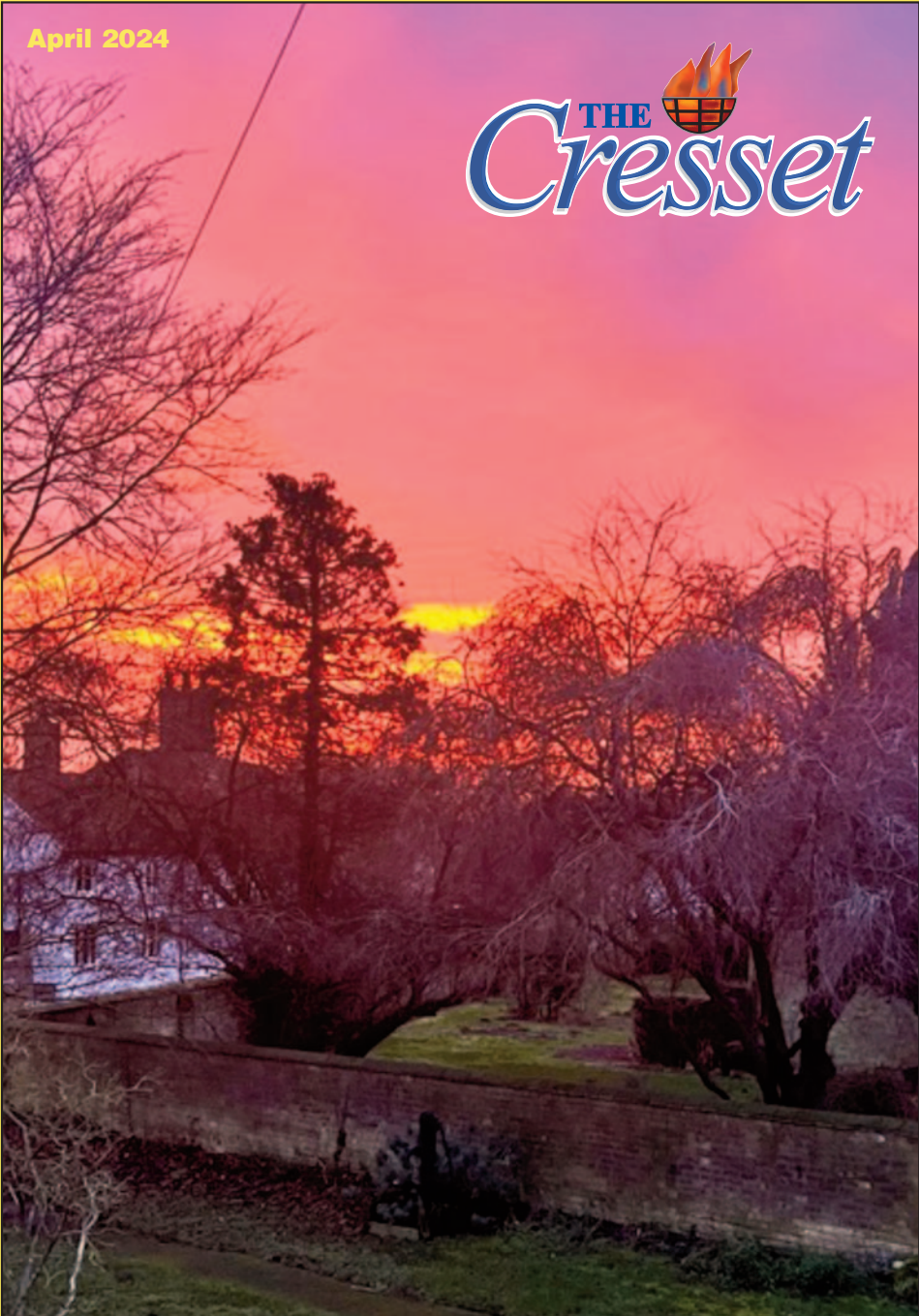


April 2024



THE
Cresset



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



BOTTISHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

30TH APRIL 7.30pm.

Welcome. Parish Council Report Activities and Achievements over last year.	Cllr Jon Ogborn Chair Bottisham Parish Council
County Council Report	Cllr Alan Sharp
District Council Report	Cllr Charlotte Cane
Update on Project Play and New Cemetery	Cllr Jon Ogborn
Summary Introduction to Informal Session	Cllr Jon Ogborn

The social club bar will open & refreshments will be available after 8:15pm.

Take this opportunity to chat about anything you wish with your Parish, County & District Cllrs and representatives from local schools and the police.

For more information email: clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk Tel. 07369 248998

**THE**
Cresset

YOUR CRESSET NEEDS YOU

We are looking for a team of two people to volunteer to help with the distribution of the Cresset.

This involves sorting out the magazines into bundles and delivering them to the 31 volunteers that deliver them to individual households.

The team works on a rota with our other distributors, meaning your turn would only occur once every 4 to 5 months.

If you think you would be able to help,
please contact

Ian Cole on 01223 812573 or email
i.h.cole@btinternet.com



With any luck you will be reading this at the Easter weekend or just after. With that can I wish you a very happy Easter.

Memories of easter egg hunts in the garden with friends and family is always nice. However nowadays one is already bored with it, having seen eggs on sale in the supermarkets since boxing day! No, I am not kidding!

The commercialisation of events like Easter, together with Halloween and Christmas has, to my mind, diluted the impact and excitement of the event itself. I am sure younger folk don't see it that way, but as a lad, the excitement that was felt in the days before Christmas was intense. There was no thought of it months before. But then I suppose my mum was more aware, as she was the one who did the planning ahead and organisation.

Apart from all that, like Easter and Christmas, the meaning and story behind both events has all but disappeared behind that superficial gloss. But it makes people happy.

I won't go on at length about the main topic of conversation in Bottisham at the moment, namely the retirement village and the success by the developers to get the double rejection of the planning application overturned. It is still ongoing and there may yet be moves to get it reviewed. You can see the various reports including a follow up by Lucy Frazer, our MP, who is on side.

