

July/August 2023

THE 
Cresset



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



Village Litter Picks

Fresh air, friendship and
looking after our wildlife

Bring your gloves!

Share refreshments afterwards

Starting Location	Date	Month
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	24 th	June
Queens Court Care Home	15 th	July
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	26 th	August
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	23 rd	September
Queens Court Care Home	21 st	October

Further Information:

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am for approx. 1.5 hours

Ways to keep in touch with updates:

- ✓ Join the Bottisham Village Litter Pick WhatsApp Group
- ✓ Visit the Bottisham Events Facebook Page
- ✓ Visit the Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page

The end of May and the start of 'Flaming June' seemed to have blessed the whole of the UK with glorious sunshine and temperatures of 25deg., apart from East Anglia, where we stayed for weeks under a blanket of cloud keeping temperatures 10+deg. below that of the rest of the country.

It will be sod's law then, if we have come up to the West of Scotland for a break and the heatwave that has blessed this area for the last 4 weeks promptly ends, but we are currently, at the time of writing staying in Kircudbright and the weather is holding up. It is good to feel like it's summer at last.

It is thanks to t'internet and the WeeFee (as I once heard it pronounced) that allows me to write all this and edit The Cresset from here and indeed from anywhere in the world. (I have in the past done it from my sister's home in America or when staying with friends in Vancouver!).

Very different from the description of Cresset production last month by Sylvia Overton who recalled her memories of the earlier days of the production of our magazine. Interesting read it was too.

This month Tricia McLaughlin adds her memories of what was clearly a much more hands-on manual task. If anybody else who was involved has some anecdotes to share, long or short, then do let me have them for inclusion.

It would also be great to get recollections of earlier days in the village. Many of our senior residents will recall a very different village before the likes of Thomas Christian Way was built or the Park Estate was being developed. I know it would be of interest to our readers, so do send them in.

I've only been here for 38 years, but even as a 'newbie' I have seen enormous change. When we came the military buildings were still here where TCWay and Peacock drive now lie and Lysander Cl. was still the 'Crystal structures' site. Those places must have been gold dust for the then Children of the village as a ready made play park. There must be tales to tell.

We have had to produce this month's magazine with a slightly earlier timescale than usual because of production team and printer's holidays, so I apologise if there has been an entry which has missed the copy deadline.

Also, as there will be no August magazine, the next issue will be September and with that we will have seen the summer passed and Autumn looming ahead of us. Tempus fugit!

As one gets older, time seems to pass more quickly. The weeks seem to fly by. Well, let me tell you, when you do this job, it is the months that seem to fly by too!

This month's magazine is, as usual, full of useful information of what is going on in Bottisham and also some interesting articles.

The 'Herb of the Month' article this month is a good example of both useful and interesting things you didn't know about dill.

Gerry Daish always makes an interesting read and helps us identify our garden visitors.

The gardening club article reports on the tour of many famous gardens led by one Peter Walker. Well I have to tell you, I like nice gardens but certainly would not be knowledgeable enough to lead a tour of them even if it was a 'virtual' tour. There must be another Peter Walker about!

(continued on page 2.)



(continued from page 1.)

This month's cover picture is of Lode Mill (©Ashley Dace 2001). Back in 1896 it used to be a cement mill with 4 cement kilns producing some 40 tonnes per week! The business expanded with two more kilns and produced cement and fertilizer until 1920. Apparently, the cement produced was not of the best 'Portland' quality. It was run by the Bottisham Lode Cement Co.

Enjoy your summer, wherever you are, whether the back garden or some far flung exotic beach and we will be back in September.

Your Editor (The other Peter Walker)

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

By the time you read this – all being well – we may well have appointed a new vicar. The interview is due to take place on June 27th and I will put the result on the Bottisham Community Facebook page. The churchwardens from the Anglesey Benefice have been meeting together and with officials from the Diocese of Ely and communicating by email, hopefully to bring about a successful outcome.



I am delighted to report that the final sum raised, as a result of our Easter Gift Day Appeal, is £6250 which is a magnificent response. I would like to thank each and every one of you who has donated. Although only around 1% of Bottisham residents regularly attend our church services nearly 10% responded to our appeal. We have already met with our Church Architect and are discussing our rebuilding priorities. Should we repair the roof – which has stopped leaking at present since the repairs were done or start to repair the extensive crumbling clunch stone of the South Clerestory?

In the month of June we held funeral services in the church, for three former Bottisham Residents; Rocco Fabitene, Liesel Boughton-Fox and Christopher Nowak. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this very sad time. Many thanks to the teams that supported these ceremonies.

For the next couple of months our church services will revert back to our normal pattern. Revd. Keith Morrison will lead us for Holy Communion on the first Sunday of July while Sarah Maxwell will take a service of Morning Prayer on the third Sunday of each month. On the first Sunday of August, the 6th, we will be privileged to host a service of Holy Communion led by the Bishop of Huntingdon, the Rt Revd. Dagmar Winter. Please try to come along and hear what she has to say to us. Finally on September 3rd Revd. Liz Caswell, another Bottisham resident, will come to lead our Communion service. Our toddler group will continue to meet on a Tuesday morning starting around 9.30am in term time. All are very welcome to attend. A small team continues to take a service monthly at Hilton Park and Oaklands on the second Wednesday of the month.

The grasses in the churchyard have grown enormously in the past few weeks and I am liaising with officials at the Cambridgeshire Eco Churchyard project with regard to a formal inspection and certification. If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please contact me.

We look forward to welcoming you to any of our services.

Stuart Field - Churchwarden

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Dear Editor

Bird Brain's delightful article about the Sky Lark in last month's Cresset has inspired me to pen just how fortunate we are here in Bottisham to live in countryside surrounded by the indispensable habitat required for the survival of species such as the Sky Lark. There is even reported sightings of the rare Silver Studded Blue butterfly which thrives on a chalk grassland habitat. But sadly, unlike many villages in the countryside, Bottisham is a prime target for the ravages of misplaced development thus putting this unique habitat under threat. Indeed, if you are followers of programmes such as Countryfile, These Wild Isles and Springwatch you will be acutely aware of the loss of Britain's flora and fauna. Some estimate this to be in excess of ninety per cent over the past sixty or so years. A hard fact to take in but a fact repeatedly made by organisations such as the Countryside Alliance, CPRE, RSPB and the Wildlife Trust.

Furthermore, the National Trust, being but one, has said that over forty per cent of the UK's native species of wildlife is in decline, and that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world with many of our wild habitats becoming fragile and fragmented. This argument is supported in a recent poll by Orb where a vast majority of people also believe that the countryside should be regarded as part of Britain's national heritage. In this epoch of climate change political leaders and Local Planning Authorities are being encouraged to pay far more attention in making protection of the countryside, environment conservation and wildlife more robust.

After being buttonholed on a similar topic by a social acquaintance a few weeks my retort was it was my belief that whilst most people in this village supported local enterprise, initiative and entrepreneurialism many feel it should nevertheless be achieved within the planning rules that safeguard protected areas and that defend existing residential amenities. Personally I would go even further and say that NO special case can ever exist for building on land with protected status. Just because more suitable (brownfield) sites elsewhere are not in a particular land owner's possession is no justification whatsoever for concreting over centuries old local heritage assets that have provided and continue to provide a biodiverse sanctuary.

