAY – 80TH YEAR CELEBRATION

Plans for the 80th year celebration for VE Day are well underway. The event has been arranged for 10th May, 2-5pm on the Triangle. We are looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to come along and celebrate this event with us. If you are able to help in any way, then please do reach out to myself or Cllr Cundell. We would welcome any support that anyone is able to provide, as these events do not organise themselves.

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The Parish Council have recently interviewed for a new Administration Assistant to assist the Clerk in carrying out some of the functions of the Parish Council. At the time of writing no announcement on the appointment has been made, but we hope the new Assistant can join the Council on 7th April. Details of how to communicate with the new Assistant will be published in the next edition of the Cresset.

BOTTISHAM MEADOWS ALLOTMENTS & PLAY AREA

I regret that the legal process of transferring the green space surrounding Bottisham Meadows from the developers to ECDC is still delayed. So the Copse Close Play Area remains “closed” and the allotments can still not be used. We are all set and ready to go once the transfer has finally been made. On the positive side a Project Play resident’s working party is moving forwards on investigating how to develop further play provision for the village on the grassland beside Jubilee Wood.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Please don’t forget we still have a vacant seat on the Parish Council. I would love to have a full council, as it has been many years since this has happened. Throw out any misconceptions about us sitting in a cold drafty room, discussing boring matters. The Parish Council is very diverse, and we have lots of exciting projects that we are currently undertaking. So, if you would like to get involved with shaping your Parish and ensuring that we retain our identity then please do reach out.

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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County Councillors' Report

COUNCIL REORGANISATION

Residents will have seen in the news, that Government have announced a change to local government. I will not use the word reform, because that is a positive move, but this is an imposition with no ability for residents to be able to comment or influence the outcome.

All Councils have received communication from Government requiring a response to the formation of successor unitary authorities by 21st March 2025.

East Cambs District Council has called a special meeting to be held on 20th March to discuss and agree the Council's response.

That meeting will receive a draft holding response agreed by all leaders of Councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough excluding Fenland.

If agreed by Council, this will enable further discussions to take place, with Government requiring a final response by 28th November.

I will update in future months but welcome any comments from residents around this.

BUDGET

The County Council voted for an increase of 4.99% for their portion of the Council Tax, which is the maximum allowed without an election.

Our group put in 11 amendments to the ruling Lib Dem/ Labour administration's budget covering different spending on highways repairs. These were all rejected by the ruling administration.

The Police & Crime Panel met on 5th February to decide on the Police & Crime Commissioner's precept proposals and agreed an increase of 4.8% on their portion of the Council Tax.

BUSWAYS

At the full County Council on 11th February, Council voted to proceed with the Transport and Works Orders for the Camborne to Coton Busway and the CSET Busway to the Addenbrookes campus. It is still likely that both of these routes will be the subject of a public inquiry, and I voted against both of them, as there is, in my opinion, a suitable on road alternative at a fraction of the cost, which avoids digging up large areas of farmland.

Additionally, there was a vote to proceed with the Transport and Works Order for a busway from the new development at Waterbeach, which will take a short journey across the A10 and open land to avoid the Milton Road roundabout. I supported that proposal, as it seems to be a sensible solution to solve congestion at the Milton Road/ A14 roundabout.

BUSES

As residents will be aware, the promised new routes called Tiger 4 and Tiger 5 are being retendered, due to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority being unable to resolve contractual issues with the preferred bidder.

The Tiger 4 would have come into Bottisham and head through the Wilbrahams, to Hills Road and Long Road colleges and end up at Addenbrookes

Continued on page 13

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Continued from page 11

These routes were part of the 200% increase in precept that the mayor made last year in his part of the Council Tax bill, and I hope that residents will finally start getting a service for the money that they have paid.

Please contact me if there any issues that you wish to advise me of. I am there to represent you.