While talking about planning, we drove through Wilbraham the other night and were struck by how little development has taken place there compared with Bottisham. Over the last few years, we have seen literally hundreds of new houses here and are set for hundreds more. We noted that Wilbraham is South Cambs. and we are East Cambs. Different rules for different folks, or is Ely just too far away to bother?

The magazine this month has lots of information and entertainment for you to read. Of note is the outline of what could be a useful improvement to the bus service through Bottisham including the re-establishment of the link with Lode and the Swaffhams, plus the possibility of a link through to Addenbrookes!

It has been advertised for several months and again this month. The notice of the annual Parish Meeting. It is the opportunity for you to have direct interaction with your Parish Council plus representatives of all of your local services and organisation. Check the date and put it in your diary.

Good to see there is a move to repeat the village fun day in June. That weekend coincides with the D-Day weekend, when there are lots of activities going on and I am sure the Airfield Museum will be marking the occasion as well. I know last year was special with the Coronation, but there is no reason why we can't have the fun, even without King Charles. (Perhaps if we invited him!)

You can also read details of our new Vicar, Max Osborne who comes this summer, direct from 19 years in Newmarket.

Finally, our cover this month is a follow up to last months. Abbie Chetwynd sent me a beautiful picture of the sunrise from her window looking past the church in the opposite direction! Incidentally, also recording the last look at what has been the Vicarage for a long time. It used to be a reassuring sight, seeing the Vicar crossing the road in their long vestments to the church. Still, with a cut through Spring Lane and through 'the dirt hills', it is not that much further and a wider audience.



News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

The Acting Bishop of Ely is pleased to announce that The Revd. Malcolm Eric (Max) Osborne is to be Incumbent (Vicar) of the Anglesey Group. Max will be licensed in the forthcoming months and will move to his new Vicarage in Beechwood Avenue Bottisham in the Summer ready to take up his new position. We look forward to your support during the continued vacancy and as we work to welcome Revd. Max and his family to the benefice.



In the meantime, our services continue to be led by local clergy. The Benefice Easter Day Holy Communion Service on 31st March at 10.30am will be led by Revd. Liz Caswell. We will also be having our usual 1st Sunday of the Month service on April 7th which will be led by Revd. Bill Muncey. Morning Prayer led by Sarah Maxwell will continue on the third Sundays of the month.

I am told that the flower arrangers will be putting on a magnificent display for the Easter Weekend. We are looking for more people to help with the flowers, however, and if you can help, please telephone Carolyn Bangs on 01223 811159. Instructions would be given.

We are also looking for one or two more people to help with the church cleaning. If we can recruit, then duties would only be once every eight weeks with a more experienced partner. Please contact Helen Cole if you feel you could help: 01223 812573.

Bulbs are coming through and now flowering in the churchyard with daffodils, snowdrops and aconites visible in numerous areas as I write. A new bench, adjacent to the footpath should be installed by the time you read this.

Problems with the church structure never seem to come singly. While our contractors were clearing the gutters, they noticed a large amount of rendering had become displaced from the north buttress of the chancel and another part was in danger of falling off. This area has, for safety reasons, now been fenced off. Shortly after this rain was seen to be pouring into the church on the east side of the south aisle roof. Our roofing expert tells us that the mortar has fallen out of the joint between the copings and the lead flashing and a piece of lead has become displaced. This will have to be urgently rectified as soon as the rain stops.

Our regular Toddler Group continues to meet on a Tuesday morning in the church at 9am and would welcome more parents and children to play and chat with our regulars. The loyal bell ringers ring before every service both here and in the Swaffhams. Practice takes place at 8pm on a Friday evening. If you would like to learn bellringing then please contact the Tower Captain Martin Kitson on martin.kitson1@btinternet.com Full instruction would be given.

Envelopes for our Easter Thanksgiving Gift Day should now be coming through your letterboxes – please give as generously as you feel able. Thank you.

If you prefer you can click on the QR code below for online payment. Open phone camera and hold over the QR code, open the secure link and follow the instructions if you would prefer to donate in this way. Many thanks.



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BOTTISHAM PARISH VILLAGE EVENT

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

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

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

More details in the next Cresset.

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Wed Apr 3rd	8pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) - online via Zoom
Sun Apr 7th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Sun Apr 14th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion - Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship – Swaffham Prior
Sun Apr 21st	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer - Quy
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer - Bottisham
Sun Apr 28th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) - 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.

The Revd. Malcolm Eric (Max) Osborne

During the Summer we are looking forward to welcoming our new Vicar Rev'd Malcolm Eric (Max) Osborne. Here is a little about his history for your information.

Prior to ordination Max's background was in Mental Health working at an Acute Admissions Unit in Norfolk as part of a multi-disciplinary Mental Health Team. After offering for Ministry in the Diocese of Norwich, Max attended St John's College of Divinity, Nottingham where he first met Roger Bowen as his Missions Tutor. On leaving Theological College, he was ordained in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich where he served as Assistant Curate in Felixstowe, then half-time Adviser for Social Responsibility and Minister-in-Charge of a community church in Ipswich. He was appointed Vicar of All Saints Newmarket in 2002 where he served for nineteen years. Max and Angie enjoyed Newmarket as a place to settle and for their children (David & Jess) to grow up.

It was during that time that Max was invited to become a Training Vicar, elected to the Church of England's General Synod, Bishop's Council member, Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands and a member of the national Bishop's Advisory Panels selecting clergy for the Church of England.

Max was also Newmarket & District British Legion Padre, Chaplain to Newmarket Town Football Club and for two years Rural Dean of Mildenhall.

