

June Issue 517

What a lovely month May was. I don't mean the weather which was so-so. I mean the happy aura which surrounded the coronation of King Charles 3rd. For those who remembered the last one in 1953, it would have been a time which brought back memories of childhood and what they were doing the time before. Nowadays we take it for granted that we would be able to see the whole event



laid out for us on TV. Back in'53 it was a big thing being able to watch it from our homes. Back then it was only people who lived in London who could watch TV and only 2 million sets had been purchased by the public. Yet 20 million people watched it! That is 10 people per set. It was very much family viewing with families crowding round the very small (by today's standards) screens showing very grainy black and white pictures.

This time, we all sat in front of our big screens (saw one in Curry's the other day - 75"!!) on the Saturday and watched the spectacle unfold. We sympathised with all the poor soldiers getting soaked in the persistent rain that fell.

Then on the Sunday, Bottisham had a party in the Sun! The organisers did a wonderful job and should not have had their doubts about people turning out. They did in droves. From Lunch picnics on the dirt hills to BBQ's and music in the evening, from mid-day fun at Queen's Court to afternoon Teas at the Social Club, people came out and had a great day. At the Social Club, there was a Children's entertainer and Morris dancers in the afternoon. Then in the evening, music and singing at the Social Club. It proved a very satisfying day all round. The Collage of pictures opposite show how much fun was had by all. If you see yourself in any of the picnics and want a copy, email the editor at Bottishamcresset@gmail.com.

One other event over the weekend was the wonderful display of flowers done by the ladies in the church. They were magnificent. Tea and cake there as well. They gave me the excuse to use one of the displays as our front cover this month with pictures, thanks to Stuart Field.

The magazine this month also has all the usual articles and reports.

Bird Brain's lovely article gives me several flash backs to my youth. Every year we used to go up to the NW of Scotland and stay next to a farming croft right on the coast. We were always there when they were making the hay and we used to be given the job of raking up the hay for it then to be stacked up in the little 'houses' which were then transported by tractor to the barn for the winter. Wonderful memories.

The constant soundtrack to those long hot days was the song of the Skylark high up above. You could look all you liked, but seldom saw them until they would drop quickly to the ground.

John Austin gives us the second of his very useful articles, which gives us lots of information on local transport and more.

'I hope you enjoy this month's read and please note the early submission date for next month's magazine.'

Your Editor.

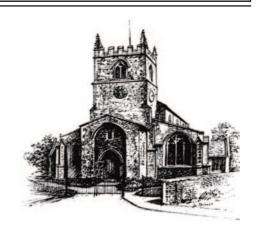
Please note that due to holidays, the copy deadline for a combined JULY/ AUGUST magazine is the 12th June.

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

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

Highly Successful Coronation Celebration Service.

Wow! What an amazing weekend. On Saturday, while it poured with rain, most of us sat watching the television relay of the splendid sights in Westminster Abbey while our King and Queen were crowned and the throngs of people celebrating along the Mall. Then on Sunday it was the turn of Bottisham. It was with some trepidation that I entered the church on Sunday morning, magnificently adorned for our fantastic flower festival; 'Will they come?' I said to myself. But I need not have worried. They came, and by 10.15am



numerous people were pouring into the church to admire our wonderful display and subsequently partake in the specially created service to celebrate the Coronation.

Magnificently led by Bottisham resident Rev. Keith Morrison, we sang our favourite hymns while admiring our surroundings and listening to relevant Bible readings. I am delighted to report that the occasion was one of the best attended worship services since before the pandemic. No one was in a hurry to leave - chatting and enjoying tea and coffee after the service. Even later there was a constant stream of people coming to admire the flowers throughout the rest of the day. Very many thanks to all those who helped make it such a very successful part of the Village Coronation Celebrations.

I am delighted to report that as of the time of writing this article, the sum raised by our Easter Gift Day has risen to nearly £6,000, donated to the church, which is a magnificent response to our Appeal. I would like to thank each and every one of you who has donated. This sum will help to support employing an architect to survey the roof, prior to getting an estimate for the much needed repairs and probable replacement of the lead on the roof.

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 the month while Sarah Maxwell will take a service of Morning Prayer on the third Sunday. Our toddler group will continue to meet on a Tuesday morning starting around 9.30am. All are very welcome to attend. A small team continue to take a service monthly at Hilton Park and Oaklands.