TJ

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

JULY

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

AUGUST

Wed 2nd	8 pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) – online via Zoom
Sun 6th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion, Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship – Quy Village Hall
Sun 13th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion, Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship, Swaffham Prior
Sun 20th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer, Quy
	10.30am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck
Sun 27th		Morning Prayer, Bottisham
	9am	Online service, on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Prior
Every Thur	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.



CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



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Think changes could be made?

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Parish Council Report

Firstly, I would like to welcome Cllrs Shaker, Socea & Laurent, who were co-opted to the Parish Council at our June meeting. I am grateful to them for stepping forwards to serve the village in this way and am confident they will make an excellent contribution. However we still have one vacancy and would love to see that filled, so that we are at full strength to take forwards the number of projects in front of us. If you feel that this is a way in which you might be able to support your community, please email the Clerk (clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk.) and we would be pleased to discuss further with you.

THE END OF THE BEGINNING!!

Having battled through years of challenge and delays with Covid, I am pleased to report that we finally obtained planning consent to build a new cemetery on 22nd May - some 11 years on from our first working party meeting!! What a marathon!! But it is only the end of the beginning. The next stage is compulsory purchase to be exercised by ECDC. This is not a fast process but, with a following wind, we should be able to commence construction next summer. Optimistically we may then be able to open the cemetery in 2025 - just as we reach capacity in our current cemetery!!

It is important to point out that we hope to establish not only a cemetery, but a much needed leisure amenity for the village. In liaison with a National Trust landscape consultant and other specialists, we have designed what should be a pleasing place to walk and enjoy nature - with extensive planting of trees and shrubs. We hope it will also provide an educational resource for our many school students to explore nature and ecology.

We have presented the developing plans for the cemetery at Annual Parish Meetings over the years and received input from residents. However, if you have not had a chance to view them, there is an introduction to the project on the Parish Council web-site that you might like to read.

BOTTISHAM GREENWAY

There has been much activity around the proposals for the Swaffham & Bottisham Greenways. While supportive of encouraging walking/cycling into Cambridge, all the East Cambs villages impacted by the proposals have been concerned at the lack of consultation with residents - and have had many concerns with the plans. Cllrs Wilson, Winkcup and I recently attended a meeting with representatives from Swaffham Bulbeck, Lode & Swaffham Prior Parish Councils (attended also by County Councillor Alan Sharp) to discuss our response. We are drafting a joint letter to the GCP expressing our concerns at the lack of consultation.

On the plus side the project team have responded positively to requests from Councils to meet on -site to discuss our concerns. On 8th June members of Bottisham Parish Council, supported by District Cllrs Cane and Trapp, had a constructive on-site meeting with the project team viewing the areas impacted. The project team also met separately with the

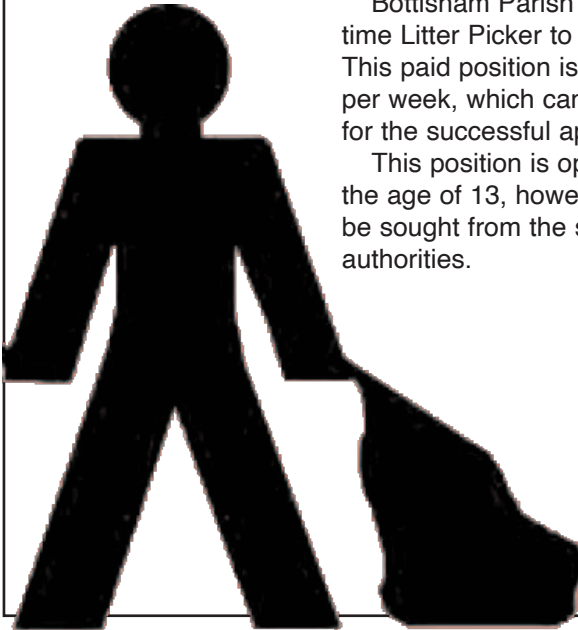
Continued on page 9

VACANCY

LITTER PICKER



Bottisham
Parish
Council
Serving Residents
Supporting the Community



Bottisham Parish Council are seeking a part time Litter Picker to keep the village clean and tidy. This paid position is for approximately two hours per week, which can be carried out when suitable for the successful application.

This position is open to all including those over the age of 13, however permission would need to be sought from the school and the relevant authorities.

All equipment and training will be provided by the Parish Council and the salary will be reimbursed monthly in arrears.

Application forms and more information are available from the Clerk by telephoning 07369 248998 or emailing clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

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Continued from page 7

Village College. We have yet to see what impact our meetings have had on the revised plans, but are hopeful that an improved and more practical solution is forthcoming.

BUSES!!

An item that received a lot of discussion at the June Council meeting. The No. 12 bus is providing a good service into Cambridge and residents of villages along the B1102 are also benefiting from a faster service into the city with the re-routing of the No.11 bus. However the lack of connection between Bottisham and local villages remains a matter of great concern - as we know from resident's communications.

The AtoB 1102 group has provided an excellent cross-village approach and voice on local transport and this is very much on their radar. The group is planning to shortly survey transport needs across the villages, in order to generate a well reasoned case to persuade the authorities to find a solution. Albeit sadly nothing is likely to change until the end of the current contracts in March 2024.

LITTER PICKING

It is always a pity to see the large amount of litter blowing around our streets after "bin day". A lot of this is generated by bags broken open by wildlife, often tempted by food waste. Could I please encourage us all to follow the "Street Scene Team" guidance, to use your green bin for food waste and rinse off food residues on non-recyclable packaging.

The Parish Council employ two litter pickers to keep the villages streets clean. We currently have a vacancy for a litter picker and you will see an advert in this magazine for a replacement. Could I please ask you to consider whether you or someone you know might be able to step in to fill the gap?

Jon Ogborn - Chair of Bottisham Parish Council

Check out our website for the latest news, minutes and agendas, <http://bottisham-pc.gov.uk>

Planning Notes

a) New applications:

23/00395/HEN: 63 Bell Road Bottisham. Single storey rear extension

23/00522/FUL: 1A Jenyns Close Bottisham Cambridge Replacement of existing wall and hedge with a 2m high fence.

b) Planning Applications approved by ECDC:

22/00703/FUM: Land Northwest Of Village College Lode Road Bottisham. Change of use of agricultural land to cemetery, re-profiling of the land to create a burial platform, creation of pedestrian and vehicular access, car park, access paths, maintenance yard, storage area, hand pump and associated infrastructure.



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County Council Report

SWAFFHAM HEATH ROAD/ A1303 CROSSROADS

This continues to be delayed awaiting the signature on the land sale to enable the staggered junction to be constructed. The delay to the commencement of these works has been very frustrating and it is hoped that work will commence very soon on this much needed road improvement.

ROAD MAINTENANCE & POTHoles

I have had continued comments from residents about the poor state of roads around the County. I continue to be in constant contact with Highways officers to get the necessary roads repaired to the level that is expected. The recent Bell Road repairs are not, in my opinion, up to standard and I am trying to get a more sustainable job done.

I proposed a motion at the recent Full County Council meeting on 16th May, asking that in view of the budget for road maintenance not increasing with inflation, there has been an effective cut of £710k in the road maintenance budget and demanding that the full amount of the extra monies from Government totalling about £3.6m is put into the road maintenance budget, together with a draft action plan submitted in July.

The ruling group have agreed that a draft action plan will be provided to the next Highways & Transport Committee meeting in July showing the improvements in dealing with highways maintenance.