Angie works as a Practice Nurse in a nearby surgery, Jess is a Staff Nurse at Royal Papworth (Addenbrookes), and David is a lorry driver. They have a grandson, Noah (8yrs) who lives at home with them. Max and Angie are delighted to be moving to Bottisham and joining the Anglesey Group of Churches: "In some ways it feels like "coming home." It is such a lovely area to live and work and we have so many friends in the area". Max and Angie enjoy walking, and spending time with family. Max's special interest is listening to Opera and Angie's special interest is staying as far out of range as possible!



Village Litter Picks 2024

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Starting Location	Date	Month
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	20	April
Queens Court Care Home	11	May
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	15	June
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	13	July
Queens Court Care Home	10	August
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	September
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	October
Queens Court Care Home	16	November
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	December

Further Information:

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

Ways to keep in touch with updates:

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

Parish Council Report

The next full council meeting will be held by on 8th April 2024, 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.

Firstly I would like to welcome Camelia Mihaescu as our new Parish Councillor, who was co-opted at our March meeting. Her commitment to the community has already been demonstrated by her involvement with the village litter picking group and we look forwards to having her support on Council. Her co-option means that, for the first time for many years, the Council is finally “fully staffed”. We are currently supporting a large number of projects and the arrival of four new members since last May is very encouraging.

RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Shortly after submission of our Cresset Notes for the March edition, the Parish Council received notification that the planned retirement village on the land behind 163 to 187 High Street, had been approved by the Planning Inspectorate. Charlotte Cane (District Councilor) fortuitously submitted her Cresset report later than us and was able to include a good summary of the reasons for the Inspector’s decision. Many of you will have read this and we would not disagree with her summary. But for the Cllrs, Surgery and residents, who have collectively invested 100s of hours in opposing this development through two sets of planning applications and appeals, it was devastating news.

Bottisham Parish Council is extremely disappointed at the Appeal decision and remains vehemently opposed to the planning proposal. We understand that you as residents also feel aggrieved by this outcome and all of your letters and comments have been duly noted.

We have met with our MP, County and District Councillors to consider the way forward. Currently, legal advice is also being sought to determine how we might proceed. An Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting has been called on March 14th to discuss the issue and potential steps forward.

GREENWAYS

Further to the information presented in the last edition of the Cresset, the Parish Council are due to hold a meeting with the Peter Blake (Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership’s Transport Director) at the end of March. It is hoped during this meeting to address questions and concerns we have. Plus, most importantly, understand what further consultation the GCP will have with residents before matters progress.

20 MPH LOCAL HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT (LHI)

It was evident from the Greenways meeting, Community Safety Forum and Neighbourhood Plan consultation that many have concerns over the speed with which vehicles travel through the village. For this reason, it was decided that the Parish Council would pursue an application to the Local Highways Improvement Scheme for 20mph limits. After discussion in Council, it was agreed that the most appropriate application

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 7

would be a village wide scheme, as these seem to be the most preferred by Highways. After the launch of the scheme last year, it was mainly villages that opted for a total coverage of the roadways that were awarded the highest points and were selected for the implementation of 20mph limits. The application was submitted in mid-March and the outcome will not be known until mid-summer of 2024.

CEMETERY MATTERS

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that the work in the current cemetery to clear the unsightly spoil heap and install further turf has been completed. Valuable additional space has been created (while we await construction of our new cemetery), whilst also making the area more aesthetically pleasing for all those who visit.

A tree audit is about to be undertaken to identify works that are going to be required in the near future for both safety reasons and to ensure the long-term health of the trees concerned. If any properties are affected by overhanging trees from the cemetery, please do let the Parish Council know as soon as possible, either by emailing me or by calling me on 07369 248998 if preferred.

The Parish Council also approved the purchase of new burial software, which will be populated over the coming months. This will enable the Parish Council to be able to easily identify records of any burials, Exclusive Right of Burial holders and inspections on Memorials, to ensure that records are preserved for the future. It will also allow for the old burial books to be put into Archives for safe keeping, as some of the books are over 100 years old and becoming very delicate.

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:

24/00243/TCON: Dunkeld 70 Tunbridge Lane Bottisham Cambridge: To comply with Condition 6 (Tree Topping, Lopping & Felling) of Decision Notice 98/00604/FUL

Applications approved by ECDC:

23/00421/FUL: Howgar House 41 Bell Road Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DF. Construction of 1No. 3/4 bedroom, two storey dwelling, with off-street parking for two vehicles on garden land

Planning Appeal allowed:

23/00009/NONDET: Land Rear of 163 To 187 High Street Bottisham. Development of a retirement care village in class C2 comprising housing with care, communal health, wellbeing and leisure facilities; and C3 affordable dwellings (comprising up to 30 percent on-site provision), public open space, play provision, landscaping, car parking, access and associated development.



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Lucy Frazer MP for South East Cambridgeshire writes

Earlier this month, I met with parish councillors John Wilson and Nadene Cundell, and Cllr Alan Sharp, to discuss the proposed Bottisham Retirement Village, which was recently approved by the National Planning Inspectorate, contrary to local opinion and previous opposition by East Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Committee.

I appreciate that there is strong feeling in the village about this planning application, as shown by the submission of 92 formal objections in recent months. I understand concerns relate to the use of Green Belt, the threat of environmental damage and the impact on local amenities, amongst other things.

At the meeting, I explored the options for recourse, which I have followed up with a letter to the Planning Minister, Lee Rowley MP.

ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT.

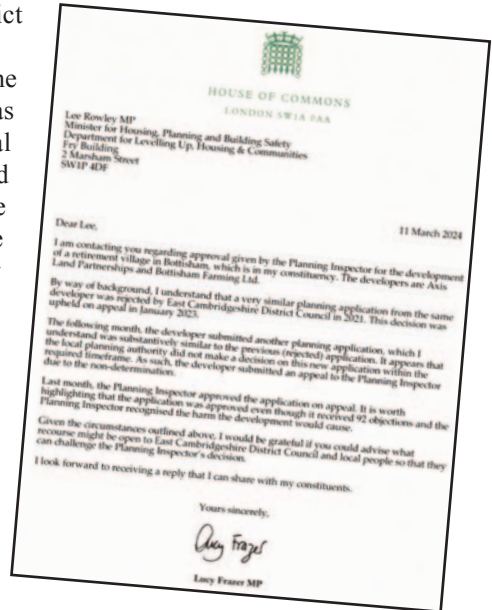
On International Women's Day (8 March), I had the pleasure of supporting a huge celebration of women, girls and football in Bottisham, hosted by Forest Heath Sports Partnership and Bottisham Village College.

