

January 2025

THE 
Cresset



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



**Bottisham Parish Council
would like to say a big thank you to:**

**Those that joined us at the
Bottisham Christmas festivities
and to those that made it happen**

**Urban Tree Forestry, Bury St Edmunds
The Bell, Bottisham Scouts,
Bottisham Primary School, Co-Op,
Morgans Hairdressers,
Bottisham Pharmacy,
SRC Heating & Plumbing Ltd.**

Happy New year 2025

A Very Happy New Year to all our Readers.



And a particular welcome to any new readers who have moved into the village recently. There are potentially at least 100+ new readers of the magazine this New Year, given that the new houses in Bradens Field are beginning to be occupied.

I do hope you have had a great Christmas and achieved all you hoped for. It is not easy these days to be able to strip away all the issues and troubles of the world today, but if you can occasionally get together with family and friends to celebrate what Christmas really means to us, it doesn't get much better than that.

We sometimes criticise the commercialisation of what is in origin a very significant time for believing Christians, but then setting that aside, it is still a very special time for lots of other reasons. We are after all a very sociable species and thrive on that warm feeling that comes when you are with friends and family. If that comes to you without the Christian bit, then there is no harm in that.

But think on. Sometimes the best of those feelings come when mum and dad are at the primary school Nativity play and little Johnny has got the big part of Joseph. Meanwhile his wee sister is in tears as the back half of a camel! You can't get away from it!

However here we are in January and the start of a New Year. Oh, how we wish that some of the world leaders would come with some New Year resolutions to benefit mankind rather than the divisive self-satisfying actions which cause so much grief and pain for others. The worst part of this is that there are too many instances for us to list.

We should be thankful that while we may have plenty of things which we can moan about (and boy, do we!), they are irrelevant when compared with the likes of Gaza and Ukraine, or Darfur and Afghanistan.

Closer to home we have a new year of activities starting up again in the village. Many of the clubs and societies have a programme of events starting up. If you fancy joining in, it is the perfect time to do it. Also if you are new to the village, it is a great way to meet new friends and neighbours too.

Do let us know if there are things you particularly like about Bottisham or indeed if there are things you don't like. Your views are welcome.

The magazine this month has lots of information as usual and some interesting articles. Gerry 'birdman' Daish gives us another fascinating insight into the world of the birds that surround us.

If you have a hobby or interest, then we would love to hear about it and for you to share your knowledge.

You should also make sure you read the PC Notes which also refers to the Neighbourhood plan and there is an update on that plan from Tony Jolley.

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

This month's cover is a very seasonal one taken by one of our readers last February highlighting just what kind of day makes the best for a brisk walk. Can you work out where it is taken? A clue is in the horizon on the left.

If you take pictures when you are out and about in or around the village, then let us see them. If they fit and are suitable, then they could be on the front cover one day. Remember portrait not landscape.

The Cresset is a magazine for all of us and I hope is both interesting in its content and useful as a source of local services and trades. I often read on Facebook of people asking for a plumber or an electrician. Well, you will find them all here.

Finally, if you are making a new year resolution, then I wish you all the best in keeping to it.

Cheers and more from me next month.

Peter Walker, Your Editor

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

As I write this, we are in the middle of all our happy preparations and celebrations for Christmas and the New Year. However, these happy thoughts are somewhat tempered by the not unexpected results of our recent Quinquennial Survey and Report. This is a mandatory requirement by the Diocese (and funded by them) to ensure that the church is in the best possible state of repair to go into the future. A list of required improvements indicated by the architect is divided into yearly timescales. A rotten step leading up to the gallery was deemed urgent and this has already been repaired by our amazing local craftsman Steve Allen. Within two years we need to find around £167,000 for several projects, the most urgent of which is to repair the crumbling clunch on the south side of the church mainly affecting the south clerestory and window frames. Within 5 years we need to raise another £376,000 for further repairs to the stonework and replacing the whole of the roof to the nave which we already know is badly affected by breakdown and corrosion of the existing lead covering and which has required several emergency repairs recently. In total around £894,000 needs to be spent in bringing our lovely Grade 1 list church up to scratch. The preliminary task will be to set up a working party, then going out to tender for an architect to give a detailed estimate of the most urgent work to be done and finally approaching grant giving bodies for funding. However, all of these will require a significant amount of money to be raised locally.



The need for our large and lovely church was highlighted not only when it was packed for the Primary School carol concert but also for the memorial service for the late Elizabeth (Beth) Wombwell when nearly 250 persons were present. Our own anticipated Carol and Christmas Holy Communion Services, too, always see significant numbers of local people and their families attending.

Contents

Services in the Anglesey Benefice.....5	Bottisham Adult Learning Association29
Red to Green5	Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG).....29
Parish Council Report.....7, 9 & 11	Public Transport Matters.....31
Parish Council Report11	Bottisham WI33
District Councillors' Report.....13	Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club.....35
Charlotte Cane MP.....15	Wicken Fen37
Anglesey Abbey17	Bottisham and District Gardening Club.....39
Bottisham Community Library Association.....19	A Neighbourhood Plan for Bottisham41 & 43
News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group19	Letter45 & 47
Bottisham Bird Brain.....21 & 23	
Anglesey Group Mothers' Union....25	
Cambridge, Past, Present & Future 27	

The residents and staff of Hilton Park and Oaklands greatly enjoyed the carol service we held with them on December 11th and we will continue to join them for a simple service on the second Wednesday of the month.

During the winter months the church floodlighting (electricity costs kindly funded by the Parish Council) continues with extended hours to light the church. Several have commented to me what a joy it is for them to see the church as they come along the A1303 at night approaching our village

Our Services in January follow the familiar pattern: the short Compline by Candlelight held on Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month (January 1st) led by Sarah Maxwell, our monthly Holy Communion Service on the first Sunday of the month (January 5th, Epiphany) led by the Vicar assisted by our curate and our Morning Prayer on the third Sunday (19th January) led by Sarah Maxwell.