Alan Sharp

Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Woodditton Ward

Mobile: 07794292941 - Email: alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Planning Notes

a) New applications:

25/00220/FUL, Koivula 98A High Street Bottisham Garage conversion to Granny annexe

b) Planning Application refused by ECDC:

25/00029/FUL, 21 Parsonage Barns Bottisham Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB25 9EG
Single storey extension to rear (already approved) and 2 storey dormer extension to rear

Bottisham WI

At our February meeting Angie Stewart from Cambridge Women's Aid came to talk to us about the history of the Refuge and the work undertaken there. Since it first opened in the 1970s the Refuge has occupied a number of different premises in Cambridge. It now has a purpose-built facility which houses 11 women with their children. Staff are on-site during office hours but on call out of hours to ensure that the women feel that this is their home. Although much has changed since the Refuge first opened its objectives remain broadly similar in providing a safe refuge for women who are at risk of homicide and abuse. Offers of help, both practical and financial are always welcome.

At the end of February, on a glorious sunny morning, a group of us were guests of Jill and Roger Jenyns at Bottisham Hall. After coffee and biscuits several of us ventured out into the sunshine with Jill to walk through the gardens and woods. The snowdrops were still in bloom with the daffodils starting to come through. Jill's little Griffon dog, Betsy, accompanied us on our walk and kept us entertained as we enjoyed the tour. Donations for Jill's chosen charity of Addenbrooke's Hospital were collected.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th April at 7.30pm.

The speaker will be Neil Callan with a talk entitled Crowbar to Crocosmia. Do come and join us if you'd like to know more!

We usually meet on the third Tuesday of every month at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club in the Poppy Room at 7.30pm. Talks are followed by refreshments offering the opportunity to meet and chat to others. We also have a number of smaller groups which meet at other times during the month to pursue a variety of cultural activities and support local charities.

Jennifer Clark



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A Neighbourhood Plan for Bottisham

Dear Resident,

March 2025

We last updated you with progress on the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan in the January 2025 edition of *The Cresset*. These updates are also available on the Bottisham Parish Council Website and can also be found on the various local media platforms.

The Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan Working Group was pleasantly surprised with the turnout on Saturday 1st March for the Neighbourhood Plan Community Engagement Day. Your comments have been read and we should like to highlight that the NP will be reviewed and updated to reflect the feedback that was received. Once this has been done the updated NP will be available at various locations in the village for six (6) weeks for further scrutiny and comment.

In preparing the Plan the NP Working Group has consulted local people and businesses over the past eighteen (18) months and invited schools and minority groups to contribute while developing this plan. In addition to the focus on retaining the character of the village, people have expressed great concern about the ability of local infrastructure to absorb a larger population. Whilst the Plan cannot address these issues directly, they are recognised and will be put forward as weaknesses in our infrastructure.

The feedback is predominantly positive, with strong support for maintaining village identity, protecting green spaces, and ensuring responsible development. Residents emphasise preserving the Conservation Area, enforcing design codes, and limiting expansion, particularly on Greenfield and Green Belt sites.

Infrastructure concerns include the need for improved public transport, better waste management, and sufficient medical and school provisions before further development. These are not matters that the Plan can address directly but can be used to inform and determine proportionate development.

Sustainability is a key priority, with calls for biodiversity protection around the settlement area of the village, solar panels on new homes, and eco-friendly building materials. Green and open spaces are highly valued for recreation and wildlife, with suggestions to expand and formally protect them where possible. Non-Heritage assets, including the Library and Sports Centre, are recognised as vital to the community.

Although the Community Engagement Event was well-received, outreach to younger residents and wider community involvement could be improved.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN VISION FOR BOTTISHAM – 2025 TO 2031:

- a) Protect and enrich the rural character and identity of the village and to ensure any development opportunities are proportionate and respect heritage, community, agricultural and rural aesthetic whilst also being sustainable and appropriate to the scale and nature of the Parish. We want Bottisham to remain a village.
- b) To be an attractive and desirable place to live; with strong community cohesion where all our residents will feel valued and connected. Our existing open and green spaces, along with biodiversity corridors, community facilities and services, will be protected and enhanced to ensure that these valuable assets continue to support our community.
- c) Levels of future growth must reflect the sustainability of already overstretched services whilst welcoming the use of new technology in order to minimise the adverse impact on the climate and to enable residents to change how they live and work.

Overall, the Community Engagement feedback supports the vision but urges caution in development. Residents advocate for balanced, proportionate and sustainable growth that protects and enhances village life and the village's character and heritage without compromising its rural aesthetic.

Anthony Jolle - Acting Project Leader

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Regarding the Closure of MHA Communities.