I hear on the grapevine that at least one person is interested in applying to be our new vicar and so I hope that I will be in a position to report some good news in the July edition of the Cresset.

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

Stuart Field - Churchwarden

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Dear friends in our local community,

Lode Chapel will be open from **10am to 1pm on Saturday 10th June**. We will have a large Scalextric track set up - why not challenge your family, friends and neighbours to a race!? We will also have lots of cake, tea, coffee, juice for you to enjoy, and a table-top sale with some things that may be of interest to you.

You will find us just set back from Lode High Street, opposite the Post Office.

We would love to see you!

Saturday 10th June:

Cars, Cake and Company

at Lode Chapel.







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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sun June 4th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Wed June 7th	8 pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) – online via Zoom
Sun June 11th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion – Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship - Swaffham Prior
Sun June 18th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer – Quy
	10.30am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer – Bottisham
Sun June 25th	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.

Sales, Wants and Swaps



IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL OR WANT TO BUY OR EVEN TO SWAP, THEN THIS PAGE IS YOURS TO USE. Send details of Item, price and landline Phone Number to BottishamCresset@gmail.com. Max. 5 Items. Entries by 12th of the month for next months issue.

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TEL
Edinburgh crystal trifle/salad bowl as new	£20	811026
Dartington Glass punch bowl, as new, in box	£20	811026

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 thank everyone involved in planning and executing the very successful coronation celebrations. An enormous amount of work was put in by many volunteers and organisations to produce an excellent day - blessed with beautiful weather. It was great to see so many residents out and about meeting each other and enjoying the sunshine. Well done to everyone involved and especially to Tony Jolley, who took the initiative in setting up and steering the working group that oversaw the day.

Now to some key matters following on from the May Council meeting:

ELECTIONS

The recent District Elections took place on 4th May 2023, with a good turnout of 40.3% in Bottisham ward. Councillors Cane and Trapp have both been duly re-elected. 8 Parish Councilors stood for uncontested Parish Council re-election, leaving 4 seats vacant. I would ask you to consider if you could serve your community by filling these vacancies. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences, who reflect the community, so please don't discount yourself. 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 Parish Council would like to thank the retiring Councillors for all their efforts over the years and wish them well for the future.

BOTTISHAM GREENWAY

The plans for the Bottisham Greenway were discussed in Council after a recent online meeting with the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (GCP) - at which the detailed proposals were presented to us and we were able to suggest some improvements. Concern was raised that there was a lack of awareness within the wider community of the project and the Council is requesting improved consultation by GCP with residents. We have particular concerns about the plans for the Triangle and are hoping to have an on-site meeting with the project team to discuss these in more detail.

PROJECT PLAY

I am grateful that a resident has volunteered to lead the working group to explore options to purchase land and install a new play area. A first meeting of the group will take place on 12th June 2023. While a number of other residents have also volunteered to be part of the group, we would welcome additional members. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact the Clerk in the first instance.

NEW CEMETERY

After some final amendments requested by the County Flood Risk Officer, all the relevant parties have now approved our plans and I am optimistic that, by the time you read this, we will have obtained planning consent. Then commences the process of compulsory purchase by ECDC (which will take some months), during which time we will be inviting tenders for the construction phase. As I have learnt over the years nothing moves fast with this project, but I am hopeful we could be opening the new cemetery in 2025 - which may be just as our current cemetery reaches capacity!!

PROJECT PLAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We all know that community playgrounds offer so many benefits to children; emotional, social and physical growth and help improve collaboration skills as just a few. They can be the heart of a community and a gathering space that can benefit everyone.

Unfortunately, as you know, we are severely lacking in space for this provision within Bottisham! Despite all best efforts to secure identified areas we have faced opposition by residents and landowners.

But we're envious of those in our neighbouring villages with play areas, aren't we?

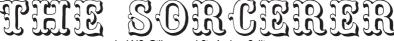
So, how do we fix this?

Bottisham Parish Council are securing funds for the purchase of land but can't do all the work alone.

The Parish Council is asking you for your help?
Would you like to help and be part of a "Project Play" taskforce?
For more information or to volunteer email: clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk



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PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARD

The village noticeboard by the Triangle has recently been damaged. An inspection has taken place and it was felt that the board was beyond repair. Therefore the Parish Council resolved to purchase a new recycled material board to replace the current provision. We intend in time to also review what upgrades may be required to other signs and notice boards around the village.