On behalf of all the members of the Church I would like to wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year. We would love to see you at one of our services and to chat over refreshments afterwards.

Stuart Field, Churchwarden

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Wed Jan 1st	8 pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) – online via Zoom
Sun Jan 5th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Sun Jan 12th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion - Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship – Swaffham Prior
Sun Jan 19th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer - Quy
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer – Bottisham
Sun Jan 26th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Swaffham Prior
Every Thur	10.30am	Holy Communion - Lode (Not 2nd January)

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.

Red to Green

The wintery season is HERE! We hope you are all staying warm and safe as the weather gets colder and the snow and ice sets in. Over the past couple of weeks, we've been welcoming in the cold weather with warm food, and crafts and creating a cosy environment for everyone.

Our team have been hard at work clearing the grounds of leaves and caring for our cold-weather plants. Our made to order planters and hanging baskets are always available too. A perfect gift for the green thumb in your life.

We have trays of winter pansies, 6 for £2.50 as well as a winter classic, the primrose. Our primroses come in small and large pots. Have a garden blooming with colour this winter. The Community Garden is open Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 4pm. Come along for all your floral and vegetable needs.

The Christmas Carol Service and Fair was a great success at Swaffham Bulbeck Church. Thank you to everyone at the Church for having us. Thank you to everyone who came along and took part, it was a great event and we had lots of fun.

Can't wait to see everyone again in 2025.

From Red2Green

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Parish Council Report

The next full council meeting will be held by on 6th January 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.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS EVENT

I write this immediately after our amazing Christmas festivities and tree lighting last night. Storm Darragh meant that we had to move much of our planned external activity into the Bell Pub, who very generously made space for us - allowing most of the planned activities to go ahead. We had a wonderful evening, with great camaraderie engendered as we all squeezed in to the pub together. Along with the formal lighting of the beautiful Christmas Tree on the Triangle by Hilda Buchanan (a long-standing previous Cllr and much valued member of our community) there was storytelling, face painting, refreshments, carol singing around the village and by a choir from the Primary School, plus visits from Santa and his friends. Another highlight was the performance by Kyle Chater Acoustic & Sax who were outstanding.

I would like to thank everyone, whether residents or local businesses, who contributed to this very successful Christmas event that will be long remembered – and not just because of the appalling weather!! There is a formal thank you to all those involved in a separate note inside the front cover.

The event was sponsored by the Parish Council, and I am grateful to all the Cllrs (and their family) who played a part in making it happen - both before and on the day. Very special thanks must go to Cllr Nadene Cundell, who had the inspiration for and masterminded the whole event. This included coming up with a Plan B almost overnight, when the weather forecast turned for the worst. She also arranged all the wonderful Advent windows in the village, and we must express our thanks to residents who put so much time and creativity into developing them.

The event was a great opportunity to build community, and I know there will be enthusiasm to repeat it in the future – hopefully with better weather!!

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A Neighbourhood Plan is a key way for the community to influence future development of their community - not just in housing, but in many aspects of the life and environment of the village. Once created it will have a significant influence on the development of the village into the future.

Following a village-wide survey last year, a resident's working party are in the process of finalising a draft plan that we would like to share and discuss with you. Your feedback will then be incorporated in the final plan - which again will be consulted on with all residents before submission to East Cambs. This will be a "drop-in" consultation, where

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 7

you can interact personally and informally with the members of the working group on the range of different areas we are working on.

The Poppy Room at the Sports & Social Club has been booked for the consultation on 1st March between 14.00-19.00. Please could I ask you to put this in your diary and endeavour to join us to have your say?

RIDGE CLEAN ENERGY – SIX OAKS SOLAR PARK - After many months of negotiations between the various parties and their lawyers, I am delighted to report that we have finally agreed (and signed) a robust legal agreement that will govern the Community Benefit flowing from the scheme to the Parishes impacted by the solar park. Once power production commences, Ridge Clean Energy will commence distributing the “Benefit” across the three Parishes of Bottisham, Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom. At this time the connection to the grid has still to be agreed and we do not expect the funds to arrive before 2017. However, the conclusion of the agreement safeguards what will be a very welcome contribution towards the three communities during the 40 years of planned operation. Bottisham will receive £15,000/annum during the first two years of operation and then £20910/annum for the projected remaining 38 years.

As well as the planned Community Benefit, Ridge Clean have made several awards to local organisations within the three Parishes. This includes a Winter Fuel Scheme this year to support individuals and families who are struggling to afford their heating and energy bills, whether due to low income, reliance on the benefit system, disability or other hardships. This is administered by Ely Food Bank, who have reached out to local charities and organisations in touch with those in financial need. The Food Bank informs us they have received a number of nominations from the Village College and Bottisham Local Charities and we would like to express our gratitude to Ridge Clean that Bottisham residents will benefit from their generosity.

Many of you may have noted the recent invitation from Kingsway Solar to a consultation about another solar park planned east of the A11 and south of Newmarket. The solar park itself will be outside of our Parish boundary and may not impinge too directly on the village it would appear. Albeit one of the two potential connection corridors to the substation at Burwell would cross the southeastern part of our Parish. The Parish Council will keep a close eye on this development as matters proceed.

PLAY AREAS & ALLOTMENTS - The new Bottisham Meadows development off Bell Rd is drawing towards completion. Over the last weeks the Parish Council liaised with an officer from ECDC, as he approved the transfer of the new Copse Close play area and allotments to the District Council. We now await the legal transfer. Once this has taken place the play area will remain the property of and be maintained by ECDC (and then be opened to the public). The allotments and adjacent parking will be transferred from ECDC to become the property of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is in the process of planning the administration of the allotments and the fair selection of allotment holders. There are only 10 allotments, and we know

Continued on page 11



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Continued from page 9

competition will be fierce!! More on this in due course, but we do not expect to be opening the allotments up until the spring when the seeded pathways are fit to use. So please be patient with us.