Dear Friends,

In recent weeks we announced the extremely sad closure of the Communities Scheme, I felt that the Cresset was the best way to communicate to those who have supported us to offer our heartfelt thanks and to reassure everyone that Queens Court is in no way affected, due to it being a separate service under the MHA umbrella.

We would like to encourage people to come along and support MHA Queens Courts Easter Event on Saturday 19th April from 10.30 til 13.00.

The home will continue to be very much part of village life and will continue to invite everyone to regular open days, host intergenerational activities and many more sociable events.

Unfortunately, the closure of MHA Communities does mean that for the time being day care provision will stop. Please do speak to Queens Court if you have any questions regarding care needs as they are still very much an expert resource, as ever they will help and advise where possible.

Burwell day centre is more than happy to take any enquiries for those wishing to attend their sessions and the new Tiger Bus Service could be an affordable way for people to travel there.

We have been fortunate that the popular Saturday morning Breakfast Hub, supported by Cambs Acre will be based at the Sports and Social Club ongoing. It will now be a voluntary effort, so if anyone would like to come and help, please get in touch. There will be no change in what's offered. This wouldn't be possible without the support of the Club and so a huge thank you to them.

The Thursday Community Lunch is not going to continue in its current format, but please watch this space as again there is hope that it can continue at the Poppy Room, there are some logistical challenges to overcome and again should anyone wish to volunteer to help please do get in touch with the Club to register your interest.

As a personal message to close, thank you to everyone that has supported us and who have rallied to keep services operating in some shape or form. Bottisham is brilliant and a good place to live at any age. It is far less sad for us as a team leaving because we know that there will still be opportunities for people to meet and support one another.

Nicola, on behalf of MHA Communities.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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



NAAFI Break

First Wednesday of every month from 10am to 11am,
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Quy Road, Lode, Cambridge,
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Bottisham Bird Brain

Following last month's Goldfinch, we are going to stay with seed-eating Passerines for April's bird because, in the second week of February when the sun began to warm our backs for the first time this year, I heard and saw my first Corn Buntings of the year.

This might be a good opportunity to revisit the close relationship, and the differences, between the Buntings and the Finches. Both families are mainly seed-eaters, with strong stout beaks, but they are from two distinct families: Emberizidae (Buntings) and Fringillidae (Finches). Similarities may include not only diet, but also general shape and white outer-tail feathers on a cleft tail. Differences include the Buntings' slightly flatter head, their longer shape, and the fact that they tend to favour the ground for feeding where the Finches are more arboreal in their habits. But there are plenty of exceptions: e.g. one of the commonest ways to spot a Corn Bunting is to find it singing its heart out from the top of a tree or on a telegraph wire! Furthermore, the distinctions are not always obvious from the nomenclature: e.g. the Yellowhammer being a Bunting, whilst the Linnet is a Finch!



The Corn Bunting – *Emberiza calandra* – is a UK 'resident' (i.e. breeding and non-migratory) but is probably overlooked quite often, with its buff-brown, speckled and striated plumage producing a rather dull, unremarkable appearance. Perhaps it is sometimes confused with the Skylark, which has comparable colouring and habitat. However, the Skylark is larger, crested, with a slimmer bill, and its distinctive song flight is completely diagnostic. Similarly, the Meadow Pipit, which is also a small, brownish bird of field and pasture, has its own characteristic song flight and usually appears significantly darker than the Corn Bunting.

The Corn Bunting suffered a steep decline in the 1970s and 1980s and so, like many ground nesters, it isn't as common as it once was. However, there is good news: the UK population seems to have stabilised at c. 11,000 territories, so the worst effects of the increase in intensive farming seem to be in the past. Furthermore, our locality appears to be something of a stronghold for this species.

The Heath Road between Swaffham Bulbeck and the A1303 is where I saw my Corn Buntings and they are present in that area, from Spring to Autumn, virtually every time I cycle that road (which is usually at least once a week). You may wonder about my road safety awareness but I assure you these delightful birds are unmissable if you keep your ears open! The males announce themselves proudly with a unique, two-second warble which is often described as 'jangling keys'. The song may be delivered invisibly from low down among the crops in a field (in which case, the satisfaction of simply knowing it's there is enough) but they seem to love the small trees on either side of the Heath Road where they find the topmost twig from which to regale their mates and prospective mates.