The event took the form of an inter-school football skills festival, where girls from Bottisham Primary School, Ditton Lodge Primary School, Great Wilbraham Primary School, Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School and Swaffham Prior Primary School were invited to join female sports leaders from Bottisham Village College for creative outdoor sessions as part of the Barclays 'Game On' programme.

Also present at the event were representatives from Cambridgeshire Football Association and the Youth Sports Trust – a charity which seeks to improve young people's education and development through the delivery of sport programmes.

In the wake of the Lionesses' successes, I had plenty of examples with which to encourage the girls, and they responded by performing with an exemplary attitude and some impressive skills!

It was also fantastic to see some of the girls from, Bottisham Primary Community School wearing the kit provided by the Premier League as part of their national 'Primary Stars Kit Scheme', which I presented to them in a special assembly in February.





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District Councillors' Report

HAPPY EASTER!

Your bins will be collected on a different day from normal in the first week of April because of Easter Bank Holidays. They will also be collected on different days in the first and last full weeks of May. At the time of writing, the relevant webpage wasn't working, but if you haven't got a paper list of dates, please check the website.

The Administration's budget, including spending £9 million of Community Infrastructure Levy money on the crematorium at Mepal, was approved by a majority. We supported an amendment which would have

- Removed all budget lines relating to the crematorium, returning millions of pounds to be spent on projects in local communities.
- Added the costs to establish Civil Parking Enforcement in the district, paid for mostly from reserves.
- Doubled the council's Environment fund to increase the council's activity on decarbonisation and biodiversity.
- Added an officer to support local communities making grant applications, and a sum for matched funding for bids.

This would have been funded from savings in staff costs from posts that are left vacant during the year. But the amendment was lost.

Both the motion and the amendment proposed a council tax freeze.

Council unanimously accepted changes in councillor allowances put forward by the independent remuneration panel. These included an increase in costs claimable by councillors to cover their caring responsibilities when attending council duties. This should help make councillors more representative of the residents of the district. The proposals also include an increase in allowances for Planning Committee members, who meet more frequently and for longer than other councillors.

Council approved a further £200,000 fee to ECSS for 2023/24, because they are overspending again although still not delivering the agreed level of service. We tried to get an external review of ECSS financial management and governance because this is the second year in a row that they have asked for large sums of extra money just before the year end. But the Administration voted against that. The fee for 2024/25 was increased by 26%, part of this was claimed to be for the extra costs of using HVO fuel, although this had already been included in the fee for 2023/24.

The council also, with a majority rather than unanimously, agreed changes to its constitution. We opposed these on the grounds that while there were some sensible and welcome changes, some of the proposals were not acceptable. In particular, we wanted to establish an Audit Committee capable of functioning effectively and doing its job, which the agreed changes do not; and we wanted to establish an additional policy committee to tackle the weighty planning and environmental challenges facing East Cambridgeshire.

Continued on page 15



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Continued from page 13

These will instead be moved into the council's Finance & Assets Committee, which has enough significant business already.

Some agencies are not always accessible for residents to request foodbank Vouchers. But the Housing & Community Advice team at ECDC can issue food bank vouchers to ALL residents within East Cambs. Residents do not need to come into the offices, they can contact the team on 01353 665555 and the code can be issued by phone, text or email.

Our next Councillors' surgery is on Wednesday 24 April in the small meeting room at the Bottisham Sports & Social Club.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Anglesey Group Mothers' Union



In February, our guest speaker Liz Butler, gave a talk on the Christian Mission trip that she and husband Alun made to India in November 2009. Liz described the mission as both challenging and encouraging, in a country with lots of bugs, very foreign and extremely hot. There were four other companions in the mission group. A good friend of Liz's daughter, her mother and two ladies from the Netherlands. The month-long mission was to the GEMS (Gospel Echoing Mission Society) compound in Dehri, Bihar in northern India.

Liz explained how horrendous, and nerve-racking travelling conditions were as they made their way from Delhi airport to Dehri, by taxi and train. Very little English is spoken, and their train compartment shared with an Indian family was very basic. Parts of which were covered in nasty looking black bugs. The journey took over nine hours and with no signs on the train stations, to Liz's relief an English-speaking man came to their rescue and let them know when the train arrived in Dehri. Although, the kind man was rather perplexed as to why Liz and Alun were visiting one of the poorest and lawless areas in India. In 1970 Rev. D. Augustine Jebakumar felt a specific call from God, and began setting up the compound in Bihar in October 1972. The activities of this Society are primarily church planting and evangelism. Later educational services, medical services with hospitals for cataract operations and the victims of Polio and social services were added in order to cater to the needs of people. There were 30,000 children in GEMS schools in 2009. Giving educational skills for independence in adult life, and appropriate learning for children who have disfigurement having suffered Polio. The main income in the area is from prostitution, involving children from the age of nine. In 2009 there was a hostel of safety for 115 children and for many more today. A third of children are HIV positive, and those cared for and taught within the GEMS compound finding the deep experience of Jesus Christ share this with their mothers. Pupils from GEMS schools connect with children in surrounding villages perhaps once a week, as there are so

Continued on page 17

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many children who lose their parents and have so very little to sustain them. There are fee paying schools which help finance the GEMS Missionary schools. During their time at the Mission, Liz and Alun did some English teaching, helped with crafts, games and told Bible stories. They were amazed by the enthusiasm the pupils had to learn especially the highly disfigured Polio sufferers who could only crawl on their disfigures limbs. One little boy wanted to show Liz and Alun his treasures, which were meagre pieces of paper and pencils, but they meant the world to that little boy!