To the east of Bottisham Meadows is Jubilee Wood, that contains the remains of a fishpond originally connected to the mediaeval Bendish farm (whose foundations are under the ancient monument). The wood also be transferred to ECDC by the developers, along with a large area of newly seeded grass located between the wood and Bottisham Meadows. Aware of the need for open space in the village, ECDC plan to develop Jubilee Wood as a woodland play area, perhaps also making a feature of the fishpond remains. They will also support the Parish Council as we look to place some additional play equipment on the grass area, to complement what is available at the smaller Copse Close and Bendish play areas. For the time being we will call it the “Jubilee Play Area” (unless/until another name is selected).

A resident’s “Project Play” working group will be meeting in the new year to commence discussions about how to develop the Jubilee Play Area. If you would like to be part of this group please let me know.

NEW DEFIBRILLATOR - Finally, I must mention a new village defibrillator that should be installed by the time this is published – an addition to the one located at the Sports & Social Club. We would like to express our gratitude to Justin Moore, site manager for Lindum Homes, the builders of Bottisham Meadows. Justin raised money by running a marathon to enable the donation of the device to the village entirely free of charge.

The defibrillator will be located on the side wall of Bottisham Pharmacy. We are grateful to the Pharmacy for allowing the location of the device on their wall and supplying the power for it. To make space for the defibrillator, the old white notice board has been removed and a new village notice board will shortly be installed on the Triangle, located where the ageing village map was previously located. Thank you Justin for making this all happen – and potentially saving the life of future residents.

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

Planning Notes

New applications:

- 24/01195/FUL 6 Mulberry Close Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9BW, Addition of second storey
- 24/01197/FUL 74-76 Beechwood Avenue Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DB, Demolition of a pair of semi detached dwellings and construction of 6 dwellings
- 24/01196/TPO Bottisham Village College Lode Road Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DL, T23 Cherry - Remove tree to ground level (a suitable replacement species will be planted). Tree is to be removed due to poor physiological condition (significant dieback and sparse crown), and the proximity to the car park/visitor entrance. Included main union
- T125 Cherry - Remove tree to ground level (a suitable replacement species will be planted). Tree is to be removed due to poor physiological condition (significant dieback and sparse crown), and the proximity to the car park/visitor entrance. 2 Pedestrian crossings below crown

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District Councillors' Report

OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 18 NOVEMBER

1. The collection of waste and re-cycling is improving, but still not quite on target.
2. Street cleansing is efficient, but there was no data on how many streets have been cleaned.
3. An operating deficit of approximately £325,000 partly due to lower numbers of planning applications and building inspections.
4. The Air Quality Strategy plan for the District was presented; mostly aspirational, and few concrete strategies for improving air quality. Perhaps the new Local Plan can incorporate some measures (e.g. no chimneys in new buildings) to improve air quality.

FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE 28 NOVEMBER

1. The annual review of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) for the 2025/26 year is to be unchanged for next year. LCTRS is for those residents who are on Universal Credit and Council Tax support. John argued that the Local Council Tax should be reduced to zero and not 8.5% as it is now, to help households struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, but the Administration thought that all households should pay even a minimum sum.
2. Changes to the exemption from Council Tax for second houses that are empty and for sale or under probate was extended from one to two years which seemed to favour those who had second dwellings or were landlords.
3. That this Committee has a projected year-end underspend of £746,000 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £7,016,768. Some of this underspend occurs because vacant posts are not filled quickly.

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL ON 11 DECEMBER

The Independents on the Council has formed a group with the Lib Dems, so that this new group and the Conservative group have an equal number of members. According to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, there needs to be equal representation on each of the committees, and this will be resolved at this Council meeting.

All ECDC Council and Committee meetings are live-streamed and can be viewed either live or retrospectively. Details can be found on the Council website by searching for the committee of interest by date: https://eastcambs.gov.uk/calendar-field_meeting_date

SURGERY

The next surgery will be at Swaffham Prior Village Hall on Thursday 23 January 2025 at half past six o'clock until an hour later.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp

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As I write, it has been a season of celebration and hard work, with a busy schedule in Westminster and across our constituency.

One recent highlight was visiting the Repair Café at Littleport Village Hall. This inspiring initiative brings people together to fix household items, share skills, and reduce waste. It was heartening to see the dedication of volunteers who give their time and expertise to support others. Projects like this not only foster community spirit but also champion sustainability, reminding us of the practical ways we can care for our environment while connecting with one another.

Amid these uplifting moments, my work continues to focus on issues affecting our area. Rising employer National Insurance contributions have been a recurring theme in discussions with local businesses. I recently met GPs at Staploe Medical Centre to hear how these costs are straining surgeries, and I welcomed East Cambridgeshire farmers to Parliament to discuss their impact on agriculture. Supporting those who provide healthcare and food is vital for our community's future.

Agriculture, the backbone of our local economy, has been a focus. Joining the 'Traditional Fenland Celery' harvest near Ely and visiting a sugar beet farm in Stetchworth underscored the dedication of our farmers. They face mounting challenges, and I remain committed to advocating for the support they need to thrive.

Infrastructure is another priority. The Ely Area Capacity Enhancement scheme (the proposal to upgrade the railway to allow more trains to run through Ely) is crucial for our region's future, promising growth and improved connectivity. Its omission from the Autumn Budget was disappointing, but I've raised the issue directly with the Secretary of State for Transport and will continue to push for action.