(Continued on page 21)



Hello neighbour

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It's what we do

(Continued from page 19)

The other behaviour of *E. calandra* which is not found in any other Bunting or Finch (or, indeed, any other British bird that I know of) is its inclination to fly with its feet dangling, instead of tucked in under the belly and tail. This extraordinary sight, which is apparently very attractive to the female of the species, is commonplace on the Heath Road as the birds traverse from tree to tree. Incidentally, the fields on either side of the B1103 between Burwell and Exning are also good for Corn Bunting, as are those on the hills up to Brinkley and West Wratting.

The Corn Bunting is one of the many beneficiaries of the DEFRA's Environmental Stewardship programme (formerly Countryside Stewardship) which issues grants to farmers and landowners for habitat improvements for birds, mammals, butterflies and bees, among other things. And there may be further encouragement for Corn Bunting, particularly in this area where solar farms are an increasingly popular use of tracts of farmland.

A recent report, compiled by the RSPB and the University of Cambridge, suggests that solar farms can "provide relief from the effects of agricultural intensification". Several sites in the East Anglian Fens were found to have a greater number of species, and individual birds per hectare, than the surrounding arable land. It was noted that well-managed sites where grass and hedgerows were preserved contained three times the number of birds compared with arable land nearby. The report also concluded that solar farms did not pose a threat to national food security, especially when built on low- or moderate-grade agricultural land. This, of course, is great news for species like the Skylark, Yellowhammer, Linnets and other finches as well as our precious Corn Bunting.

If you'd like to hear the 'jangling keys' song, go to:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=riNOWIGumPU

TTFN - Gerry Daish

Small oats rye bere barley
ripe harvest in late summer
a shallow ploughing
grazing and fallow in rotation
Corncrake and corn bunting
great yellow bumble bee
oystercatcher lapwing golden plover
orchid vetch and clover

Thomas A. Clark, Scottish Poet (b.1944)



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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

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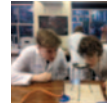
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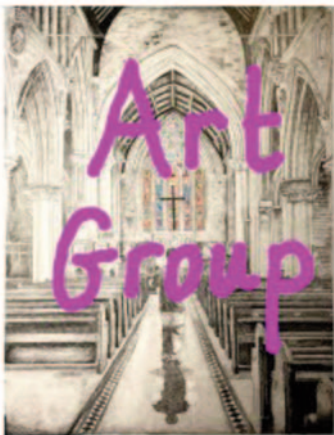
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**STAY FIRE SAFE IN YOUR KITCHEN**

More than half the fires our crews attend in the home start in the kitchen.

Below are some simple safety tips to help you stay fire safe in the kitchen:

- Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking on the hob. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing. Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker.
- Double check the cooker is off when you've finished cooking.
- If you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking, take pans off the heat or turn them down.
- Keep electrics away from water. Check toasters are clean and away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in working order. A build-up of fat can ignite a fire.

DON'T LET A GARDEN SPRING CLEAN LEAD TO FIRE

Staying safe outside is just as important as keeping your family safe from fire in your home. There are a few simple things to do which will help reduce the risk of having a fire:

- Dispose of garden waste using either a local collection service, or take it to a local recycling centre. Do not light a bonfire!
- Ensure cigarettes are completely out
- Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground – the sun's rays through the glass can start a fire
- Use barbeques on a hard, flat surface away from grass, shrubs or fencing
- Put disposable barbeques on bricks, do not place directly on grass

For more information or to get in touch contact us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or on 0800 9179994.

Like us on Facebook for regular updates www.facebook.com/cambsfrs or follow us on Twitter @cambsfrs.

Bottisham Community Library Association

April, and we are well into Spring now. We have been tidying out some of the Young Readers' Books near the Junior Non-Fiction shelves and have spent some money on new books by writers such as Michael Rosen, Michael Morpurgo and Pamela Butchart. Look out for these. They are a good bridge between the Picture Books and Junior Fiction and give confidence to readers. And they are good fun to read.