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:

23/00421/FUL - Howgar House 41 Bell Road Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DF. Construction of one 3/4 bedroom, two storey dwelling, with off-street parking for two vehicles on garden land

b) Planning Applications approved by ECDC:

- 23/00179/FUL 22 High Street, Bottisham. Relocate front door, replace and alter windows and doors, replace corrugated plastic roof to plain tile, install photovoltaic panels and internal alterations
- 22/01307/FUL Temporary access to Ox Meadow building site from Bell Road





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District Councillors' Report

Thank you to everyone who voted and especially to those who voted for us to continue as your Councillors. We are looking forward to continuing to represent Bottisham ward residents at the District Council.

Across the District the Lib Dems won the most votes - 18,831, the Conservatives came second with 18,226 votes and Labour won 8,489 votes. But the Conservatives won the most seats and the Council is made up of 15 Conservatives and 13 Lib Dems.

The Council's AGM will be on 25 May, where Committee membership, Chair of Council etc will be decided. This report is a brief review of the 2022/23 year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND STREET SWEEPING

The service has now improved, but there are still issues. For example, there were some missed/late bin collections in January, because of problems with vehicles. And the delivery of the black bin bags was significantly delayed and was very patchy – we were still getting residents with no black bags in May. Despite these many shortcomings with the service, the Conservatives agreed an additional £500,000 fee to ECSS for the 2022/23 financial year and budgeted for a similar extra sum in the current financial year.

EAST CAMBS TRADING COMPANY

In April the Conservatives agreed a £7.5M loan to the Council's Trading Company. ECTC has drawn down £6m of this loan, leaving £1.5m to cover their cash flow going forward. The loan is due to be repaid in full by 31 March 2026

BUSES

In October, we nearly lost the number 11 and 12 buses. After a strong local campaign the Combined Authority funded the number 11 run by Stephensons, who also continued the number 12 route as a commercial route. We now have these routes for at least another year, but continue to press for improvements, not least to get the number 11 stopping at Bottisham.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

We enjoyed our conversations with residents during the past few months, and listening to your views, your misgivings and your suggestions. We hold meetings most months, which are open to any resident without booking. People come to discuss ideas for making our villages even better to live in, concerns about Council services, or raise their own problems. Our next District Councillors' meeting is on Tuesday 20 June at 6.30pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall. We have enjoyed going to social events in the ward, such as coffee mornings, and would be delighted to join in social events if invited. We are always happy to be contacted directly:

Charlotte Cane - charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk - 07976 607512 John Trapp - john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk - 01223 812120



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Anything considered – give me a call before you throw it away POLITE & CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE. GOOD PRICES PAID. STEVE DURRANT 01638 507037 OR 07740 591194 Email: svdservices51@gmail.co.uk

History of the Cresset

Cresset

Sylvia Overton remembers.

Having to "hang up my boots" and stop my Cresset delivery round after 40 or more years, (broken femur) Ian Cole reminded me that I had been involved with the magazine since the beginning. Good exercise,

a chance to see the many changes each month in both gardens and properties over the years. New volunteers always needed!

It brought back so many memories of past editors – Christine Bryant, Felicity McMahon, Valerie Leake, Hugh Rogers, Phil Seeney, Frank Shaw, Nick Martin and our present editor Peter Walker. We also had long serving typists, Winifred Clare, Margaret Gardiner and Phyl Shaw (who used an Amstrad word Processor) not to mention several most willing typists who filled in as necessary.

I missed the first meeting on 6th of April 1982 as did Pam Latchford and those involved at the start were Fred Alderson, Christine Bryant, Winifred Clare, James Fitch, Joan Denison, Tom Germany, Felicity McMahon and Susan Threlfall. Granta Press were initially involved with printing and funds were raised from donations

In October 1982 James Fitch was appointed Chairman, Joan Dennison became Treasurer later replaced by Mary Telfer and more recently by Rhona Walker, and Tricia McLaughin was the secretary.

and a grant of £100 from the Parish Council.

At that meeting a constitution was prepared, advertising rates agreed and the decision made that the adverts would be

printed for the complete year and inserted monthly en bloc into the main copy. We also compiled a village information sheet which still appears today suitably updated.