GREENWAYS

There is still a large amount of concern over the proposals by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) around the village. I will continue to represent residents and assist the Parish Council, in ensuring that whatever is decided has the backing of the Parish Council and represents the wishes of the community, as I have grave concerns about the GCP proposals together with the governance of those proposals.

CONGESTION CHARGE

The results of the Congestion Charge consultation were announced on May 26th. The results showed 58% against the congestion charging proposals and whilst there was over 70% in favour of improved bus services, that was not linked to how they would be funded. Most residents want better bus services, but the issue is how are those funded, as the congestion charge proposal is certainly not the solution. I will continue to object to any imposition of a daily charge on residents driving in Cambridge.

BUSES

The bus service run by Stephenson's appears to be running satisfactorily. However, there are issues with the number 11 buses not going into Bottisham, as the previous service, which means that residents are not able to access the Bottisham GP surgery, as before.

The Combined Authority (CPCA) are producing a bus plan, but this has been a very long time in the making and I have little confidence, that it will produce the solution that residents desire. I now sit as the East Cambs District Council representative on the CPCA Transport & Infrastructure Committee and will ensure that the current plan is more fit for purpose than previously submitted and that we can get the changes to services that will help residents in their daily lives.

I am here to represent you, so if there are any issues that concern you, please contact me. If I am not aware of an issue, I am not able to solve it.

Alan Sharp Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Woodditton Division
Tel: 01638 507485/ 07794292941 - Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



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Lucy Frazer MP for South East Cambridgeshire writes

Dear Residents,

I know how valuable local assets are to every community. It is therefore important that we do all we can to protect them.

The Community Ownership Fund does this by enabling communities to take ownership of assets at risk of closure, sale or dereliction so they can be enjoyed once again by local people.

Both parish councils and incorporated voluntary or community organisations are invited to apply for the latest round of funding, which is open from 31 May – 12 July 2023.

Up to £1 million is available for all asset types (which is an increase on the previous limit of £250,000) and funds can cover up to 80 per cent of the total capital funds required, with applicants required to raise the other 20 per cent from other sources.

If you can think of any assets which could benefit from this funding, you might want to consider applying via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-ownership-fund-prospectus/community-ownership-fund-prospectus--3>. Please also feel free to contact me if I can be of any help.

Best wishes, Lucy Frazer - MP for South East Cambridgeshire

Bonfires or Smoke Nuisance

There is no by-law in the Bottisham district which states when you can have a bonfire & we have no smoke control areas. Although bonfires are not banned, they should be avoided as the ash, smoke & odour they produce are common causes of complaints. Bonfires are often seen as an easy way of disposing of garden waste but they are not environmentally friendly. You should try & make full use of the civic amenity sites in the area that take green waste. Details of the local facilities can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council & Suffolk County Council websites.

You should only have a fire when absolutely necessary but if you must have a fire there are clear Dos & Don'ts which can help you avoid causing a nuisance!

DO

- Do think about the wind direction & where the smoke is likely to go.
- Do make your neighbours aware that you intend to have a fire. This gives them the opportunity to close windows & take in washing. Especially on these summer evenings!
- Do choose the location carefully. Make sure it is away from trees, fences & buildings.
- Do avoid lighting a fire during unsuitable weather conditions. Smoke will hang in the air on damp still days but can blow across gardens & roads if it is too windy.

DON'T

- Don't burn damp garden waste as this will produce thick smoke.
- Don't burn plastics, rubber, foam, car tyres, etc as this will produce toxic black smoke.
- Don't allow the fire to smoulder overnight. Rake over the ashes to make sure it is fully extinguished.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) it is an offence to cause a statutory nuisance. To be considered as such a bonfire would usually have to be a regular problem & interfering substantially with the wellbeing, comfort or enjoyment of your property. If you wish to make a complaint about a bonfire, please visit either Bottisham Parish Council website (www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk) for Report It link or call East Cambs District Council on 01353 665555



The region's largest art event is back this July. Artists will open their doors to the public over four weekends in July for the annual Cambridge Open Studios art event.

This year 365 artists are exhibiting in 244 locations across Cambridge, Ely, Saffron Walden and many surrounding villages.

Among the huge range of specialisms will be: fine art, photography, pottery, photography, sculpture, illustration, textiles, jewellery, furniture making, and more besides.

Cambridge Open Studios runs on the first four weekends in July:
01st -2nd, 8th -9th, 15th -16th and 22nd -23rd



Art Trail: Southeast Villages

The Southeast Villages Art Trail takes in 10 of the fantastic artists exhibiting in this area in July. Find more details and download the art trail flyer at www.camopenstudios.org/july



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www.camopenstudios.org



The garden is heating up and so is the fun at Anglesey Abbey. We are busy making plans for our Winter Lights 2023 annual fundraising event and this year we have trusted favourite displays as well as plenty of new showstopping projections and lights to wow you. Tickets will be on sale from early July. Tickets sell out fast, don't miss you chance to visit this year's Winter Lights at Anglesey Abbey.

In the House, the Wonders of the Library display continues. Visit from 1st July to see the beautifully bound edition of *The Wizard of Oz*, chosen by House Experience Volunteer, Lynda. In August, the display will change, and you can see *The Google Book* chosen by Meg, our Programming & Partnerships Officer. This is a fantastical children's book, with beautifully illustrated magical creatures including the Google bird. Meg chose this book as it reminded her of reading Dr. Suess books as a child. Meg says 'The whimsical and unique illustrations leap from the pages. There are many creatures in the Google Book and all of them are uniquely beautiful and a little scary! You can almost picture them running wild in the gardens!' July and August are your last chance to see the current display of books from our Magic of Books exhibition, books which have never been on public display before. In September, a new display of books will be installed, showcasing the variety and individuality of the books collected by Lord Fairhaven.

The gardens are glorious, as expected at the time of year. Lush green trees, bold colourful displays in the Herbaceous Garden, and calm walks along Quay water to see Lode Mill looking picturesque. There are plenty of spots to stop, take a breath, and enjoy the sounds and smells of the summer. In late August we will be opening the Dahlia Garden for our dazzling display, keep an eye on our website and social media pages for specific opening dates and times. The garden team work hard to propagate dahlia bulbs, meticulously plant the rainbow display, and maintain the lawn in the Dahlia Garden, so come along and see it for yourself.

There's lots of activities and fun to be had with your friends and your family this school summer holiday. From 22nd July- 3rd September the Summer of Play will be the best way to burn of some energy on the racetrack and woodland gym, build the best den and get closer to nature, perform a play, listen to a story on the South Lawn stage, and add your mark to our summer colouring in wall. Its free to take part (normal admission applies) and the Woodland Play Area will be open daily for more adventure.

*Please check our website and social media pages for the latest information
[Nationaltrust.org.uk/AngleseyAbbey](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/AngleseyAbbey)*

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Some of Cambridgeshire's hottest tickets this summer are with The Library Presents

A vibrant and inclusive arts programme is returning to Cambridgeshire this summer, thanks to The Library Presents. Over 600 local residents helped to choose the season's performers and events, scheduled to run across the country during July and August.

The Summer Season offers an incredible line up and brings the opportunity to enjoy lots of fantastic live music, with plenty of events for families, and a sprinkling of theatre, dance and comedy.

Tickets go on sale on 15 June. Based on the success and popularity of previous seasons, demand is expected to be in high. Standard performances are £8 and workshops are £6. Concessions and other affordable options will be available, in order to make the events as accessible as possible.