In Parliament, I faced one of my most difficult decisions: how to vote on the Assisted Dying Bill. After listening to all sides and reflecting deeply, I chose to support it at its second reading. This decision was not taken lightly, and I will continue to engage with constituents and experts as the bill progresses.

Closer to home, concerns about shoplifting have been prominent in conversations with shopworkers across East Cambridgeshire. I've urged the government to provide our overstretched police with the resources they need. Meanwhile, the ever-present flood risk in our region requires urgent, long-term planning, which I emphasised in a recent parliamentary debate.

It's been a pleasure meeting so many local residents. Opening The Edmund Trust's new respite service in Milton was a particularly meaningful moment, and thanking our hardworking posties at the Royal Mail delivery office in Ely was another highlight.

Education is the foundation of a healthy democracy, and my visits to Bottisham Village College and Robert Arkenhall Primary School in Haddenham offered an inspiring glimpse of the creativity and ambition shaping our future.

My team and I are here to help. If you need assistance or would like to attend one of my surgeries, please get in touch via charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk.

Charlotte Cane MP - Member of Parliament for Ely and East Cambridgeshire

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Wishing you all a baa-rillicant new year!

FIND THE FLOCK

As we say goodbye to the beautiful bear sculptures at Anglesey Abbey that have been extremely popular over the Christmas season, we are excited to announce that Shaun the Sheep will be joining us this spring! Working in collaboration with Wild in Art and Aardman, visitors can embaa-rk on another sculpture trail around the gardens at Anglesey Abbey from 1 March to 27 April 2025. Keep an eye on our social media channels and website for more information and plans.

SNOWDROPS

From mid-January to February, the gardens will be full of beautiful snowdrops. The snowdrop collection at Anglesey Abbey boasts over 500 varieties of these delicate white flowers and you can join a specialist tour to learn more about them. Tours this year will run from Monday 27 January to Friday 28 February, every Sunday to Friday (no tours on Saturdays) at 11am and 13.30pm.

Please note that there is no option to pre-book tours this year on our website, instead, please arrive early on the day and ask to join a tour when you arrive at the visitor centre. You will be given a ticket on the day at the welcome desk. We recommend arriving early to avoid disappointment as the tours are always really popular.

HOUSE TOURS

We have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas at Anglesey Abbey with decorations highlighting particular treasures in each room – some of which you can see on BBC iPlayer if you're an Antiques Roadshow fan! From the 6 January, the house will be open for accessible tours at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm, while the team remove the Christmas decorations and complete the annual start-of-year cleaning and conservation work in January. Please head to our website for more information and opening times: nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey

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Bottisham Community Library Association

It's a New Year and traditionally when you make some resolutions. Perhaps now is the time to decide to visit the Community Library and see exactly what we have to offer. Every month we seem to have some village visitor who comes into the library saying, 'I never knew we had a library!'

One of our big attractions is our selection of Picture Books for the 0-5 years old. There are Board books and Picture books in our special boxes. We have the classic books– The Very Hungry Caterpillar, the Mog series and The Tiger Who Came to Tea; the popular books – the Spot books, This is Not My series and the Julia Donaldson books; and the new books. This month look out for 'Bear's Lost Glasses' by Leo Timmers. An adventure for Bear, full of hilarious mistakes!

Our Jigsaws are also available and taken out a lot in the winter months. This winter we have introduced something new. On a Tuesday and Friday evening when the library is open a jigsaw is set out on a table for you to help finish. Spend an hour or two in the warm library, helping to complete a puzzle.

Lego Club will be on January 11th at 10.30 but there will be no Storytime this month. Younger children will enjoy our collection of Duplo.

The date for the Mobile Library visit to **Downing Close is Thursday January 23rd am**. And the date for the visit to Swaffham Bulbeck is Tuesday January 21st pm.

Happy New Year

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Next meeting of the PPG: Thursday 23rd January 2025

Dr Keith will be talking about how to stay healthy and information about breast screening, cervical smears, bowel cancer screening and PSA testing. There will be a question and answer session about these health areas so please ask questions.

The Patients' Group is looking for more patients to join us at our meetings. We meet every three months and would love to have your thoughts and feedback to help improve the facilities the practice may provide in the future. Why not come along to our next meeting or if you want to know more about what we do please contact our Chairman, Steve Gilson via email s.j.gilson@btinternet.com or leave your details with reception and he will contact you for a chat.

Next Meeting Details: As above this will be at **6.30pm Thursday, January 23, 2025** 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.

With best wishes for 2025.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group



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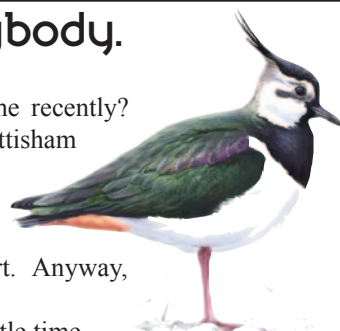
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Happy New Year everybody.

Has anybody seen a particular bird for the first time recently? I noted that there was a Ring-necked Parakeet seen in Bottisham in late November. It could conceivably have been an 'escape' but more likely to have been one of the ever-increasing populations from London or the home counties, blown north on the winds of Storm Bert. Anyway, I digress...



As we're into the holiday season with, hopefully, a little time on our hands to take a few walks into the countryside and enjoy the cool, crisp beauty of our surroundings, I thought we might venture out of our gardens to go a little further afield for my next bird.

Writing about the Magpie (December issue), with its subtle, coloured sheens reminded me of another bird that is not as black and white as it first appears; a bird once among the commonest waders in the UK, especially in East Anglia but, whilst still regular, encountered now in worryingly decreasing numbers.