Everything revolved around the church, and a typical day began with a very loud 6am worship service. Which Liz found quite disturbing especially if she had suffered a bad night having become the victim of mosquito bites and feeling uncomfortable. Unfortunately, due to the style of beds there was nowhere for mosquito nets. The Sunday church service lasted for four hours. Men and women sat separately crossed legged on the floor. Some of the service was in English for the benefit of Liz, Alun and their fellow mission companions. Liz reflected that prayer permeates everything they do, and it was so encouraging how powerful the gospel is there. When the time came for Liz and Alun to leave it was the festival of Diwali, and as they left Dehri there was one church with a golden cross lite up. This being the church Augustine first built when setting up the compound. Liz found GEMS both inspiring and heartbreaking, an experience that changed her life.

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month at 2.30pm in Fassage Hall, Lode. On Thursday 18th April, our guest speaker will be Angie Stewart – CEO, Cambridge Women’s Aid. You are most welcome to join us.

Ann Langran

NAAFI Break

The NAAFI Break group had another great turnout on the 6th March and the staff at Angelsey Abbey certainly made us feel very welcome as always. Despite the fact that we sit out of the way so we don’t become a noisy nuisance to other visitors, we are often looked upon with some curiosity. If that's you having a sneaky look, come over and say "Hi" there's no booby traps, just banter and laughter, a moment for us to escape what's going on inside our heads, it’s a blessing I can tell you.

Anyway, as mentioned in the previous Cresset, I said we would be joined by our regional Help for Heroes Team Lead. We all made him feel welcome and Rob was able to talk about how the charity supports Veterans and their families, whether it be family issues, financial issues, housing problems, adoptions and also explained briefly about the recovery college which runs many courses to help Veterans after leaving the services. Rob also explained about many of the fun courses that are on offer, sometimes locally. And there are numerous online courses where many veterans and family members meet via Teams link so it is another way of being sociable and having fun.

All veterans and their families are welcome to join us, it's free, fun and awesome to be amongst friends with a shared history. We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 10.00am at Angelsey Abbey.

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Anglesey Abbey

The gardens at Anglesey Abbey are bursting with colour and our specialist daffodil tours are well underway, continuing until 21 April. You're welcome to come and join one of our knowledgeable garden guides if you'd like to find out more about the 40+ varieties across the estate. Among the swathes of daffodils, we've been treated to a delightful display of hellebores, hyacinths, scillas and now tulips so far this spring.

We're super excited about Easter at Anglesey Abbey this year and are delighted to be hosting free face-painting, bubble performances and volunteer-led art and craft activities as well as our fun-packed Easter Adventures trail for all the family. The trail runs from 29 March to 14 April and includes welly wanging, egg & spoon races, a GIANT bird box, lots of interactive stations and a chocolate egg at the end. And as usual, little legs can enjoy climbing the treehouse and exploring the new den building area and play equipment. Please head to our website for more details and timings for the other activities which will be on different days throughout the school holidays.

And don't forget to look out for the beautiful blossom when you're next visiting us. The heritage orchard, planted in 2018 with 16 heritage varieties of plum, apple, pear and gages will come into blossom during April, surrounding an 80-year-old Bramley seedling apple tree. We will be celebrating the Festival of Blossom with some blossom-inspired poetry, music and even an origami making tent making an appearance from 20 to 27 April – do drop by to engage with nature this springtime.

We're also delighted to announce that The Lord Chamberlain's Men are coming to Anglesey Abbey this summer to perform Shakespeare's HAMLET. Join us for an evening of outdoor theatre on Saturday 17 August. Tickets are on sale now, please visit our website.

Wicken Fen

With the arrival of spring, we're enjoying being greeted by blossom and daffodils on the walk down the lane to Wicken Fen. The first few brimstone butterflies have been spotted and despite the rainy weather, March has brought lots of joy with the birth of new Konik foals. Fen Cottage is now open, and our cycle hire is open daily from 10am. If you'd like to enjoy a peaceful boat trip along Wicken Lode, please call us in advance on 01353 720274 to book your space on the Mayfly.

On 3 March, we enjoyed welcoming members of the community to an archaeology drop-in day at Wicken Fen where we washed recent finds from test pits at Reach 24. We were joined by archaeologists from the National Trust and Oxford Archaeology as well as our community archaeology volunteers. This was the final public event in our 3-year Footprints community project funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported by National Lottery players.

Thank you to everyone who has attended Footprints events over the last three years – from Arty Fen photography and drama workshops for teens to guided walks with volunteer

Continued on page 21



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Continued from page 19

rangers and local fairs and festivals – we’ve thoroughly enjoyed seeing more people engage with and enjoy the space we care for at Wicken Fen. Of course, our community work doesn’t stop here – far from it! We look forward to running more community events, walks and workshops at Wicken Fen throughout the year.

Next up, it’s time for Easter at Wicken Fen. We’ll have our Easter Adventures trail along the boardwalk with lots of fun for all the family from 23 March to 14 April. We’re also running some art and craft workshops that you can book for both children and adults: a mixed media Highland Cow workshop on 3 and 11 April as well as a watercolour workshop on Friday 5 April called Painting the Fens.

And finally, we are looking forward to celebrating our 125th anniversary at Wicken Fen as well as 25 years of the Wicken Fen Vision Project. You are warmly invited to join us on Saturday 4 May for a community day. There will be a butterfly, birdsong and deep listening walk, some pond-dipping, pizza in the evening and the opportunity to meet some bird ringers and local moth recorders. Please head to our website nearer the time for more event details and timings. We hope to see you there!



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QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 13th APRIL 2024

7:30pm START

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Your Local Brass Band Needs You!