The Book of the Month for April is 'The Kellerby Code' by Jonny Sweet, a thriller, which tells the story of Edward and his uneasy and sometimes toxic relationship with his university friends, Robert and Stanza.

Lego Club and **StoryTime** will be on April 12th at 10.30. Younger children will enjoy our collection of Duplo.

The date for the **Mobile Library** visit to Swaffham Bulbeck, is Thurs. April 24th 9.45-10.15

Keep Reading!



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Public Transport Matters

Only one item this month: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority has reported regarding the new bus routes, T4 (Newmarket – Burwell – Reach – Swaffhams – Lode – Bottisham – Wilbrahams – Addenbrookes / 6th Form Colleges) and T5 (Soham – Burwell – Swaffhams – Cambridge).

It says that "The opportunity for bidders to come forward closed on 24 February 2025 and the next steps of the process are now being undertaken and, assuming the procurement is successful, routes should be running from May or June 2025." So, let's hope that we have good news to tell you in the May issue.

Happy travelling - John Austin

National Traveline Enquiries (for bus services) -

www.traveline.info or 0871 200 22 33 (a Premium-rate service)

National Rail Enquiries - www.nationalrail.co.uk or 03457 48 49 50

Letter to the Editor

Dear Peter

In issue No. 535 of the Cresset, Mr Robert Stevens wrote about PARKING of motor vehicles on the roads. While I agree entirely with his advice, there is a lot of dangerous parking in this village,

Just to refresh drivers on the law,

- Motor vehicles must not be parked within 10 metres of a road junction.
- Not on any bend
- Not on foot or cycle paths
- Not on double yellow lines.
- Not on zig zags outside schools.
- Not double park.
- Not at bus stops
- Not against a dropped kerb or other entrance.
- Motorists who have to park on the road, must make sure they are parked close to and parallel to the kerb.

In addition, when parked on the road in a 30 MPH area during the hours of darkness, the vehicle must comply to all the above and also be parked with the nearside of the vehicle next and close to the kerb.

It is also an offence when driving a motor vehicle on the road,

- With dirty windows, lights or number plates.
- Using a mobile phone while driving
- Leaving the engine running while parked.
- Deliberately driving into puddles splashing pedestrians.
- To drive while under the influence of drink and or drugs. This also includes sitting in the car while the vehicle is stationary.
- Flashing head lamps to warn other motorists of a speed check
- A new rule states Dogs carried in vehicles must be suitably restrained to avoid distraction or injury, this carries a fine up to £5,000 plus up to 9 penalty points on your driving licence
- Finally make sure you are a named driver on the policy of insurance, and all other documents for the vehicle are in order and remember to keep the vehicle road worthy.

Kind regards, John Hutchinson

M&P

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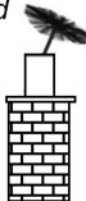
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We would love to see you at Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club



OPENING HOURS

Weekdays 5pm to 11pm
Saturday 12 noon to 11pm
Sunday 12 noon to 9pm

Non-Members are always very welcome.

If you would like to join the membership fee is just £20 per year plus a £1 share in the first year.

Members benefit from reduced prices over the bar and cheaper entrance for events.

WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 19th April - Children's disco and Easter Egg Hunt

4:30pm - 7:30pm - Entrance £3 per child for members children
£5 for non-members' children

Friday 25th April - Our monthly Open Mic night

8pm start - Free entry

Saturday 26th April - Bowling Club Race Night

Doors open at 7pm - Entrance Free

Friday 30th May - Our monthly Open Mic night

8pm start - Free entry

Saturday 14th June - Our Annual Fun Day - SAVE THE DATE

A day of music, magic & dancing.

Catch up with friends in the café or at the BBQ

Everyone is welcome.

Look out for further details!

Friday 27th June - Our monthly Open Mic night

8pm start - Free entry

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 bottishamcscase@gmail.com
31 Downing Close, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DD Tel. 01223 812063

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?
Well you can and very easily too. Come along to Meeting point on a Wednesday and have that cup of coffee with like-minded company



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We were joined at our meeting in February by Simon Gale who spoke of his work in Gambia with his wife Sharon. They have been regularly visiting the same family and area since a holiday over 15 years ago. He described how with a successful career, nice house and lovely family himself, he feels like this is a way of 'paying it forward' – which was the title of his talk.