A bird of uplands, wetlands, grasslands, farmlands and estuarine shore, the Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), is now 'red-listed' in the UK at c. 98,000 resident pairs, which is down by over 60% over a 50 year period. It is also listed as 'vulnerable' in Europe, and 'near-threatened' globally. British birdwatchers will have noticed the smaller flock sizes these days, despite our winter population, swollen by migrants from Northern Europe, reaching some 600,000. That sounds like a lot of birds, but it's still 46% fewer than in the 1990s! So, what is thought to be going on?

Whilst the winter visitors are widely distributed in most lowland areas, the breeding population has become more localised, due largely to increased intensity in farming and land management methods. The conversion of grassland to arable land, the drainage and improvement of marginal land, and the widespread use of fertilisers and pest controls have all played a part in driving Lapwings towards coastal mudflats, particularly for their winter sustenance. Diet comprises mainly insects and larvae (which are also in decline) and earthworms which the birds often bring to the surface by stamping their feet. Predation is also being cited as a threat to the Lapwing, as several species of birds of prey continue to thrive. They've all got to eat, right?

Often known as Peewit due to its call, or even Green Plover, the Lapwing has many distinctive features, ... indeed, all three of its names are descriptive. From its 'pied' appearance, slightly plump body, proud stance and long crest, to its broad, rounded wings and flappy flight, the Lapwing is pretty much unmistakable in the field, but a closer look reveals the 'black' as a dark green with hints of purple, and the white underparts giving way to an orange under-tail.

(Continued on page 23)

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(Continued from page 21)

At c. 30cms in length, the Lapwing is medium-sized for a wader and is probably best enjoyed in the spring when its courtship display can be mesmerizing. With outstanding agility, the male will fly high over its territory, then plunge downwards, twisting, rolling and tumbling, apparently out of control until it swoops back up for a repeat performance. He will also make a hollow on the ground, line it with dry grass and invite the female to call it 'home' by rocking forward onto his breast towards her. He may have to make a number of these scrapes, and once she has chosen her preferred site, his efforts are largely complete! She takes almost all the responsibility for laying eggs – usually four – incubating them and tending the chicks until they fly around five weeks later.

You may have noticed by now that I have a fascination with the place of birds in history, folklore and the arts. And I'm happy to say the Lapwing has a rich antecedence in this regard! From metamorphosis in Greek mythology, to the bringer of good rains in India, Lapwing superstition ranges far and wide. But most elaborate of all is the 19th Century 'Legend of the Seven Whistlers' in British & Irish folklore! Other species have been associated with this tale, including Curlews and Swifts, but it is most likely that the birds were Lapwings, with their cries being interpreted as "bewitched, bewitched", warning seamen and miners of impending danger. In one version of the tale, the whistling birds numbered only six, flying around at night looking for the seventh and, if they succeeded, the world would end!

By the way, the collective noun for Lapwings is a 'deceit'. Make of that what you will, but it may be a reference to its instinct (in common with other plovers) to employ diversionary tactics – e.g. feigning injury to precipitate a chase – when its young are threatened. How clever is that?

TTFN. Gerry Daish

**"My dreams were of English fields, horses at work ploughing
and the spring cries of the Peewits."**

From the Diary of Private Thomas Williams, World War I

ANGLESEY GROUP BENEFICE

**Thursday Communion Services 2025
Recommence Thursday 9th January
Lode Church - 10.30am**

Refreshments served after the service.

**Thursday 16th January
A Soup Lunch**

will be served at 12noon.

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Our speaker at the meeting in November was Rob Needle, who is the Ely Diocesan Ambassador for the Children's Society. Rob also manages the Children Society Bookshop in Sawston.

Rob spoke movingly of the current day work of the Children's Society and how they aim to be there for all children in need of help and support. Did you know over 2,700 children will have run away from home over the Christmas period? A sobering thought.

The Children's Society was started by Edward Rudolf, a Sunday School Teacher, in 1881, when he found some of his pupils begging cold and hungry in the street. He set up children's homes based on a family model, where there were 'parents' who would care for a small group of children. When Local Authorities took over the running of children's homes in the 1970's, the Children Society could see that their work was not finished, and today they work to support those who are vulnerable and at risk, those living in Child Poverty and by offering services to ensure Child Wellbeing. 30% of children in the UK are living in Child Poverty, and many children report to be unhappy in school. They also work with Young Carers to provide some time for them to be just children. They run drop-in centres where children and young people can just turn up, referrals for services are also made by teachers, police and health services.

Rob also mentioned that they are always pleased to receive books, DVDs, CDs and records at the Sawston shop if any readers are having a New Year clear out!

Our meeting ended with refreshments whilst Rob answered many questions – it was an excellent meeting, and an opportunity to find out so much more about the important work that goes on behind one of our well-known charities.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 20th February at 2.30pm, when Simon Gale will be talking to us about Supporting an African community; we meet at the Passage Hall in Lode, and visitors are welcome to join us.

Alison Martin

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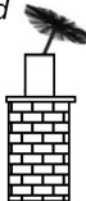
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Cambridge, Past, Present & Future *- A colourful month of activities*



HRH the Duke of Edinburgh Helps Cambridge Charity, Cambridge Past, Present & Future Celebrate Wandlebury's 70th Anniversary

On Tues 5 November HRH the Duke of Edinburgh visited Wandlebury Country Park to help mark the occasion of 70 years since the charity acquired Wandlebury and turned it into Cambridge's first country park.

The Duke's visit began by meeting the charity's staff, volunteers and apprentices from the National Stud at the Godolphin Stallion Memorial located inside Wandlebury ring. Godolphin was one of three horses that were the founders of the modern thoroughbred horse racing and is reputed to be buried at Wandlebury.

Cambridge PPF CEO James Littlewood and Countryside Manager Ed Wombwell accompanied the Duke on a walk past some of Wandlebury's iconic spots, including the beech woodland and the iron age ditch, introducing him to the 2000 history of Wandlebury, and the Charity's plans to expand the park and create new habitats. The Duke met Wandlebury's extremely popular weekly healthy walking group along the way, and stopped for a flat white with one sugar at the park's pop up café The Coffee Station.