Many of you may have seen us playing at Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club each year in December. As a band we thoroughly enjoy every year we come back and do it.

Newmarket Town Band needs more players, we currently have 23 members. Wednesday evenings 19:30-21:30 at Kennett Village Hall is when we rehearse. It is free to come along and play! Where else can you go and make friends, socialise and practise playing the instrument you love for free 2 hours a week.

We have a fantastic new musical director. Jamie. He is a brass instrument teacher by trade, very enthusiastic. The music we play is varied, if you want to listen to us play look us up online or contact us on the details below.



Are you having an event and would like a band there? Not just your traditional brass band, we can however play the traditional stuff, think Marches and the film *Brassed Off*. Organising a dance, wedding, festival, air show, garden party, OktoberFest, Christmas function, works party, open day, grand opening, carnival, beer festival, halloween party, birthday party, school fetes, summer fayres, county shows. I challenge you to challenge us.

You don't have to be a professional musician to play in our band, if you are just starting out please come along equally if you are grade 8 cornet player we will make sure you are not bored.

We have instruments that can be played by members.

The band is divided into sections, cornets, flugel, horns, baritones, euphoniums, trombones, basses (most people know these as tuba's) and the percussion section consists of drum kit, timpani's, and lots of other bits and pieces.

We are very social, often staying behind for a chat and a catch up or turning up early especially when someone has been baking! Our band is for everyone, our young and old

Speak to us about playing or hiring!

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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Gerry Daish our local bird enthusiast who writes in the Cresset each month has been bird watching since he was at Primary School. A very keen teacher ran a school club, and they won the local bird watching quiz 2 years running (identifying birds from black and white photographs!) and won a visit to Minsmere. As he lived in nearby Woodbridge he and his father became regular visitors. We had a quiz to recognise the birds that frequent our gardens and he played their bird songs too. Collared doves were rare in the 60's but are now common and red kites are readily seen now especially in Berkshire, probably as there is plenty of litter lying about on the roadsides. He told us how to identify different birds depending on their habitat, movement, flight pattern and especially by their song or call. The robin is Britains' favourite bird. His local bird spotting places are Lackford Lakes, Lakenheath RSPB reserve and Kingfisher bridge near Wicken Fen. He told us too that peregrine falcons can be seen in the Chalk pits at Cherry Hinton. An interesting and well- planned talk.

We shall be holding our **Spring Lunch at Newmarket Golf Club on 5th May** and our summer outing is on 19th June. Make a note of the dates.

Our speaker on **23rd April will be Joe Sharman from Monksilver Nursery talking about Hellebores** Sounds interesting. There is a lovely display of these at Anglesey Abbey at the moment.

Meetings are held in the Poppy Room at 7.30pm.

Sylvia Overton



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WOOL & WINE - Every 3rd Wednesday of the month

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BOARD GAMES - Every 4th Wednesday of the month

.....
All events, start at 7:30pm, in the function room, late-comers welcome, discover new hobbies and join your neighbours in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

Ways to stay connected with updates:

Visit the Bottisham Events Facebook Page

Visit the Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page

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Sunday - 12 noon to 9pm

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WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 13th April - Bowling Club - Quiz Night

Friday 26th April - Open Mic Night - 8pm start
Our regular monthly event, a great night not to be missed.

Saturday 11th May - Eurovision Song Contest
Dress up in your best Eurovision Song Contest outfit and enjoy the show!

Saturday 8th June - The Village Fun Day
Starts with music and a picnic.
Then the event moves to the club for a children's entertainer,
Morris Dancers, BBQ and an evening with a band.
A fun day when the whole village comes together.

Saturday 5th October - Roy Orbison Tribute Night
Stroll down memory lane with music from a Roy Orbison Tribute Singer

Saturday 26th October - Children Fancy Dress Halloween Disco

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 bottishamsasc@gmail.com
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Public Transport Matters

“Buses are important: they keep our communities connected to work, education and essential services like health appointments. For every £1 invested in our local bus network, up to £7 of net economic benefit is delivered”. So says the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) in its note about the Mayoral General Precept that CPCA are charging us within our council tax bill from April. “The annual precept, which equates to £3 per month per household for a Band D property, will be invested in dozens of new and enhanced bus routes across the region”.

An outline list of those proposed bus routes is included in the papers for the next meeting of the CPCA’s Transport & Infrastructure Committee (13th March). In that outline list there are two routes of great interest to local residents. Firstly, a “New service between Soham and Cambridge, via Burwell, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham.” Secondly, “Improvements on B1102 corridor with interconnections to access different parts of Cambridge and other centres to which people travel”.

Following the recent appointment of new senior management at the CPCA’s public transport team there’s been a welcome acceleration of positive response to engagement initiatives from the A to B1102 Group. Readers will recall that the Group ran an extensive questionnaire Travel Survey at the end of last year, to which many of you will have contributed.

CPCA shared with the A to B1102 Group leadership, in confidence, the core of its draft proposal for bus services along the Soham - Fordham - Burwell – Cambridge corridor, and in response the A to B1102 Group has produced an excellent report to CPCA senior officers, with thought-through recommendations based on the responses to the questionnaire Travel Survey. These recommendations have been shared with representatives of the Parish Councils in the area along the B1102 corridor.

The A to B1102 Group’s recommendations are essentially that the current 11 bus service is replaced with a combination of:

- a) a new regular fast Soham – Fordham – Burwell – Swaffhams – Lode Crossroads (some entering Lode village as at present) - Quy – Cambridge bus service;
- b) a bus service linking Newmarket and Burwell to Reach, the Swaffhams, Lode, Bottisham, the Wilbrahams, Fulbourn, the Biotech Campus / Addenbrookes, Cambridge South Station and Long Road Sixth Form College. This latter would provide links between Bottisham and both Anglesey Abbey and other nearby villages, with more frequent services during peak hours AND offer students a quicker, more reliable way of accessing further education in Cambridge (Hills Road, Long Road, The Oaks College)
- c) Bus connections at hubs in some villages; these being key to enabling onward transit or for people to access between bus services or other modes of transport

In these recommendations from the Group additional buses would run at times to cater for Further Education students in Cambridge. The Group’s recommendations are designed

Continued on page 31

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Continued from page 29

to move people as quickly as possible towards Drummer Street / Soham Station or towards Cambridge South Station/Newmarket. The interconnections would have to work effectively, both in terms of timetabling buses and also the availability of real-time passenger information. A to B1102 Group recognises that if these recommendations were to be implemented successfully as proposals by CPCA and the bus operators much work would be needed to design these interconnections to be both efficient and practical.