Simon and Sharon take toys, stationery and clothes out with them each time. They have helped to support the Gambian family they met with the purchase of a solar fridge (no-one has electricity, and without a fridge food must be bought daily) and have been helping with the digging of a well and the building of a larger family house; this house is quickly being filled by extended family members too. There is an emphasis on supporting the locals to help themselves, for example with small business loans. Everyone shares what they have (the family well is available for all neighbours to use too, saving long walks and carrying containers of water). There is very little crime.

Simon and Sharon have also supported Shoeboxes which are sent for Christmas to families in Eastern Europe. This Easter Sharon is sending small Easter Eggs to Ukrainian schools where the teachers will distribute them.

We ended the meeting with tea and biscuits and chatting to Simon about his experiences.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th April (note earlier date due to Easter) at 2.30pm in the Passage Hall, Lode. Maggie Field will be speaking to us about her experiences of Girl Guiding.

All are welcome to join us.

Alison Martin

COFFEE & CAKE CONCERTS

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOTTISHAM
SATURDAY 19TH APRIL 10.30AM**

Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE

Former Organist & Choirmaster, Worcester Cathedral, St George's Chapel Windsor Castle, and St Johns College Cambridge

Christopher will play a variety of well-known as well as some not so familiar organ pieces.

The concerts will last around 45 minutes

Coffee & Cake will be provided for a suggested £5+ donation

SATURDAY 10th May 10.30AM

Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE

Christopher will play a variety of easy listening music arranged for the organ including Handel's Water Music, Waltons Crown Imperial, other music by Bach and Elgar and finishing with Widor's Toccata

Come and enjoy a coffee (tea or juice), cake and then the concert, which will last around 45 minutes.

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What have we been up to?

RED₂GYM

We run a project here at Red2Green, called Red2Gym, where we have the wonderful opportunity to visit the gym and the hall at Cherry Hinton Village Centre. This gives our Learners and Clients the chance to play sports including Basketball and Badminton, as well as using the gym equipment. Our groups love attending these sessions and it is a great way to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

PANCAKE DAY

Like many of you, we also celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making some delicious pancakes. Our groups have been developing their baking and cooking skills throughout this term. They practised flipping their pancakes and be rest assured that no pancakes ended up on the floor!

CAMBRIDGE HALF MARATHON

Matt Butler-Finbow ran the Cambridge Half Marathon in aid of Red2Green on March 9th and has raised hundreds of pounds for the charity! We are very grateful – thank you Matt!

If anyone is interested in starting a fundraiser in aid of Red2Green and is not sure where to start, please visit our website <https://fundraising.red2green.org/hub/red2green> for more information.

PUB QUIZ AT THE BLACK HORSE INN, SWAFFHAM BULBECK

The Black Horse Inn, in Swaffham Bulbeck, kindly hosted a Pub Quiz in aid of Red2Green on March 19th during Neurodiversity Celebration Week. Thank you to everyone who came along and congratulations to the quiz winners! Also a massive thank you to the Black Horse for hosting a great event!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are lots of ways you can help support Red2Green:

- Volunteering opportunities
- Start a fundraiser in aid of Red2Green
- Visit our Community Garden in Bottisham and buy some plants (Mon-Fri, 9:30-4)
- One-off or monthly donations
- Sign up to our monthly newsletter
- Follow our social media pages and keep up to date with all things Red2Green

For more information about the wonderful work we do at Red2Green, please visit our website red2green.org or if you want to get in touch, feel free to email us at info@red2green.org or call us on 01223 811 662.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 April.

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





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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Perhaps the Perils of Poisonous Plants was not the best choice of subject with the advent of Spring and gardeners looking forward to being able to get out to tend their patches. Nigel Start opened his talk by telling us about the deadly properties of hemlock which hopefully none of us will be unfortunate enough to encounter. However, he was also full of good advice such as wearing gloves and always washing your hands after gardening. He explained that toxins are widespread in the natural world and act as a deterrent to stop them being eaten by birds, insects and animals.

All plants produce toxins in some form or other and many have been used in medicines. Willow has anti-inflammatory properties and is an ingredient in aspirin. Yews were almost eradicated from the countryside because of their toxicity to animals and their only sanctuaries were churchyards, until it was found that they could be used to produce the cancer drug Tamoxifen. Foxgloves also have many uses in medicine and are often an ingredient in heart-related medication.