There are no records of the number of copies printed and by whom until 1984 when I took over the printing of 700 copies each month (now 1000) and ran them off outside my working hours at the College on an old Roneo Duplicating machine. Winifred Clare from Lode Road typed up the stencils each month often at very short notice probably 12 pages in all. Any fliers representing village events were printed by the group involved and they inserted them into the magazine. Burwell Print Centre acted as printers for a while too. We are grateful to Colin Etheridge who took responsibility for the art work for the layout and presentation of the Cresset on his new Apple Mackintosh Computer. Neil Marshall also did this most ably for the next 4 years.



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Continued from page 13

I think at this time the copies were assembled by Pamela and Derek Latchford in their home. and I know that Ken York was there with his trusty electric stapler. Ken was responsible for many years for the distribution to the many volunteer deliverers.

At some date the collation of the magazine was done in the Round Room at the College on the 4th Monday of the month. A very friendly group which included Colin and Pauline Sore, Pam and Derek Latchford, David Bennett and myself as regulars with plenty of further support by other villagers. Ken York did the stapling and we all earned a welcome cup of coffee provided by Pam.

With the appointment of Nick Martin as editor in 2003 we moved to commercial printing with Bury District Council and used Old Newton Graphics to include adverts in with the monthly reports and features. Collating and stapling were also included in the price. We had definitely moved into the 21st century. Inserts are now free for local groups and societies, church and school activities.

Our present printers are Falcon Print and I am pleased to say that under Peter and Rhona's firm leadership we continue to go from strength to strength.

I apologise for any errors or missing out on anybody involved over the years. Corrections would be welcomed by the Editor to update.

Bottisham WI

The speaker at our April meeting was local florist Jackie Lince of 'Mill Blossom Flowers.' Jackie had an administrative job and decided on a complete change of career. She had always been passionate about flowers, making posies and arrangements, so she decided to become a florist - then along came the pandemic and lockdown.

Undeterred she took on the task of learning new skills. She likes natural designs and always keeps the environment in mind when choosing vases, re-using containers and not using oasis. She uses flowers from local farmers wherever possible and in 2021 she acquired a small patch of land in the fen to grow her own too. She is a member of the Flowers from the Farm Network which supports small flower growers to encourage everyone to embrace seasonal British flow-ers. Her business is doing well, providing flowers for all occasions. You may see her at local Farmers Markets where she also sells candles and items she has made.

During her talk Jackie made some lovely arrangements and these were raffled later. Her website address is www.millblossomflowers.com

Arrangements were underway for the Coronation weekend, cakes etc. and the Craft Meeting on 2nd May had afternoon and evening sessions. The Annual Group Meeting in June is at Burwell and the speaker is Dimitra Frangas, a crafter and upholsterer. Several outings & events organ-ised by the Cambridge Federation of WIs were advertised.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY 20th JUNE

David Duker will be talking on "One of our own - WW2 Fighter Pilot" Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room at the Sports & Social Club If you are not a member and thinking of maybe joining the WI - please join us!

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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Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch has suffered with a poor image in the recent past, with members dubbed curtain-twitchers or nosey neighbours. More recently it has become regarded as beneficial to a neighbourhood, helping to reduce crime and helping to create a community spirit amongst neighbours.

For a neighbourhood watch scheme to exist, it needs a

coordinator, the person that acts as a leader and administrator and it needs to be registered. The coordinator then sets up a means of communicating with their neighbours, either by email, Facebook or WhatsApp. The aim is to inform the members of crimes and potential crimes and encourage them to take appropriate safety measures. This includes passing on advise on how to reduce their risk of being defrauded by the many types of scams that are now current.

Neighbourhood policing teams have been greatly reduced, and bobbies on beats are now a thing of the past. The police are looking to Neighbourhood Watch members to be their eyes and ears and report suspicious activities. They also look on the members to keep their neighbours informed of risks and pass on advice about safety and security.

Although East Cambridgeshire has low crime figures when compared nationally and continues to be a safe place to live and work, nevertheless, homeowners need to ensure that their homes and vehicles are safe and secure. Most burglars are 'opportunists' and break into homes that are easy targets and thus good security and basic precautions reduce the chance of your home being targeted.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just there to reduce crime but to build local communities and encourage people to be more neighbourly. When Neighbourhood Watch started over 40 Years ago it was not necessary to ask people to chat to their neighbours, most were chatting away over the garden fence. This is no longer part of modern life, people are more isolated in their own homes, often not knowing the names of those that live two or three houses along the street from them. We want people to feel at home in their community, and have neighbours they can call on if they feel the need.