Roam the world with the help of the Mazaika Duo, set to provide a magical and exhilarating performance full of passion, melodrama and virtuosity. A unique, humorous and uplifting take on East European Folk, Classical, Opera, Tango, Jazz, Latin, Gypsy Swing and Pop.

James Kerry's love of folk music is infectious and guaranteed to leave you dancing all the way home! Featuring fiddle, viola, mandolin, acoustic guitar and melodeon, James and his band bring to life music from his new album 'The Source', themed around the river on which he lives.

Enjoy upbeat, foot stomping Afrobeat tunes! Gasper is a unique solo musician from Malawi who plays a self-made "Babatoni" bass guitar. Featured on CNN, BBC6 and in the documentary 'Deep Roots Malawi', this captivating performer has already gained over 20 million online views.

There will also be the chance to participate in a number of art, dance and craft workshops including Comic Making, Samba Drumming and Indian Dance.

Most events will take place in libraries, but the wonderful "Wagon of Dreams" theatre production will be staged in Yeomans Field, Littleport. Families will love meeting the show's outrageous mermaids and fantastical sea creatures in the playful and inventive show, by Jellyfish Theatre. Expect lots of puppetry, music and laughter! This is a Relaxed Performance with integrated Sign Supported English.

Comedian James Campbell is bringing a stand-up show for children, their parents and anyone who likes comedy without rude words. James wrote the bestselling Funny Life books, and has appeared on Blue Peter and at the Royal Albert Hall.

Commenting on the upcoming season, Councillor Tom Sanderson, Chair of the County Council's Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee said: "Everyone is welcome to the Summer Season programme of events, which will be our 11th season of arts activities in libraries. I'm proud to say that we have been successful in our funding application to Arts Council, enabling us to continue until 2026. The programme relies on members of the community to help select the forthcoming programme. We were delighted that this year's programme was built on the selections of around 600 people who told us what they would like to see in their libraries."

We aim to make our activities as welcoming and accessible as possible, so certain events in the season will include enhanced accessibility. These additional accessibility measures include Relaxed Performances (autism and neurodiverse friendly), and performances with a BSL interpreter and staff who speak BSL to welcome audiences. Hearing loops will be available at some events, or can be booked in advance. Touch tours can be arranged and detailed information about building access is available within the programme guide and on the website. Service animals are welcome at all events and audience members are welcome to get in touch to make specific access requests.

Hazel Edwards, South East Area Director, Arts Council England, said: "We were delighted to continue our funding for The Library Presents through our 2023-26 National Portfolio, supporting

Continued on page 19

Poppy Appeal in Bottisham

Due to retirement, we are looking for volunteers that can co-ordinate the Poppy Appeal in Bottisham from the end of October. This involves distribution of poppies and collecting tins to local businesses and shops so that poppies are available to all, plus collection of poppies and tins after the appeal (Remembrance Sunday 12th November) and counting and banking donations. Money raised from the Appeal all helps and supports the Armed Forces Community. You don't need to have a military connection to join in, or be a member of the Royal British Legion, we welcome everyone, and we would really like to hear from any local businesses that would like to take part as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Royal British Legion Cambridgeshire Community Fundraiser Lucy Acred on 07768 307398, or email; lacred@britishlegion.org.uk



Note from the Editor

You will see above an appeal for an organiser for the poppy appeal in Bottisham. This has come about due to the retiral of Kat Rayment, who has filled this role ably for the last eight years. Kat took over from John Overton who also did the task for many years.

As secretary of the branch and also personally, I would like to thank Kat for her good work over those eight years while also juggling a busy work schedule and family life.

The task involves organising the distribution of 20 or so collection boxes and kits to school, shops, pubs and clubs in the surrounding area at the beginning of poppy fortnight. Then the collection at the end, counting the money and banking it. We don't do door to door now.

It is not an overly complicated task and there are a team of willing helpers when the time comes.

If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause and have a few hours to spare once a year, then do read the detail below and get in touch.

Continued from page 17

them to programme a huge variety of creative and cultural events that communities across Cambridgeshire can enjoy. It is hugely powerful to see that local residents have played such an important role in choosing the performers and events that they want to see. I hope lots of people get the chance to enjoy their fun filled summer season.”

The Library Presents is funded by Arts Council England, run by Cambridgeshire County Council working with Babylon ARTS.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.library.live/the-library-presents>, subscribe to our email newsletter, or stay up to date on Facebook and Instagram at: @TheLibraryPresents.

Pick up a brochure or book tickets for all of the events running as part of The Library Presents Summer Season from 15 June in libraries and online www.library.live/the-library-presents.

Red2Green

Firstly, we just want to say a MASSIVE thank you to the whole of Bottisham for coming together at your coronation village party and raising £210 for us. It was incredibly generous of you, and we were very glad to be able to part of your day through providing table decorations created by our garden team.

Over 25 years ago now, we grew out of Bottisham Village College as a special needs support unit before officially becoming registered charity in 2005. Thanks to the pandemic, we had to close our café to the public, and it meant we lost touch with a lot of our Bottisham community. Whilst we look at ways to potentially reopen this, our garden shop remains open Monday – Friday and there are plenty of ways to get involved with us should you wish to.

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following roles over the summer holidays:

MINIBUS DRIVERS:

Who will take clients and support workers on days out to places such as Anglesey Abbey and Cambridge Botanical Gardens.

Must have a full driver’s licence but we will provide Midas minibus training if necessary and £3.50 to cover lunch expenses.

WEEKEND GARDENERS:

Our plants at the community garden need a drink, even at the weekend!

Our support workers and clients aren’t on site on a Saturday or Sunday so we need volunteers to pop in and water the plants and vegetables.

If you want to know more about either volunteer role, please email Robyn: robyn.jarvis@red2green.org

SUMMER PLANT SALE

All plants are now £1, so why not pop in and grab yourself a bargain? Did you know we also have an online shop now for click and collect orders? <https://fundraising.red2green.org/shop/community-garden-shop>

GARDEN PARTY

We will be opening our community garden doors to the public on Sunday 30th July, 10am - 2pm. If you would like to volunteer some time on the day, cake, or anything else you can think of, please email Robyn. Keep an eye out through the village for posters and more information on the day’s activities.

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Cresset History

Further to Sylvia Overton's recent article in the *Cresset*, I also have some memories of the early days of the *Cresset*.

I too, was invited to a meeting to discuss the production of a revised village magazine, held in, I think, Susan Threlfall's house on the High Street After wondering for a while why I was there, the penny dropped when someone said "Of course we'll need someone to type the magazine." That would be me then! Of course I was pleased to take on the job. It was typed on a long carriage typewriter (which is still in my loft) on stencils inserted sideways into the manual typewriter. Christine Bryant was the editor at that time.

It wasn't an easy typing job, we had no 'cut and paste' and the right- and left-hand pages were quite separate, e.g. page 10 on the left was typed up with, say, page 41 on the right. So to continue an article from page 6 to page 7 could throw the whole magazine out. It certainly didn't have as many pages in the early days.

Computers made the whole production much easier, but they came in after my time and I recall burning the midnight oil every month and a lot of pink correction fluid! The stencils were then passed to Sylvia in the Resources Office at the College to be manually run off on the Roneo.

I do regret not keeping copies of the early magazines I typed – it would be interesting to see how much styles have changed.