The Duke then visited Wandlebury's Education Centre where he was introduced to volunteers from the Charity's wider projects, including Hinxton Watermill, Bourn Windmill, Coton Nature Reserve and the Blue Plaque scheme who spoke about these heritage and nature sites and their importance to the Cambridge area. He also met children from St Luke's C of E primary school visiting as part of one of Wandlebury's Iron Age education projects who presented His Royal Highness with a thumb-print picture they made of the autumn colours of the Wandlebury trees.

The Duke then met a large crowd of Wandlebury's members, visitors, supporters, corporate partners who had gathered for the finale of the visit, to plant a tree as part of a new copse of three trees - a new project to transform farmland into wildlife habitat.

Wandlebury donors and supporters will be able to bid to plant the two other trees that will eventually reside next to the Duke's tree. Please contact Milly Iturra to sponsor one of these very special trees, development@cambridgeppf.org

The Duke then cut a special memorial cake to mark the occasion of 70 years of Wandlebury Country Park which was shared with all the signatories, visitors, staff, volunteers and school children.

Ed Wombwell who accompanied the Duke around the park said: "we know how much pleasure Wandlebury has given to generations of people, and we are proud of our work to increase nature and preserve history. We are so delighted that the Duke has made this visit, marking the importance of Wandlebury and helping it to continue to be an amazing place for the next 70 years."

The Wandlebury 70th birthday appeal is live on the Cambridge PPF website, <https://www.cambridgeppf.org/wandlebury-70th-birthday-appeal>

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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The talks will include original video footage and music.

Richard has given presentations to many U3A groups and museums on virtually any topics related to WW11 or The Cold War.

The meetings will be held in the main room at Bottisham Sports and Social Club in Downing Close CB25 9DD and will run from 16th January to 13th February from 10.30am to 12.15.

The fee is £25 for members with an additional £5 joining fee for new members.

New members are always welcome. Any enquiries to Bottishambala@btinternet.com

Helen Cole



Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)

I will start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. Though the museum is closed a lot of work is taking place. The museum now has an extra room for exhibits, as a part of the building that had been rented by a local firm has now been released for museum use.

At this time the format of the exhibits in the new area has not been finalised, this being written at the beginning of December although the room has already been decorated and is ready to be fitted out. We hope to restore a WW2 vintage 'Link Trainer' to use as a second flight simulator with Mustang controls, making use of a historic item that has been in storage for some time.

The Museum will open for the new season on Sunday 6th April 2025. Our events will include our popular 'Bottisham at War' 1940's weekend on 5th and 6th of July.

Classic Car and Bike shows will be on May 11th, August 17th, and October 5th, More details available nearer the time on our website.

We're pleased to announce that we will again be partnering with Adventure001 in offering helicopter flights in 2025 starting on Wednesday 23rd April and twice a month thereafter ,

Full details and booking are available via our website. www.bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk.

The museum is recruiting volunteers for the new season. If you are interested in volunteering in the Museum or the cafe, please get in touch via the 'contact us' section on our website.

Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer.



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Public Transport Matters

A couple of national news items relating to public transport will be of interest to readers as we start off the New Year. Firstly, the government announced recently that rail franchises will be taken back into public ownership as they expire, and for us in Cambridgeshire that's certainly of interest as one of the first franchises to move back into the public sector is the Greater Anglia franchise from Autumn 2025. Greater Anglia operates services from King's Lynn, Ely, Cambridge North and Cambridge into London Liverpool Street, as well as Cambridge to Stansted Airport, Cambridge to Norwich, Cambridge to Ipswich, and, indeed, services over the whole of East Anglia. Originally called 'One' (when it started in the private sector in 2004) and then National Express East Anglia, Greater Anglia is now run by a joint venture of Transport UK Group (a management buyout from the former Dutch Railways-owned Abellio UK company) and Japanese-owned Mitsui & Co.

Will the change back to public ownership make a lot of difference? It could do in practice, if it's accompanied by other changes. However, a very sharp and experienced commentator on UK railways, Thomas Ableman, thinks that public / private ownership of train operations in the UK doesn't really make much difference in principle, irrespective of what some politicians say. What's important, he says, is whether there is a locally focussed rail management that's responsive to local needs, and he believes that there is some connection between that and the size of the organisation (the smaller the organisation then generally the better). But he also stresses that quality of leadership, decentralisation of control, customer focus, and the agility of management to both innovate and react quickly are also important. Read Thomas's articles on the Internet at www.freewheeling.info/blog.

We shall see what happens come the Autumn. What's important to passengers is that our trains run reliably and that when things go wrong (as, inevitably, they will sometimes do) they are put right as quickly as possible and, most importantly, train travellers and those waiting for them are told what's going on.

The other big news recently is that the government's Minister of Transport, Louise Haigh, has resigned. Personally, I'm a bit saddened as she was a strong advocate of buses as an efficient contributor to a better transport system, and she was pushing for some stability of funding from the Treasury, which is what local authorities need. However, her replacement, Heidi Alexander, has some experience as Deputy Mayor of London for Transport, so will perhaps carry on what Louise Haigh started.

WHATEVER THE NEW YEAR BRINGS, HAPPY TRAVELLING

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John Austin

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 January.

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At our November meeting Jackie Lince of Mill Blossom Flowers in Lode made a return visit to talk to us about Christmas Table Decorations.

Most of us were expecting lots of red, green and gold. However, Jackie demonstrated how to create a variety of arrangements using a more subtle colour palette. The first used a small hat box concealing three jam jars lined with moss to retain moisture. Simply using a little greenery and five large dusky pink chrysanthemum flowers a very attractive table centre was quickly completed. A large moss-covered wreath complete with its own mini forest, a re-used pot with seasonal fresh greenery foraged from the garden and a single candle and finally a small silver pot of home-grown dried flowers completed the range.