A to B1102 Group is now developing these recommendations in more detail, and will post more news as its engagement with CPCA develops.

Happy Travelling!

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

John Austin

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

AGM: This will take place in the Surgery Waiting Room at 6.30pm on Thursday 18th April. Please join us to hear Dr Shackleton speak about "Changes in GP Practices".

Social Prescriber: We now have a lady in post, Maria Reynolds. You can book an appointment through reception. Social prescribers can help with applications for "blue badges", advice on how to arrange some home help and carers, signpost you to support agencies you may not be aware of and be a useful point of contact if you are struggling with any aspect of life which doesn't specifically need a GP to help with.

Physiotherapists: We have 2 physiotherapists in post you have appointments on Monday and Wednesday. They are highly skilled and usually have less than one week wait for an appointment.

The Patient Participation Group: We are happy to have new members to join the committee, all patients of this Practice are eligible. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved

Next Meeting: Is the AGM as above and next regular meeting will be at 6.30pm Thursday June 27 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meetings, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com.. Or speak to reception.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 April.

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



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Bottisham Community Library Association

Seventeen of our volunteers met in late January for an evening meal at the Black Horse at Swaffham Bulbeck. It was a good social occasion as we rarely get to meet as a group as we only have 2 volunteers per session and we mostly do duties with the same one.

We are still looking for a volunteer for the rhyme and story time for the under-fives group that meets on Saturday mornings. Can you help?

Lego Club dates are Saturdays 9th March and 13th April.

I shall report next month on our Annual Library Quiz held on 17th February and details of the mini Triangle sale in late May in conjunction with the WI and Gardening Club.

Sylvia Overton



Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)

By the time you are reading this, the museum will just be opening (**Sunday 31st March and Wednesday 3rd April**).

A lot of work has been done during the winter months. One of the first new exhibits you will see as you enter the site is an anti-aircraft gun emplacement, this represents one of the eight, gun emplacements which guarded the airfield during WW2. The home guard, home front and airborne exhibition in the shelter has also been revamped. In the main building a communications room has been set up with WW2 radios.

The hanger has now become an exhibition hall with the Mustang as centrepiece surrounded with Mustang models, sections of crashed Mustangs, the simulator and another new edition, a full-sized replica Merlin engine the same as the ones installed in WW2 Mustangs and Spitfires. *See photo.* Please come along and have a look, the museum opening times are 10.30am till 4.00pm Sundays and Wednesdays and the Flying tractor café will be opening earlier at 09.00



am on Sundays and helicopter flying days. Our first day of helicopter flights start **Wednesday 10th April**, flights booking via our website Bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk

The café is available to use without going into the museum on all days we are open. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Charles Cook, - Museum Volunteer

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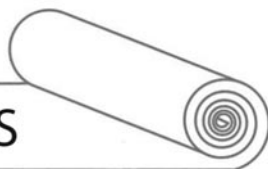


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Sadly the meeting started with a minutes silence for one of our members Linda Reed who died recently.

Details were given of the Group meeting on 22nd May at Cherry Hinton, and a meeting at Hilton Park on 8th March at 2.30 for a demonstration on Colour me Beautiful with free tea and cake. Nominations were invited for the 2024/20245 committee.

Mick Corbett, a Bottisham resident, employed by Tesco, is a Specialist, Technical Development Manager with a team of 15 responsible for the quality of the fruit and vegetables that reach the stores. He has to check the food quality, and legality of the growing systems for fresh products, that pesticide use is monitored and that environment, sustainability and ethical standards and human rights of farming employees are maintained.

He travels widely undertaking quality control around the world, checking on packing stations but sources food from the UK as much as possible. Obviously for certain goods we need to follow the sun, so salad goods are locally grown in greenhouses in our summer months but come from southern Europe during the winter. With thoughts of care for the planet and changes in demand and attitudes the aim is to remove plastic, reduce CO2 emissions and use trains to move goods and not lorries. They try to reduce food waste and to help farmers they sell “wonky goods” at reduced prices’ they send outdated stock to food banks and charities, send it for use as pet foods and if anything is left over it is sent to anaerobic digestion plants. A most interesting speaker who also explained how plants are grown hydroponically (ie in water), that there is no genetic modification in any of the fruit and vegetables sold by Tesco’s and that organic goods are more expensive as they are grown in soil with no use of pesticides.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 16th April when Tim Hayward from Fitzbillies in Cambridge will be speaking. I do hope he brings some goodies for us to enjoy

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room.

Sylvia Overton

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 April.

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Bottisham Bird Brain

A month ago, I was privileged to deliver an informal talk about our garden birds to the Bottisham & District Gardening Club. I am grateful for their attendance and enthusiasm, and I discovered that – whilst I included all the usual suspects among the Finches (Fringillidae), Thrushes (Turdidae), Tits (Paridae), etc – I made a glaring omission from the Corvids... the beautiful Jay!

There are various species and sub-species of Jay in the world, but the only one you'll see in this country is usually described in modern reference books as the Eurasian Jay, with the evocative Latin name of '*Garrulus glandarius*'. (As birdwatching and bird reference material become increasingly international, the prefix 'Eurasian' crops up with annoying regularity among some of our most familiar birds, e.g. Starling, Robin, to name but two!)