Best wishes, - Tricia McLaughlin

Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

AUTUMN TERM BEGINS AT 10.30AM ON THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER.

We are pleased to announce the return of a firm favourite, Marina Burrell, who will lead us on a literary adventure with a ten-week course entitled '**RUSSIAN LITERATURE through RUSSIAN EYES**'.

We will discuss the role of Russian Literature in world culture through a Russian perspective, analysing some literary samples from Pushkin, Tolstoy, Gogol, Chekhov and Silver Age poetry. Also discussing the life and works of Pasternak and Alexievich.

The course will be a Power Point presentation supplemented with period artefacts, links to videos and audio materials.

Please note there will be a break for half term on Thursday 26th October. The fee will be £40 plus a £5 joining fee for non-members.

We look forward to seeing you at Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club, Downing Close for this course. New members are always welcome.

For more information email bottishambala@btinternet.com

Helen Cole



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Bottisham WI

Jean Coxall from Lode, a former Cambridgeshire County Chairman gave a most interesting talk of a special day in 2005 on Mrs Beaton's celebration picnic for 40 people at Woburn Abbey.

The Federation had been asked by Anglia TV who were preparing 10 programmes with Annabel Croft on East Anglia to celebrate this event. The Federation were approached to provide blancmanges (which had to turn out perfectly and wobble perfectly at the event), 2 cabinet puddings and some small cakes. Their original feeling was to say NO but after persuasion by the producers they fortunately changed their mind. They were filmed preparing the food (had to do several attempts for the blancmange), did a short travelogue on Cambridge - punting etc and then came the great day the picnic itself.

They were beautifully dressed and set off in a white open topped Rolls Royce with cool boxes with the food and hat boxes for their hired hats for Woburn. On arrival they were very impressed with the long table absolutely groaning with food and enjoyed the picnic with the other 9 programme makers. Whilst the tables were then cleared for the afternoon picnic they were treated to a 40 minute flight over the abbey in a very old Tiger plane. Much difficulty in climbing on and off. Then back for tea (another sumptuous spread) when their foods were enjoyed and their fears of no wobble on the blancmange were allayed. Then back home in the Rolls Royce. An exceptional, memorable day and they could so easily had said NO.

Do have a look on line for the list of foods Mrs Beaton suggested for the picnic.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 18th July when Kevin Boardman will be telling us the History of the Oregon Trail.

The members meeting for August will be held on Saturday 12th August when we will be holding a tea party in Jane Morris's garden to celebrate the Coronation. This is for members and their partners or a friend. The cost will be £5 per person and payment will be expected at the July meeting.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room at the social club.

Sylvia Overton

Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan

This is just a brief update on the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan. Writing this is in mid-June, we are still awaiting the announcement of the grant funding arrangements for 2023-4 before we commission consultants to assist in the preparation work. Once the grant is announced, the working Party will meet again to get things moving.

One of the first parts will be a consultation with all residents asking for their opinions on the village. This will be an opportunity for everyone to have an input on all aspects of village life. We hope to include the questionnaire in the September issue of The Cresset. So watch this space, and have your say in our future.

John Wilson

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 August.

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



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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Bottisham Community Library Association

We shall be holding a celebratory event on Saturday 8th July from 10a.m to 1.00pm in the Library to celebrate 20 years of volunteers running the public library here in Bottisham.

The result of our Art Competition will be announced. Jamie Sugg local artist and illustrator and Ian Whates science fiction/fantasy writer and publisher will both be there. We have a quiz arranged and a display of the most borrowed books and of course refreshments. PLEASE COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US and sign up to become a member. The library desk will be open as usual. We hope that volunteers from some of the other 10 community libraries which were all saved from closure will be there.

We are so pleased that we have restarted our Saturday morning Lego Club. Thanks to Laura Overton and her young sons who have been most enthusiastic. Future dates are 1st July, 12th August and 2nd September. Notices displayed in the library will advise the themes. Do remember we have Lego available for the very young to use.

The Summer Reading Challenge is entitled "Ready, Set, Read". Which suggests a sporting theme. Sign up date is Saturday 8th July and the Challenge starts on Saturday 15th.

Advance notice of our AGM on Tuesday 12th September and we are hoping that Louise Aldridge the Public Library Service Manager will be able to attend.

Sylvia Overton

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- August 12th - Awesome animals and their habitats**
- September 2nd - All things space**

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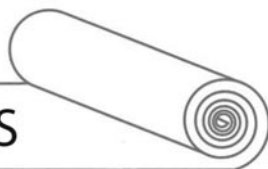


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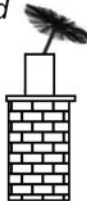
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Sunday - 12 noon to 9pm

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Our outside games – Jenga- Connect 4, Quoits.
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HALL HIRE
Do you need a venue for a party or a meeting in our newly refurbished Poppy Room?
Contact the club for details of our facilities for hire.

We are looking for Bar Staff. If you are interested and have bar experience please contact us. Contact details below.

What's on

Saturday 8th July – Roy Orbison Tribute Night including a Ploughman's Supper
£3 for members, £5 for non-members
Tickets are available from the bar- please buy in advance to guarantee supper.

Saturday 5th August – Karaoke with AJ's disco - 8pm start
£3 for members, £5 for non-members
Choose your favourite song and entertain us.

Saturday 19th August – Bowling Club Fundraiser
Cheese & Wine Event

Saturday 9th September – The Legionnaires 77
A night of great sounds from a great band.

Saturday 16th September – Charlie Brown
The soul man himself is with us again for an evening of soul and Motown.

Saturday 21st October – Bowls Club Fundraiser
Time to test your knowledge with a Quiz Night

Saturday 28th October – Family Disco with AJ
A Halloween special for families, dress up as your favourite character.

Saturday 2nd December – Christmas Party
Family Christmas Party an afternoon of fun and laughter

Please refer to the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk for the latest information. If you wish to be kept up to date with the latest news, please email bottishamesasc@gmail.com
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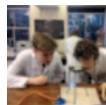
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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

ONLINE ACCESS: Patients can now contact the surgery for non-urgent queries during our opening hours using the 'Contact Us' link on our website. The practice team will respond within 2 working days. This can be used for: -

- Admin Queries eg fit 'sick' notes, ask about recent tests, order a repeat prescription
- Medical issues eg let us know about a new or ongoing symptom (non-urgent only)
- Online advice eg advice and guidance on conditions, symptoms and treatments

For more urgent help telephone the practice. If the practice is closed call 111 or in an emergency call 999.

HOLIDAYS AND MEDICATION: With summer holidays coming up, please remember to order your repeat prescriptions in good time if you are going away.

"NAAFI BREAK" The next meetings are on 5th July and 2nd August at Anglesey Abbey café at 10am.

So, what is NAAFI Break, where does it come from and what does it stand for? Well, firstly NAAFI break is basically a coffee morning for local veterans to meet up on the first Wednesday of every month where we meet in a safe place, "Anglesey Abbey Restaurant" and have a great giggle about nothing. We are joined by our Social Prescriber who is able to provide non-medical support to the veteran and their family members.

NAAFI was established in 1920 by the British Government, combining the Expeditionary Force canteens and the Army and Navy canteen board to run the recreational establishments needed by the Armed Forces and to sell goods to service personnel and their families. We know it as Navy, Army Air Force Institute . When serving abroad the NAAFI can be a lifeline to families for both purchasing goods and having a safe environment for entertainment.