As Jackie was constructing her arrangements she gave interesting insights into her first career as an accountant, her change of career just as the pandemic was starting and her current life as a florist. She included many useful tips on making quick and easy seasonal arrangements, such as the traditional method of using chicken wire to anchor stems to avoid using Oasis. She loves experimenting with flowers and doesn't always follow conventional rules. Jackie enjoys producing many of her own flowers, such as tulips from bulbs and summer flowers for drying grown from seed. However, this can entail a lot of extra work as the plants and blooms have to be protected from pests and sadly harvests are not always reliable.

Four lucky members each won one of the arrangements in the raffle at the end of the meeting.

A vast array of donations for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal had been collected and were displayed at the meeting. Donations included a wide variety of toys, colouring sets, small games, books and toiletries together with wrapping paper and cash donations.

We're continuing to collect used postage stamps to raise funds for Medical Detection Dogs. We're hoping for a bumper collection of stamps from Christmas cards even though so many of us are posting far fewer cards these days. If you have any used stamps please do drop them in to us to help raise funds for this important charity.

Members of the craft group have recently made découpage pots while those in a separate knitting group have been making twiddle muffs for local dementia patients.

If you're interested in joining the WI or would simply like to know more about our activities then please do come along to our next meeting. All are welcome.

In January our speaker will be from the Gog Shop. If you'd like to come along please do join us on Tuesday 21st January at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room at the Sports and Social Club.

Happy New Year!

Jennifer Clark

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 January.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE CLUB WHAT'S ON IN 2025!

Friday 31st January - Open Mic Night

Music by our talented locals.

Entrance Free

Saturday 1st February - Lode WI Quiz Night

Look out for more information about joining the quiz!

Friday 28th February - Open Mic Night

Music by our talented locals.

Entrance Free

Saturday 8th March - Library Quiz Night

Details to follow.

Saturday 15th March - Elvis Tribute Night

Save the date for an evening of entertainment.

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

Saturday 14th June - Our Annual Village Event

A day of music, magic & dancing.

Catch up with friends in the café or at the BBQ.

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
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Winter is the perfect time for a wildlife walk at Wicken Fen. Whether its misty, frosty or beneath a fiery sky, the calls of ducks, geese and wild swans carry on the breeze. So why not wrap up warm and head out along one of the many trails across the wider nature reserve.

The Docky Hut Café has a selection of warming comfort food, hot drinks and tasty treats including midweek chilli, nachos and rice and weekend pies. In the visitor centre, dogs receive a warm welcome and a stamp in their National Trust Pooch Passport. While you can browse our selection of festive goodies in the gift shop, perfect for a bit of yuletide shopping. And don't miss the secondhand book stall, which also stocks a collection of jigsaw puzzles. Both the café and visitor centre/ gift shop are open 10am – 4.30pm daily.

A new winter trail, around the boardwalk, will be open daily until 13th January, where families can help lost Highland calf Parsnip find her way back to the herd, meeting resident and visiting animals along the way. Normal admission applies, but the trail is free.

For nature lovers, it's well worth standing by the visitor centre at dusk to look out for roosting hen harriers, Wicken's Sedge Fen is a renowned wintering ground for this rare bird of prey.

PEAT PROJECT

Our exciting Peatland Restoration Project is well underway, with works taking place on Burwell Fen, Verrall's Fen and Tubney Fen. Contractors have been constructing clay banks (known as buds) around areas of deep peat on Burwell and Tubney Fens to wet them up. This locks in carbon, therefore helping mitigate climate change, and creates important habitat for both wintering and breeding birds. The footpath through the middle of Burwell Fen will be closed until March 2025, but there is access via the National Cycleway Route 11 and along the Burwell and Reach Lode-banks.

Excavation works along Spinney Bank, on the far west side of the Fen, uncovered the foundations of an historic old drainage windpump and also a glass bottle (possibly an old lemonade bottle) made in Burwell at the old Guyatt and Droford Mineral Works, which closed in the 20th century.

The £2million project is predominately funded through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 'Nature for Climate' Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS) managed by Fens East Peatland Partnership (FEPP), with funding from corporate partners including Starling Bank and Anglian Water.

Details of our events and trails can be found on our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Follow the progress of our Peatland Restoration Project on our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cambridgeshire/wicken-fen-national-nature-reserve/peatland-restoration

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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Happy New Year to everyone. Whether you are a keen gardener or just admirer other people's skills, we have a full programme of talks for the coming year.

28th January

The Fen Boy who became a Cambridge Detective (Part 2)

25th February

Knowing the Poisonous Plants in your Garden

25th March

Science, Plants and Us

22nd April

Twelve Tremendous Trees

27th May

Evening Outing (tba)

June

Summer Outing

22nd July

Summer Party and Don Bedford Rose Competition

23rd September

Wicken Fen – Past, Present and Future

28th October

Annual General Meeting

25th November

House Plants

9th December

Christmas Social

Our meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. in the Poppy Room at the Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club and everyone is welcome.

Membership is £20.00 per annum or £3.00 if you wish to come as a visitor to any meeting.

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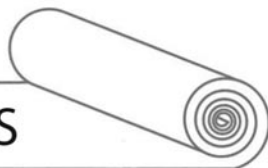


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A Neighbourhood Plan for Bottisham



Dear Resident,

Firstly, a happy and prosperous 2025 to all.

We last updated you with progress on the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan in the September 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. In this month's *Cresset* you will possibly come across a few references to the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan. These are coordinated through the Bottisham Working Group (BWG) and with Parish Council.