Some plants just produce irritants, either stinging, as nettles, or exuding sap, which when cut, can irritate the skin. The opium poppy oozes sap when the seed head is cut and has many medicinal uses, good and bad. The solanaceae family includes potatoes and aubergines as well as many pretty flowering varieties such as deadly nightshade, which is not to be messed with. But a warning too, not to eat any green parts of potatoes. Many of the legume family are toxic too and dried pulses should always be well cooked, but if in doubt, let someone else do the hard work and use the tinned ones. The list goes on and on and many are surprising, but don't have nightmares, just take care.

Our next meeting is 22nd April when Gwenda Kydd will be talking about Twelve Tremendous Trees. Please join us in the Poppy Room at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are very welcome for a small charge.

The Spring Lunch will be held at the Golf Club on the 4th May and our evening outing on the 27th May will be to Reach.

Margret Coles

**Newmarket
Community
Cinema**



Monday April 14th - Ladies in Lavender (2004) (12)

Monday May 19th - Military Wives (2020) (12)

Monday 16th June - Maid in Manhattan (2002) (PG)

Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £6 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats, please email richardjbowler@outlook.com or phone 01638 666810.

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB

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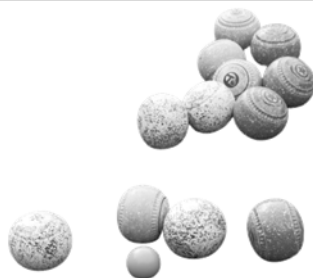
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EXHIBITION

14TH OF JUNE 2025 ALL AGES UP TO 18

Join us at Holy Trinity Church Bottisham for a colourful celebration where young people from the village will be showcasing their unique talent and imaginations!

More details in next months Cresset!

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100+ CLUB 2024/2025

End of February 2025 Quarter Prize winners

1st Prize £35 - Member No.100
2nd Prize £25 - Member No. 12
3rd Prize £20 - Member No. 15
4th Prizes (4) £15

Member No. 28 Member No. 122
Member No. 62 Member No. 11

End of February 2024/2025 Annual Prize Winners

1st Prize £100 - Member No. 34
2nd Prize £50 - Member No. 8
3rd Prize £25 - Member No. 20
4th Prizes (5) £20

Member No. 143 Member No. 5
Member No. 28 Member No. 81
Member No. 13

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Next Meeting Details: **AGM 3rd April 2025 6.30pm** in the waiting room at the surgery.

There will be a talk by Dr Shackleton. If you wish to join our meetings or consider joining the committee please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or speak to reception. At this meeting we will be accepting nominations for positions on the committee, chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer.

Isobel – new practice nurse and diabetic nurse joins us in April. I am sure you will all give her a warm welcome to the surgery. She brings many years of experience with her and will be a welcome addition to our team.

Physiotherapists at Bottisham Medical Practice

We are lucky to have Charlotte (Tuesday) and Dominic (Thursdays) each week at the surgery. They are called “First contact physios”. They are trained to assess any injury or joint pain, give advice and decide on the next best course of action. You do not need to see a GP beforehand and in fact if you see the physio you are freeing up GP appointments for those that need it. We are sadly frequently having patients insist on seeing a GP rather than a physio who do not need to, and are just referred to the physio from the GP which is a waste of an appointment. It would really help if you have the following symptoms that you request to see the physiotherapist. If they do feel you need a GP appointment this will be arranged swiftly.

First contact physios: Who see patients with the following symptoms (no need to see a GP first)

- All soft tissue injuries
- Sports injuries / Arthritis – any joint / Carpal tunnel syndrome / Post orthopaedic surgery
- Neck pain / Back pain / Hip pain / Knee pain / Ankle pain
- Wrist pain / Shoulder pain / Foot pain / Elbow pain

Patients wishing and able to see medical students

We are always looking out for patients with a “chronic health condition” to be willing to see our medical students. They are required to see patients in the surgery and on home visits for various projects. If you have a long term illness or condition which you believe may be of interest to a medical student please let reception know and Dr Keith will add you to the list if willing participants.