So, if you're a veteran please come along to our NAAFI Break and enjoy our family spirit. 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.

Regular Meetings: Next meeting is Wednesday July 26th 2023 at 1.30pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you an invite.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

William and Mahala Benstead - Swaffham Prior Parish Council is looking for descendants of William and Mahala Benstead, in connection with the maintenance of their gravestone. Would anyone with any information please contact the **Clerk to the Parish Council, Jude Griffiths at swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com or 01638 745 106**

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Firstly (another) HUGE thank you to everyone who supports EAAA, by whatever means. What you are doing is working but this is no reason to rest on our laurels – our target to cover all our costs continues high – about £17m in fact! So, when you see that little red collection box ‘winking’ at you by the till, please respond with a few coins, some coins, Lots of coins! Purchasing methodology is changing, rapidly, so please carry real money even though you often use ‘plastic’ to pay.

There are, however, many other ways through which you can support us and help make a difference. 2022 saw EAAA tasked with over 2500 missions, attending 443 cardiac arrests, 386 road traffic collisions, 268 falls, 354 other medical emergencies and, would you believe, 60 assaults!

Unfortunately, where cardiac arrests are concerned, survival rates for patients who do not receive early bystander CPR or defibrillation are incredibly low, so we know anytime the bells ring for a cardiac arrest mission, time is essential. The wife of one such patient, Chris, was able to give CPR followed by the crew’s assessment, critical care on scene and subsequent treatment at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. Recovery has not been straightforward, Chris having suffered two strokes, a bleed on his brain and another cardiac arrest. He spent four weeks in a coma, six in critical care plus another week on a ward. Nearly a year on, Chris is recovering well and reflects how crucially important to his survival had been his wife’s CPR, EAAA critical care and the whole sequence of support.

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Michael White



Bottisham Village College

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With the museum's season nearly halfway through, I hope some of you had time to visit. We have met some interesting people from the village and local area.

On May 26th we hosted our second visit this year from the United States; a group of twenty-eight people from the Central Pennsylvania WW2 Roundtable led by Colonel Jeff "Tank" Patton USAF, Ret'd. They spent around an hour touring the museum led by Jason Webb, our Chairman of Trustees. On Monday 29th our Chairman Jason and volunteer Joby attended a Memorial Day ceremony at the American Cemetery Madingley, where Joby laid a wreath on behalf of the 361st Fighter Group that flew from Bottisham during the second world war.

On the 28th May around sixty vehicles from the "V8 Hotrods" car club in the Bury St. Edmunds area visited the museum, and what a sight they made travelling in convoy into the museum carpark. After staying with us for about two hours they departed home. It made for one of our busiest Sundays of the season so far, with over one hundred and forty visitors to the Museum.

After the Bottisham at War/ 1940's weekend on 1st and 2nd of July, our next event will be the Classic Car Show on Sunday 13th August, with classic cars coming from all over the region, and hopefully some hot rods. The band "Back in Time" will be playing three sessions starting around midday, and hot food will be available. Entry is £7.50 which includes entry to the museum. Do come along, last year around seventy cars attended. If you know someone with a classic car, please ask them to contact the museum. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Don't forget if you are passing on a Sunday or Wednesday you can come in the café for drinks and snacks without having to visit the Museum.

Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer



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Public Transport Matters

There's good news again this month as the £2 maximum adult single bus fare (at all times) has been extended to run until the end of October, courtesy of funding from central Government (the Department for Transport). This is a way of the Government financially supporting bus services while at the same time making it cheaper and more attractive for people to use them. Nearly all bus services in this area are included. So while that means that the adult single bus fare from Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck or Lode into either Cambridge or Newmarket is only £2, so too is the single bus fare from Cambridge to, say, Bedford (on the hourly and fast Stagecoach 905 bus) or Saffron Walden on the hourly Stagecoach 7 bus. These are bargain prices, and low fares are also set to continue beyond October, with a small increase then in the bus single fare upper limit to £2.50 running until at least the end of the year and probably longer. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap> for a list of all bus services that are included in the scheme.

Train travellers will have seen extensive works in recent weeks next to the railway line south of Cambridge by the Biomedical Campus adjacent to the Addenbrookes site. All was revealed in a lengthy BBC News article published in early June (www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-65807808) where we learnt that the Government had agreed to fully fund the construction of this new Cambridge South railway station. Due to open in 2025, the new station will mean that Cambridge will overtake 'the other place' in rail terms, as while Oxford got its second railway station in 2015, before Cambridge did in the form of Cambridge North, the opening of Cambridge South will put our city 'in the lead', as it were.

Also confirmed recently was Government commitment to the new East-West Rail extension running from Oxford but then east of Bedford on to Cambridge. A southern-approach route into Cambridge (via the new Cambridge South station) has also been given official 'preference', but no doubt there is still much to play for before the new railway line is built, which is probably unlikely to be before the 2030s.

But to turn to new railway lines that can actually be experienced now, the half-hourly train service from Cambridge direct to Gatwick Airport and on to Brighton, stops on the way at the central London station at Faringdon. This enables connection to the new 'Elizabeth Line' service – formerly known as Crossrail. It fully opened on 21st May this year and provides fast, smooth and frequent services between Reading and Heathrow Airport on the west, via Paddington and Bond Street, to Canary Wharf, London City Airport, Woolwich, Abbey Wood and Shenfield (Essex) to the east. Now carrying over 3.5 million passengers per week in airy, spacious trains, and stopping at large, stunningly-designed stations, this is a hugely impressive facility and has made it much easier to travel quickly to key points at the heart of central London and out to major suburbs.

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News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

SUMMER NATURE AT WICKEN FEN -

The Summer Nature Trail is looking stunning and is a 'must see' for any visit to the Fen over the next few months. The reeds and fen foliage are above head height, cocooning visitors in the peace and tranquillity of this part of the ancient Sedge Fen. Damselflies, dragonflies, and butterflies dart amongst the foliage, and we're looking forward to seeing the purple globes of devil'sbit scabious any day.



In the wider reserve, we're enjoying the graceful flight of hobbies, catching damselflies and dragonflies on the wing. The song of warblers and other summer migrants can still be heard on your walks across the routes around the Fen.

SUMMER HOLIDAY NEWS - Our programme of summer family fun kicks off on Saturday 20 July when our 'Feel the Noise' trail opens with lots of natural sensory activities to hear and touch – drop in during opening hours to experience the trail. You can also book throughout the summer holidays for activities such as: Muddy Play, Dragonfly Collage and Pond Dipping. Full details of all our events are available on our website (see links below).

Footprints project community engagement:

BIOBLITZ - SATURDAY 8 JULY - Further to our mention of BioBlitz in last month's article; here's some more information about how you can get involved. We have activities that you can join at 8am when moth and small mammal traps will be opened, 10am for a bird/birdsong walk, 11:30am for a dragonfly walk and 2pm for a plants/wildflower walk. You can also drop in anytime between 8am and 3:30pm to help us find and record species. Join us at our Welcome Gazebo at the Lode village end of White Fen. See our website for further information including directions.

ARTY FEN WORKSHOPS FOR AGE 12 TO 16 YEARS – WEDNESDAY 2 TO FRIDAY 4 AUGUST - We're excited to be offering free workshops for young people living in the fen edge villages aged 12 to 16 years at Wicken Fen as part of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project: Footprints. We want to connect local young people with nature through creative activities. You can choose from: photography, videography, drama, and dance. It would be great to see some young people from Bottisham enjoying these activities. For more information including details on how to sign up, please go to the 'What's On' section of our website (link below).