Many people don't realise that the brightly coloured Jay is a close relative of the Crows and, I must admit, although I see Jays all the time out on my bike in wooded areas, I hadn't appreciated just how many are visiting the gardens of Bottisham (certainly not mine)! There seems to have been a general movement of Jays into more urban areas in recent decades, probably due to the destruction of woodland habitat through farming and building.

However, it's not all that easy to catch a prolonged look at a Jay in the open, despite their striking colouring. They are rather shy birds, favouring woodland with plenty of cover, especially oak woods where the supply of acorns is abundant. What you are most likely to see first is a flash of the distinctive white rump as the bird lies over a road, or disappears into the adjacent foliage. But when you do secure a good look, the Jay is a stunning creature... the overall plumage is a buffish-pink, with black and white in the wings and prominent blue wing coverts. There is a black 'moustache' either side of the pale throat and some mottling on the crown which gives the suggestion of a crest. Of course, you might hear its cackling or screeching beforehand – not dissimilar to Magpie calls, but beware the Jay's talent for mimicry – it can also do a passable Buzzard call!

Jays, like most Corvids, enjoy a varied diet which tends to follow the seasons. They are at home feeding on the ground or up in the canopy – taking a wide range of invertebrates and a selection of fruits and nuts, but it is also an opportunist and will predate other birds' nests for eggs and chicks as well as bats and small rodents. An unusual feature of the Jay's eating habits is its propensity for caching food, acorns in particular, especially during the Autumn when food might become scarce in the following months. A single Jay can spread over a thousand acorns per year and, due to not being able to remember every location, Jays make a significant contribution to the propagation of oak trees in the UK and Europe. In fact, Jays are even credited with the spread of oaks following the last Ice Age, before humans began planting trees on a commercial scale!

If you ever see a Jay on the ground with its wings partly open, have a close look if you can because it's likely to be 'anting'. It's not a feeding exercise, but a means of caring for their feathers. Ants' bodies are rich in formic acid, which acts as an effective cleansing agent when the bird allows the insects to crawl over their feathers. The bird may even pick

(Continued on page 39)

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(Continued from page 41)

up a beakful of ants and actually rub them into its feathers before preening. Cool eh?! (The only other bird – that I know of – to employ a similar method of anti-parasite feather care is the equally beautiful Green Woodpecker, which I'll cover in a future Cresset.)

Another memorable bird that didn't feature in my chat to the gardeners was the Cuckoo, the simple reason being that I haven't seen or heard a cuckoo in Bottisham for probably 20 years. There used to be one that called regularly from behind Cedar Walk, but I'm afraid it's, sadly, long gone. Has anyone heard a Cuckoo in the village this year? Last year? Last decade? We'll have a look at the Cuckoo in a future edition of 'Bird Brain' but, in the meantime, please do let me know if you've heard or seen one...

TTFN - Gerry Daish

Jay, Jay, plant me an acorn.
I will plant you a thousand acorns.

Acorn, acorn, grow me an oak.
I will grow you an oak that will live
for a thousand years.

Year, year, fledge me a Jay.
I will fledge you a Jay that will plant
you a thousand acorns that will each
grow a thousand oaks that will each
live a thousand years that will each
fledge a bright-backed, blue-winged,
forest-making Jay.



from 'The Lost Words: A Spell Book' by Robert MacFarlane

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NEW VOLUNTEER CAMBS WEBSITE CALLS ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO MAKE THEIR MARK WITH VOLUNTEERING

A new website has been launched by **Support Cambridgeshire**, promoting exciting opportunities for residents of Cambridgeshire to explore volunteering near them.

Whether you have 10 minutes to spare or 10 hours, in a few clicks you can be matched with an organisation or group in the community which inspires you to make your mark, expand on the skills you already have, discover new ones, unlock your potential or create lasting friendships with like-minded people.

All you need to do is visit the **Volunteer Cambs** website at volunteercambs.org.uk, create an account and hey presto! At the click of a button, you can find the ideal cause to support right on your doorstep.

“Volunteering is not just about helping others”, say the creators of the new volunteer matchmaking service – “it’s also about what they’ll get in return. This includes a sense of purpose, wonderful experiences, and a whole lot of thanks from the causes they are helping”

Volunteer Cambs works by asking organisations and groups to load up their opportunities and profiles directly so there’s always something new for a volunteer to look at every time they visit the site. And the good causes who are promoting their work benefit by having a continuous stream of potential volunteers.

The website has also had backing from the Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. Speaking about the launch of Volunteer Cambs, Dr, Nik Johnson said: “The role of volunteers in supporting our local communities is crucial, and it’s always humbling to see the efforts of our residents who give up their time and skills to support the causes that are important to them. I’m hugely excited about the impact the Volunteer Cambs portal is set to make in matching volunteers with the organisations that need them - and am proud to see our region leading the charge and shining an even brighter light on the importance of volunteering and making connections like never before.”

An enquiry form featured on the website will help groups and volunteers match up, contact each other, and there is even a chat function for those who want to dip their toe in first. Would be volunteers can search for opportunities by location if transport is an issue, for instance, or by topics that match their skill set and interests.

Mark Freeman, CEO at Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service, Volunteer Cambs lead partner continued: “Volunteers benefit from knowing they can make a real positive difference and have a strong impact on their local area. And anyone can volunteer, you could be retired, a skilled professional, a student, a family who want to volunteer together, or even a corporate team. Sharing talents with others connects all of us in a really special way and can boost our mental health and well-being too by helping us to feel valued, knowing that what we do as volunteers is appreciated and respected.”

The Volunteer Cambs team will be out-and-about across in Cambridgeshire over the coming year. You can also keep an eye on the site for more information and inspiring stories and photographs of great volunteer/group matches transforming lives and raising awareness of the value, impact and importance they’re having in their local area.

To find out how you can match your precious time to local good causes visit volunteercambs.org.uk. It all starts with one act of kindness.

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