If your part of Bottisham is not covered by neighbourhood watch and you wish to be part of this endeavour, please contact the secretary, Kevin Evans at ecnhwa@hotmail.com or on 01353 614892.

Please note that due to holidays, the copy deadline for a combined JULY/AUGUST magazine is the 12th June.

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

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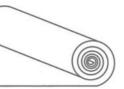


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Saturday 8th July

An evening with a Roy Orbison tribute artist including a Ploughmans.

Saturday 5th August - Karaoke with AJ's disco 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 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 bottishamesase@gmail.com with your email.31 Downing Close, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DD Tel. 01223 812063



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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Volunteer Car Service: We are still looking for drivers for this Service. We have had little response to our previous advertisements.

Outpatient Appointments: Unfortunately, there is a delay in hospital outpatient appointments with long waiting lists.

Paramedic: The Practice paramedic is seeing housebound patients early in the day to try and avoid long ambulance waits and delays at A & E, when this is necessary, as the GPs are busy in clinic in the mornings.

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 at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite.

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New Phone App to Help Addenbrooke's and Rosie Patients Navigate Hospital

Patients have led the way in a project to make it easier to find your way around Addenbrooke's and the Rosie hospitals.

The new CUH Directions app was developed by patients for patients and was the idea of hospital volunteer Mike, a member of the hospital's Outpatient Experience Group, who led on the project with hospital staff.

The app maps out your route from your start to end point in a series of images and words, showing you the shortest route through the hospitals.

Visit the App Store or Google Play Store and download to your mobile device.

Find out more at: www.cuh.nhs.uk/news/new-cuh-directions-phone-app-helps-patients-find-the-way/

Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

Wednesday 15th June 7.30pm at Bottisham Sports and Social Club

"A FENLAND HISTORY SAVER SHARES ALL"

Presented by Mike Petty

Mike Petty has been helping people discover Cambridgeshire history for 50 years, sharing thousands of photographs and newspaper documents on all areas of the county.

The evening including wine and nibbles is free to members. There will be a charge of £10 for non-members. This would include £5 membership fee if joining on the evening.

For more details email bottishambala@btinternet.com

Please note that due to holidays, the copy deadline for a combined JULY/ AUGUST magazine is the 12th June.

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

Have you thought of advertising your business in *The Cresset?*Email the Editor for details: BottishamCresset@gmail.com





BOTTISHAM AIRFIELD MUSEUM

Bottisham Airfield Museum

On Sunday 30th April I was looking after visitors in the RAF room when an elderly gentleman in a wheelchair arrived with his family and started reading one of the information boards.

When the gentleman saw the sentence about the laving of the metal planking to improve the runway in 1941, he remarked "I was here in 1941 laying that". His daughter explained that her father had served in the Royal Engineers and was part of a team that was stationed at Ouv and marched to Bottisham Airfield each day to lay the temporary metal planking. He went on to serve in Africa, where he also installed the metal planking for Airfields! His name is Norman and he is 102 years old, but still bright as a button. He lives in Comberton and often goes to Cambridge on the bus.

After having his photo taken



beside the pile of recovered metal planking which he helped to lay, I shook his hand and wished him well. It was such an honour to meet someone who had worked on the airfield he must be one of the few that are left, and I won't ever forget the day I met him.

On the 1st and 2nd of July is our 'Bottisham at War' 1940s weekend with battle reenactments, weapons demo's, wartime singers, military vehicles and trade stalls, including food and drink. This is the largest event at our museum and is always well attended, with so much to enjoy over the course of the two days. Note that for the re-enactments there will be some loud noise associated with blank firing and pyrotechnics.

Times are 10.30am till 4pm both days.

Admission; Adults £12/Weekend £18, Child/concessions £7, Family 2 adults 2 child/concessions £28.

Advance booking is available - for more details please visit our website; www.bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk

Charles Cook. Museum Volunteer



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Public Transport Matters

The observant among you will have realised that the westbound High Street bus stop in Bottisham has now moved back to opposite 179 High Street (where it always was before) from the position several yards nearer the road junction where it had been erroneously placed by contractors last summer. The reinstated position of the bus stop is much safer for vehicles turning into the High Street from Newmarket Road. Thanks to a local resident for arranging and funding this.

I thought that this month I'd also cover the subject of buying Train Tickets over the web. There's been a big change in buying train tickets in the last few years, and it's usually now often cheaper to buy them in advance rather than 'over the counter' at the station. In many cases it can also be cheaper to buy two singles rather than a return!