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

Details of our events can be found on our website at
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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

We were treated to a tour of Gardens in Beds, Bucks and Oxon at our May meeting by Peter Walker. Some were well known but others were private gardens with many interesting features which could easily be adopted in our own gardens.

He visited Oxford Botanical Gardens in spring with their many magnolias in bloom. The green houses do not compare with those of Cambridge but they do have a wonderful tree covered in mistletoe. Wrest Park, an English Heritage Property in Bedfordshire, had a huge area given over to formal planting, many sculptures and fountains and there was a long walkway down to the Pavilion, past waterways and we also saw the orangery which would have been full of citrus plants in earlier days.

Woburn is another popular place to visit and many of the formal gardens have been restored to their former glory. The orangery there is now used for weddings. Waddesdon Manor (National Trust) is a French Chateau formerly owned by the Rothschilds and built to accommodate his art treasures and antique furniture. Lots of formal gardens and natural parkland with bluebells and narcissus. The year that Peter had visited there was a great display of 50,000 red tulips. There are many sculptures here and a large aviary. An interesting trip around the neighbouring counties with some lovely pictures.

We have a summer party on 25th July when members are asked to bring their best rose for the Don Bedford Rose Cup Competition. There is no meeting in August.

Meetings are held in the Poppy Room at the social club at 7.30pm.

Sylvia Overton

Sales, Wants and Swaps



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District Councillors' Report

At the Council's Annual meeting Cllr Mark Goldsack was elected as the Council's Chair. John is on the Finance & Assets, Planning, and Licensing Committees and the Licensing Sub-Committee (non-statutory). Charlotte is on the Licensing and Audit Committees and the Licensing Sub-Committee (statutory). John is the Lib Dem's lead member on Licensing and Charlotte is the lead member on Audit.

All the Chairs and Vice-Chairs are Conservatives, which is not surprising as they have 15 Councillors to the Lib Dems 13. What is surprising, is how little they have shared these roles around their Group. Cllr Julia Huffer Chairs the Operational Services and Licensing Committees; Cllr Alan Sharp is Chair of Finance & Assets and Vice-Chair of the Operational Services Committee; while Cllr David Brown will be particularly busy as Vice-Chair of Council, Vice-Chair of Planning and Chair of Audit.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has published the responses to its consultation on better public transport and congestion charging. Whilst more than 70% of people were in favour of the future transport network 58% of people were opposed to paying for it through the Congestion Charge. The full report can be seen at [MC22-consultation-report \(greatercambridge.org.uk\)](http://MC22-consultation-report(greatercambridge.org.uk)). Just 1,061 of the respondents were from East Cambridgeshire. Franchising of bus services would help by bringing routes, timetables and fares under public control—but would need a reliable source of income to fund it. The Greater Cambridge Partnership must think again and find an acceptable way to fund the public transport improvements local people want and need.

We have been working with the GCP and Parish Councils to ensure that local needs are fully considered in the planned Greenways – cycle ways into Cambridge. They were consulted on before the Covid lockdowns and there has been little local engagement since, although they are due to be installed by 2024. Most residents will welcome improved cycle routes, but they need to be the right routes and their design needs to reflect the character and current use of our villages.

Because of the Bank Holiday on 28 August, the waste collections in that week will be one day later than normal. We hope you all enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and the Summer holidays.

Our July meet your Councillors will be on Wednesday 19 July from 6.30-7.30 at the Committee Room of the Bottisham Sports & Social Club. We will not be holding a meeting in August, due to summer holidays.

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Fellow members from Three Rivers and Burwell branches joined us in May for Sue Claydon's presentation on her visits to Rwanda, and education for women initiatives in Africa. Rwanda is known as land of a thousand hills. Its stunning scenery and warm, friendly people offer unique experiences in one of the most remarkable countries in the world. It is blessed with extraordinary biodiversity, with incredible wildlife living throughout its volcanoes, montane rainforest and sweeping plains. Kigali, city and capital of Rwanda is located in the centre of the country. Kigali was a trade centre (after 1895) during the German colonial administration and became a regional centre during the Belgian colonial period (1919–62). It became the capital upon Rwanda's independence in 1962. During the 1994 genocide, thousands of Tutsi in Kigali were killed by Hutu gangs and the Rwandan army. Sue worked in Rwanda during the 1970's in an educational role, and met her husband there. Sue's most recent visits took place in 2017 and 2019.

Sue's PowerPoint presentation began with the vast differences in the lives of women in Africa to those here in the UK. The long distances to obtain safe clean water, collection of fuel, and working hard to provide shelter for children as refugees. Sue visited St. Gabriel's Mothers' Union Branch the first formed in Shyogwe Diocese (a 150-minute drive from Kigali). Their members wear beautiful uniforms of long blue skirts with piece of pure white cloth wrapped across and along the back. They meet in the Primary School, and here one of the members told her life story. She had no family, as all her relatives were lost in the genocide. MU had transformed her life, by providing her with support and care. When she suffered a broken arm, MU members tended her land and gathered the harvest whilst she was recovering. Another lady was given the opportunity to attend a training course so that she can teach ladies to make beaded craft to sell. Sue was also taken to the Genocide Memorial on the outskirts of Shyogwe, an experience she found very emotional!

Sue also travelled up to the highest parts of the Diocese, in a car that had no rear seat safety belts, and wheels that frequently spun on the road. Here young people are trained in tailoring and carpentry. There is a full ministry for unmarried mothers, preventing expulsion from their family, baby care training, and birth control. A savings and credit scheme has been set up, including one for children so they have money for text books and school uniforms. Prior to Sue's visit to Rwanda she was given two MU badges by the families of dearly departed members. Sue had the privilege of presented these to the groups' two youngest MU members.

Before closing in prayer, Sue briefly gave us information on how Kenyan volunteers support 1700 families affected by HIV/AIDS. In the recent Sudan hostilities, how women had managed to escape from Khartoum, and the Bishop and children escaped to a safer place from the Cathedral.

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month, at 2.30pm in Fassage Hall, Lode. On 20th July Revd. Valerie Kilner will be speaking to us about the MU theme for this year 'Transformation Now', and in August we will be holding our Summer Afternoon Tea.

Copies of our programme for July – December are now available in all five Anglesey Group Churches. You are most welcome to join us.

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Bottisham Bird Brain

Have you ever thought about how birds are named? No I'm not talking about the Latin names. Although I am quite fond of name-dropping in Latin occasionally, that topic could form the basis of an entire thesis, itself! Let us take a little look at the everyday names which, we'll see, are more colloquial than scientific.

Obviously, family names play a major part in nomenclature: finch, thrush, tit, warbler and so on. But distinguishing one species from another is very often a matter of description – either plumage (Blackbird, Greenfinch), shape (Long Tailed Tit, Crossbill), behaviour (Treetreeper, Oystercatcher), or a mixture of these things (Willow Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Pied Wagtail). There are even a few with onomatopoeic names... I'm sure most people are familiar with the songs of the Cuckoo and Chiffchaff.

Anyway, my previous jottings about birds with distinctive songs, and farmland species whose populations have declined, got me thinking about a bird with an interesting name and an interesting song that is, sadly, not heard as often as in yesteryear but is, happily, showing signs of recovery. The Yellow Bunting (*Emberiza Citronella*) – commonly known as the Yellowhammer – is not likely to frequent your garden on a regular basis, given its preference for open land, bushes and hedgerows, but they are still a common sight and sound around Bottisham if you keep your eyes and ears open.