The BWG comprises fourteen members made up of both residents and Parish Councillors, all of whom give of their time freely. Some excellent progress has been made since September in gathering the evidence required to support the primary objectives residents say they would like the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan to deliver. These objectives are derived from the 2023 village consultation which has been collated and built in to a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats table – otherwise known as a SWOT analysis. These results are being used to steer and guide the objectives, vision and policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The objective overview of the Plan states: “the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan reflects the desire of our community for future development that, as far as is possible, meets the needs and aspirations of those who live and work here, now and in the decades to come. The community accepts the need for housing development as the population expands, but wishes to see this take place in a way that maintains and enhances the character and vibrancy of our village.”

The objectives have led to the following vision:

- a) Protection and enrichment for the character and identity of the village to ensure any development opportunities respect heritage, community, agricultural and the rural aesthetic whilst also being sustainable and appropriate to the scale and nature of the Parish.
- b) An attractive and desirable place to live; with strong community cohesion where all our residents will feel valued and connected. Our existing open and

Continued on page 43

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green spaces, along with community facilities and services, will be protected and enhanced to ensure that these valuable assets continue to support our community.

- c) A village where the level of future growth reflects the sustainability of already overstretched services whilst welcoming the use of new technology in order to minimise the adverse impact on climate and to provide residents with the choice to change how they live and work.

***** RESIDENTS - HAVE YOUR SAY *****

INTERIM CONSULTATION

Following a village-wide survey last year, the resident's working party are in the process of finalising a draft plan that we would like to share and discuss with you. Your feedback will then be incorporated in the final plan - which again will be consulted on with all residents before submission to East Cambs.

This will be a "drop-in" consultation where you can interact informally with the members of the working group on the range of different areas they are each working on.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND HAVE YOUR SAY

Location: - Bottisham Sports & Social Club

Date: - Saturday 1st March 2025

Time: - 14.00-19.00

QUIZ NIGHT



**Saturday 1st February 2025 - 7.00 for 7.30pm,
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Nadene Gundell writes:

Bottisham Parish Council's Heartfelt Thank You to Our Incredible Community!

What an amazing success our inaugural Christmas **Festivities event** turned out to be on Saturday 7th December! From the twinkling lights to the cheerful laughter echoing through the streets, this celebration was nothing short of magical - and it's all thanks to YOU, the wonderful people of Bottisham.

We didn't let wind, rain, or even Storm Darragh dampen our spirits. Instead, we came together as a community, proving that the heart of Bottisham shines brighter than any storm. This was a true celebration of resilience, creativity, and joy, and we have so many to thank for making it happen.

Frosty the Snowman joined in on the fun as carolers serenaded the village around Beechwood Avenue, stopping in Queens Court to bring cheer to the residents there whilst another group serenaded the streets of Bell Road, Tunbridge Lane and Lode Road.

So, whether you were singing carols through our village, enjoying warm punch and mince pies, or watching the kids' excitement during storytelling with Barbara, your participation made this celebration truly special.

The Bell Pub became a hub of warmth and joy, with our Scouts serving hot chocolate and cake and Sam and Maria being the hosts with the most delicious hot dogs. And of course, Santa himself stopped by to hear the wishes of Bottisham's children, while Giselle delighted them with stunning face painting designs.

We hope you also enjoyed exploring the village advent windows trail and admiring the wonderfully creative displays crafted. Each window a delightful reflection of even more festive spirit to each corner of Bottisham.

To Our Volunteers

Your tireless dedication and energy turned dreams into reality. From setting up to coordinating every detail, you were the glue that held this magical day together. Thank you for pouring your hearts into this event.

To Our Local Businesses

Your generosity and belief in this vision transformed Bottisham into a winter wonderland. From the glowing Christmas tree to the twinkling lights and festive treats, you made the magic happen.

To the Performers, Artists, and Musicians

Thank you, Bottisham Primary School Choir you sang your hearts out despite the weather, led by the amazing Fay. Brilliant performances from Kyle Chater and his acoustic band, who ended the evening with an unforgettable rendition of Fairytale of New York. Special thanks to the saxophonist originally from Amy Winehouse's band for adding an extra sparkle to the evening!

Continued on page 47



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Continued from page 45

A Special Thank You to Hilda

We were honoured to have Hilda, Bottisham's beloved "Landlady" and a Parish Council volunteer of over 50 years, return to officially switch on our Christmas lights. It was a touching moment, made even more magical by the school choir singing under the glow of our tree.

Extra Special Thanks

A big shoutout to:

- Ady, Les, and Sam from Urban Tree Forestry for our stunning Christmas tree.
- Hannah and Bill from the Co-Op, for gathering together treat bags for the children.
- Linda from Morgans Hair Salon and Linda and Mary from Bottisham Scouts serving up delicious treats for your all
- Simon and Louis from SRC Heating and Plumbing for lighting the tree and ensuring everything was set up perfectly.
- Adam and Keiron from The Bell Pub, for generously sharing your space and becoming our much-needed contingency plan.
- Grant, Miriam and Neil for cooking, baking and overall "performance"
- Sam, Maria, Mark, Keith and Jon from the Parish Council for your hard work on the day.

Thank you again, Bottisham, for showing the true meaning of community. Should this be the beginning of a beautiful tradition? I would like to think so.

Warm regards, Nadene - Bottisham Parish Council



Village Litter Picks 2025

Fresh air, friendship and looking after our wildlife

Bring your gloves and join us for refreshments afterwards

Starting Location	Date	Month
Bottisham Village College (<i>sports centre car park end</i>)	12	January
Queens Court Care Home	8	February
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	8	March
Bottisham Village College (<i>sports centre car park end</i>)	12	April
Queens Court Care Home	10	May
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	7	June
Bottisham Village College (<i>sports centre car park end</i>)	12	July

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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