Easter: With the surgery closed over the Easter weekend and the bank holidays please remember to order your medication to cover this 4 day period in good time leaving at least one full week for it to be dispensed.

111 online: <https://111.nhs.uk/>

An excellent resource to use to assess what is the best next step with your symptoms and during out of hours you can directly request a call back from 111 without having to wait on the phone system.

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Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)

On Sunday 6th April the museum opens for the 2025 season, opening every Sunday and Wednesday until November 9th. Those that have passed by the museum will have noticed we have installed new 1940s style gates. The museum will be open from 10.30am until 4.00pm, admission is £5 for adults and entrance for under 16s is free.

The Flying Tractor Café is also available during those hours and is open to all. You will find the shop has been refurbished and has some new items for sale this year. The shelter has been revamped, and exhibits moved around to improve access. One of our rooms is now dedicated to the P47 Thunderbolt. A new room added this year will show how the airmen lived, and the Hanger remains the Mustang experience.

Just to remind you, our first classic car and bike show is on May 11th. Anyone with a classic car or bike who would like to exhibit, please contact the museum.

The Helicopter flights start on Wednesday 23rd April and continue twice a month till 15th October, bookings can be made via our website. Bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk, just follow the link to book with Adventure001 who run the flights

Anyone who has time to spare and would like to volunteer, helping in the cafe or the shop, greeting the public in the museum or helping to restore exhibits, please contact the museum via the website and start a rewarding adventure.

Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer.

Anglesey Abbey

Get ready for a baa-rillicant Easter!

How far can you throw the farmer's welly boot, and can you carry your sheep to safety through the mini obstacle course? Come and complete all 10 sheep-themed activities on the Easter Adventures trail at Anglesey Abbey from 5 to 21 April and collect a chocolate reward at the end! The trail costs £3.50 (normal admission applies) and includes an Easter egg, bunny ears and a trail sheet. Don't forget you can also see Wild in Art's Shaun the Sheep sculptures until 27 April.

Shaun the Sheep has been un-baa-lievable popular at Anglesey Abbey and we've been blown away by everyone's support. Thank you to everyone who has visited and shared their photos with us! Please be aware that if you are planning to visit Anglesey Abbey at the weekends while Shaun the Sheep is in residence, it is likely to be extremely busy and the car parks are reaching capacity at times. To avoid long queues on entry, you may want to consider arriving before 11am, or after 13.30pm. We'd also encourage all those who can visit during the week to come and enjoy a quieter weekday visit. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We hope you have a baa-rillicant day out!

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS IN THE GARDENS

If you are visiting this spring, be sure to visit the Formal Garden, planted in uniform rows of 'Blue Star' and 'Carnegie' hyacinths, offer a striking blue and white display during the months of April into May. Look out for the 'Little Beauty' tulips underneath the silver birch trees in April and enjoy swathes of daffodils around the grounds. The Winter Garden, Monks Lawn and Spring Garden are good spots to see daffodils and visitors can also see hundreds of Narcissus 'Dutch Master' recently planted by the caryatid statues on Coronation Avenue. Head to our website for more information: nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey

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Village Litter Picks 2025



We need your help!

We have a wonderful small group of volunteers who regularly help out, but we need more volunteers to get around more of the village every month, so if you can spare an hour and a half on a Saturday, please do come along.

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

Starting Location	Date	Month
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	April
Queens Court Care Home	10	May
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	7	June
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	July

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](#)



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, BOTTISHAM & DISTRICT BRANCH



This is notice of our Bi-annual Branch Meeting
To be held in the Poppy room at the
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On Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm

All members are invited to attend
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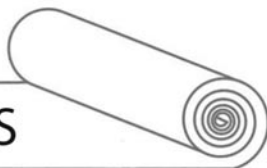


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Roman Catholic Priest: Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard	01223 211235
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To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II lets come together & remember the enormous sacrifices made at home & abroad ... so come along on



**Saturday 10th May 2pm - 5pm
at the 'Triangle'
for tea & cake,
fish 'n' chips from Ocean Tree &
fun family entertainment**

We are looking for volunteers to help make this event happen

If you are willing to bake, make or have family entertainment skills we would love to hear from you

We need the community to help make this happen ... email

clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk



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