Be careful if you ever discuss Yellowhammers with Americans, though... they have a totally different Yellowhammer, a local Alabama name for a bird properly called a Northern Flicker. It is, in fact, a member of the woodpecker family and is known for hammering on the bark of a tree to flush out insects.

Back to the UK... there are a number of Buntings in this country. They are closely related to the Finch family, from which they differ in some subtle ways, such as slightly flatter heads and longer shape. The Yellowhammer is one of the commonest and most easily identified because of the bright yellow head and breast, especially of the male. So – why is it called Yellowhammer? It's actually not as evocative as you might think, and nothing to do with behaviour! The origin of the English name Bunting is not known, but the genus name 'Emberiza', comes from Old German, and the German word for Bunting is 'Ammer'. Aha!

On to the song, then, which is famously characterised as "Little bit o' bread and no cheese"! The male bird will sit on the top twig of a bush – often a favourite one – and proudly issue this claim on his territory repeatedly. The song comprises a slightly harsh-sounding series of short high-pitched notes followed by the elongated flourish ("cheeeeeese") at the end. Just to confuse us, he'll sometimes settle for just the bread and do without the "cheese", as if he's been interrupted, mid-stanza; and occasionally he will forget about the bread and simply call "cheese" a few times – not to be confused with the Greenfinch's deeper, more powerful wheezing call, usually written as "zweee", which you are much more likely to hear in your garden!



(Continued on page 49)

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(Continued from page 47)

The Yellowhammer is resident throughout the UK and there is little evidence of migratory tendencies in our domestic population even though winter numbers – like many other passerines – are swelled by some visitors from northern Europe seeking easier pickings in our milder climate. There is a familiar story in terms of overall numbers though: the Yellowhammer population has decreased by over 50% since the 1980s, for similar reasons as the Skylark's difficulties. However, they, too, are beginning to benefit from initiatives like the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and from the wildlife-friendly farming methods exemplified by the RSPB's Hope Farm, Knapwell project.

Another piece of good news that I'd like to share with you is a nature reserve I recently discovered near Wicken. It's called Kingfisher's Bridge and was the brainchild of retired farmer Andrew Green (Greens of Soham) who, in the mid-1990s, set about converting 250 acres of arable farmland alongside the River Cam into a reserve of wetland, meadow and woodland habitats, now home to all manner of local wildlife. Central to the area is a wonderful lagoon which provides sustenance for a variety of ducks, geese and waders, and the reedbeds offer some of the best views of Marsh Harriers anywhere in East Anglia. It's also worth mentioning that these reeds were the first artificially-created habitat in the UK to host breeding Bitterns – the first in Cambridgeshire since 1938.

The Kingfishers Bridge Wetland Creation Trust continues to research conservation management in the Fens and beyond and provides a valuable resource for school groups and other educational programmes. If you want to know more about their work and visiting options, go to www.kingfishersbridge.org There is a visitors' centre on-site and hides for nature-watching, so when you have a couple of hours to spare, go and have a look for yourself. Last time I was there, I bagged 43 different species of bird, including a calling male Cuckoo, a rare Little Gull, and witnessed an aerial 'dogfight' between a sparrowhawk and a hobby, rivalling each other for a 'kill'. But it's worth the effort just for a pleasant walk – listening to all the birds in the reeds, trees and bushes and trying to distinguish the various songs and calls. You can practice separating a Robin from a Blackcap, a Willow Warbler from a Chiffchaff, a Whitethroat from a Sedge Warbler, and yes – a Greenfinch from a Yellowhammer!

By the way, the Yellowhammer was one of birds that inspired "The Northamptonshire Peasant Poet", John Clare, who is said to have written poems about 147 different species of British birds... !

TTFN - Gerry Daish

In early Spring when winds blow chilly cold
The yellowhammer trailing grass will come
To fix a place and choose an early home
With yellow breast and head of solid gold.

The Yellowhammer - John Clare

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 August.

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



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Community Herb Bed News

The herbs are growing nicely and since our latest tidy, they are looking well cared for again.

I would like to thank my fellow volunteers for their help, including keeping the newer plants watered well, during the long dry period that we have recently had.

Do please have a look and take a snip of herbs when you need some. We don't have everything, but we continue to add plants all of the time. There are still a few flowering perennials to be enjoyed. The lavender plants are beginning to flower, so expect to see bees visiting the beds over the summer months.



Herb of the month:- DILL

HISTORY

Despite this herb originating in western Asia and southern Europe, its common name is said to have come from the Old Norse *dilla* or Anglo-Saxon *dylle*, meaning to soothe or lull. This is because Dill was used to calm infants who had hiccups. Gripe water, sold over the counter still contains some herbs, including dill seed oil, depending on the formula.

GROWING

Although dill can be bought in many supermarkets, when in stock, you may wish to try growing your own supply. Dill seeds can be directly sown outdoors. They prefer a poor, well-drained soil. It is a short lived annual herb, but self-seeds easily. Consider that if you also grow fennel close by, then cross-pollination can occur. The resulting seeds will be hybrids of the two herbs.

The plants can grow to 3ft and they make an attractive addition to the flower border as well as to herb beds. The plants will develop delicate clusters of small yellow flowers if left at the end of the season.

RECIPE INSPIRATION

On a recent walk, I enjoyed a lunch stop at the River Terrace café in St Ives.

I chose to have the Pea and Feta toast.

This looks fairly simple to replicate and I have just listed the ingredients included on their menu, so you can play around with the ingredients, depending on your preference and what you have at home. **Some ingredients may contain Allergens, so please check carefully.**

(Continued on page 59)

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INGREDIENTS (serves 2)

- Your own choice of toast (sourdough or other fresh bread would work well)
- Frozen peas (approx. 250g for 2 slices)
- 1 tbsp Olive oil or Rapeseed oil
- Zest of half a lemon
- 50g Feta cheese (or vegan alternative)
- A few Sugar snap peas
- Thinly sliced radish
- Pink pickle onions (they can be bought or made easily at home)
- 1tbsp Dukkah – an Egyptian seasoning, made with nuts, seeds and warm spices. You can find this in the spice section at the supermarket. If you don't wish to use this seasoning, try any other suitable topper of your own choice, to give flavour and a bit of crunch to your dish.
- Soft herbs- Dill and coriander were used at the river terrace café, to garnish the toast.

SUGGESTED METHOD

1. Cook the peas in salted boiling water for 2-3 minutes, until tender. Drain well, but save the boiled water for the sugar snap peas, then mash them roughly with a fork. You could blend the peas if you prefer a smoother consistency.
2. Season to taste.
3. Blanch the sugar snap peas in the saved boiling water for 2-3 minutes and drain well. Set aside.
4. Cut the feta into small crumbly cubes
5. Wash and pat dry your soft herb garnish
6. Toast your bread
7. Top the toast with the smashed peas, crumbled feta cheese and pickled red onions, sprinkling the Dukkah (or alternative) over the top.
8. Garnish plate with the sugar snap peas and slices of radish.



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Treasurer, Advertising rates and payment: Rhona Walker, 94 High St	811402
Distribution: Ian & Helen Cole	812573
Design/Artwork: ONG (Old Newton Graphics) • www.codge.com	01449 675548
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