I suggest using nationalrail.co.uk to buy tickets. While I should say that I believe it's a rather badly designed and unattractive website, the plus side is that it doesn't charge any fees for its service. To use it you first select the journey you want (where from and to, what day you want to travel, and at what time - remembering to specify arrival time or departure time). Then, when you've chosen those, nationalrail.co.uk finds the cheapest fare and times for your journey - and there can be some very good deals available on specific trains at specific times. When you have chosen the train times you want, nationalrail.co.uk then diverts you off to a Train Operator's sales website to buy the ticket.

Means of delivery of the ticket you've bought can vary according to which Train Operator sales website you've bought it from. Some, such as Greater Anglia, may promote their own official App (accessed via a mobile device) on which to receive the ticket.

Some sales websites will attach the ticket to an e-mail as a document with a QR code which you can then scan (from your mobile phone) at the QR code reader at the station ticket barrier. Alternatively, you can print the ticket out yourself if you have access to a printer at home, and then scan that paper ticket's QR code at the ticket barrier.

In addition, some sales websites may suggest that you obtain the ticket at a ticket machine at the departure station or (as is often possible) any station you specify. After you've selected this option, you obtain the ticket by first inserting into the machine the payment card you've used to pay for the ticket, and then typing in a special code on the ticket machine's touchscreen. This (usually) results in you receiving a traditional orange card Train ticket.

A final option offered is to have the train tickets posted to you. But a fee is nearly always charged for this.

One feature in buying a Train ticket that can be overlooked is the use of Railcards. Buying a Railcard, which is available for certain specific types of travellers, usually gives 1/3 off the price of the Train ticket (except for journeys at some 'peak' times). Disabled Persons Railcards are available to more people than you might think. Did you know, for instance, that if you have a hearing impairment and consequently have hearing aids prescribed – either by the NHS or privately - that you are entitled to purchase a Disabled Persons Railcard? Disabled Persons Railcards also have an added bonus in that the holder

continued on page 31

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continued from page 29

is entitled to have a companion that travels with them receive the same 1/3 discount, even though the companion may not have a Railcard themselves. More details on Railcards are at railcard.co.uk.

Happy travelling!

National Traveline Enquiries (bus services) www.traveline.info or 08712 002233 (a Premium-rate service)

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

John Austin

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

The Summer Nature Trail is the longest route around the Sedge Fen. It has been given time to rest to allow the delicate peat soils to recover and will open on 1st June. It's a special part of the reserve, full of lush green foliage and fen plants and flowers. This circular route is approximately $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles long and is a beautiful place to look out for marsh orchids, dragonflies and butterflies.

Boat trips and cycle hire are in full swing and are great ways to explore the reserve with friends and family. If you'd like more information about what we offer, our Visitor Centre team can always help; we're available from 10am to 5pm daily on 01353 720274.

FAIRS, FEASTS AND FESTIVALS

Our programme of local fairs for June and July includes Waterbeach Feast on 10 June, Gs Open Farm on 11 June, and Burwell Carnival on 1st July! We look forward to meeting our local communities at these celebrations. Come and find us to say hello – we'd love to see you.

BIOBLITZ SATURDAY 8 JULY

We're excited to hold our first BioBlitz at White Fen and the Norman Moore Pond in the wider reserve. If you haven't been to a BioBlitz before, the idea is to find as many different species in a specific location on a specific date. This gives us a snapshot of the nature there that can be used by the team at Wicken Fen, and local and national databases that monitor wildlife. You don't need to be an expert to come along and help us, we'll have spotter sheets and and guided walks with experts to help you identify what you find. Save the date and keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more information. Local groups and organisations wanting to come along and get involved can contact Julia Hammond at julia.hammond@nationaltrust.org.uk

Keep an eye on our social media for opportunities to get closer to nature and find out more about the wildlife at the Fen. Local partners including the British Dragonfly Society and local moth recorders will be offering pop-up activities throughout the summer.

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 https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on





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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

April was a month for outings. Several of our members enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Newmarket Golf Club and had an opportunity to chat about all things horticultural and otherwise among themselves.

Despite the chilly Spring weather our evening outing to Darwin Nurseries was also well attended. Staff and co-workers showed us round their extensive grounds which cover seven acres and where they grow a variety of fruit trees, many of which you won't find in the supermarket. Looking after the animals is always a favourite job for the co-workers and we were allowed to feed some of them. The goats were very lively and Dave, the 10 week old pig, was definitely the star of the show. We were given a demonstration of seed sowing and pricking out and allowed to have a go ourselves. We ended the evening with coffee and a browse in the well-stocked shop where everyone managed to find something to buy.

We have an outing to Helmingham Hall in June which is open to members and non-members. See the poster for contact details if you would like to go.

Margret Coles

BOTTISHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB



Summer Outing to HELMINGHAM HALL GARDENS

With morning coffee stop at Stonham Barns Wednesday 21st June 2023

Travel by executive coach with on-board toilet Departs from Bottisham Village College at 9.15 a.m. with pick-up in Lode at 9.20.a.m. Leaving Helmingham Hall at 4.30 p.m.

Members £25.00 per person - Non-members £27.00 per person Cost inclusive of coach and entrance fee

To book, please send the appropriate payment to Julia Green, 145 High Street, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9BB (01223 811467) or bring to the next meeting.

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Bottisham Bowling Club

33 Downing Close Bottisham CB25 9DD

Email; bottishambowlingclub@gmail.com. Web; bottishambowlingclub.co.uk



With the hint of spring in the air the long, and very wet, closed season has ended, our green is once more open for play.

This year The Club is focussed on introducing more local people to the fine sport of Lawn Bowls.

Whether you have tried your hand previously or are simply curious to try a game or two for the first time why not contact us using the email address at the head of this page? An informal and friendly "roll-up" is simple

to arrange if you wanted to have a try! All you need is a pair old flat soled shoes, we will supply everything else you need for a trial session!

There is a wealth of information regarding bowling in Bottisham on our website, the details of which can also be found at the head of this page. Come and browse around! There are also contact links on the website for any enquiry you may have.

As an introduction to Bowls if you are hesitant to make that first step towards playing, why not come down to our peaceful club and watch a game or two?

We welcome spectators at the club so why not come down and support your village team? League matches are played on Monday and Friday afternoons and evening matches are played on Thursdays. The fixtures list can also be found on our website so you can check if we have a home or an away match.

FRIENDLY COUNTY BOWLS MATCH

Whilst on the subject of spectating, if you want to see Lawn bowls at a county level, we are hosting a friendly match between Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire on Tuesday 11th July at 2pm. This match promises to be fiercely competed and one not to miss! Come down and enjoy an afternoon of fine sport!

Bottisham Bowling Club.

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Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

With the Coronation of HRH King Charles III quickly approaching, the topic for our April meeting was the Coronation and special occasion memorabilia in general. Julie Sale began with special prayers for King Charles III and the Royal Family. Members were given printout copies of the King Charles III Coronation 2023 emblem, Coronation Spoon, Invitation to the Coronation on 6th May and Invitation given to Charles on

the Coronation of his mother Queen Elizabeth II. Julie shared information she had researched on these items. The emblem is

created with the flora of the four nations of the United Kingdom: the rose for England, the thistle for Scotland, the daffodil for Wales and

the shamrock for Northern Ireland. These natural forms combine to describe St Edward's Crown, used for the Coronation of British monarchs. This was designed by Sir Jony Ive KBE and his creative collective, LoveFrom. The Coronation Spoon dates back to 1349. It is used for anointing the sovereign with holy oil, the most sacred part of the coronation ceremony. The Coronation Spoon survived Parliament's destruction of the Crown Jewels in 1649 because it was bought by a man called Clement Kynnersley.

The invitation to the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla was designed by Andrew Jamieson, a heraldic artist and manuscript illuminator, and features the couple's coats of arms and a motif of the Green Man against a background of the emblematic flowers of the UK and a British wildflower meadow and wildlife. We then compared the similarities between this and the invitation Charles received for the Coronation of his mother Queen Elizabeth II. They are very similar in that they both feature greenery, flowers, lion and unicorn, while cartoon like guard bandsmen were featured on the latter for young Prince Charles.

Members had been asked to bring along any commemorative items they owned from past events, and we all enjoyed viewing and sharing the history of these. They included spoons, medal, book, photograph, thimble, and miniature model of golden coach and horses all commemorating Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, Spoons, pastry forks, biscuit tins commemorating the Coronation of King George VI in 1937. Other memorabilia commemorated Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill and Lord Nelson.

Instead of our usual meeting, on 15th June we will be having an outing to Ely Cathedral to view the 'Threads Through Creation' Exhibition. The exhibition is on until 26th July. For more information visit https://www.elycathedral.org/events/threads-through-creation-exhibition

Ann Langran



Please note that due to holidays, the copy deadline for a combined JULY/ AUGUST magazine is the 12th June.

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Bottisham Bird Brain

Last month, we looked at how birds manage to continuously and breathe at the time. none effectively than the Skylark which, by now, should be adorning the skies everywhere in full voice. They are still abundant, of course, but the Skylark population suffered more than most over the past 60 years from the disappearance of rural margins due to increasingly intensive farming.



It's a familiar story, I'm afraid, with a 75% reduction in numbers in the 25-year period from 1972, and a halving of the total UK population during the 1990s. So what has been going on? Well, the bottom line is that all birds need three basic amenities: safe place to nest; food in spring and summer for their growing chicks; and food and shelter over the winter. Skylarks like to nest in grass that's long, but not too long! So, as farmers switched from Spring-sown to Autumn-sown cereals, fewer Skylarks found the resulting tall crops suitable for nesting, and the absence of stubbles, together with the increased use of pesticides, meant a scarcity of winter food supplies. Furthermore, grassland sites are also becoming less hospitable to skylarks due to both intensive grazing of animals and an increasing tendency to feed them on silage, rather than hay, resulting in frequent mowing and, therefore, shorter grass.

Please don't think I have any kind of grudge against farmers, though! The demand for more intensive and cost-efficient farming is driven, as always, by the consumer – i.e. you and me! It makes perfect, cost-effective sense for farmers to maximise their acreage and for livestock to be fed on silage, which is more easily digestible than hay, giving much more nutritional value. So – what do we do? There is Hope, in more ways than one…!

If you zoom in on the RSPB's Hope Farm, Knapwell on Google maps, you will see a field of crops containing a number of bare patches. These are what they call 'Skylark Plots': small areas left unsown in Autumn to offer the birds a safe space in which to build nests. Additionally, the fields are left with grass and wildflower margins to support food availability. The RSPB purchased this 180-hectare site in 2000 and use it to research and experiment with various wildlife-friendly farming methods, whilst turning a profit at the same time. Obviously, the RSPB is a charity, but Hope Farm is run as a commercial enterprise and they helpfully publish financial information as well as details of methodologies and results on their website www.rspb.org.uk.

And it doesn't stop there. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme is available to any farmers, woodland owners, foresters and land managers with eligible land. The wide scope

(Continued on page 41)

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(Continued from page 39)

of this multi-tiered scheme covers flood risk management and water pollution as well as the maintenance and regeneration of wildlife habitats (which is the main focus of the Entry Level). The applicants can seek grants for provision of nectar and pollen, winter food for birds, habitat improvements, hedgerow & boundary development, and even woodland creation and management. The CSS is due to be replaced by the Environmental Land Management Scheme in 2024 under the new agricultural policy. One sincerely hopes that farmers continue to be effectively incentivised to reverse the post-war destruction of our beautiful wildlife.

Which brings me back to the Skylark, Alauda Arvensis. You shouldn't have too much trouble identifying the Skylark, even when it is on the ground or in level flight. It has a striated brown plumage with lighter underparts and shows white on its outer tail and rear edges of the pointed wings. In size, it is between a Finch and a Starling and possesses a (usually) noticeable crest, which it raises when excited or alarmed. Its movement is typically a walk or a run on the ground and it will perch on raised objects but hardly ever in trees (for some unknown reason). Food wise, the Skylark is fairly omnivorous, consuming mainly insects and weed seeds, plus young shoots and leaves, worms, caterpillars, beetles and spiders among the undergrowth.

Could it be confused with any other species? Well, its only close relative in the UK is the Woodlark, a slightly smaller, stockier, flatter-headed bird of coastal or breckland heaths, and it has a completely different (and shorter) song flight, and it is pretty rare. So, I doubt Woodlark is on the Bottisham 'list'! The one bird to be careful of is the Meadow Pipit, another UK resident of farmland, grassland and moorland; but the Pipit is smaller, darker and somewhat busier on the ground than the Skylark, has no crest and, of course, has no sustained song flight.

The Skylark does not always deliver his song from the air... you will occasionally find one singing from an ear of corn, for instance, but, given that the dual purpose of the song is to establish territory and to attract a female, it is usually best to look upwards when you hear the melody. Sometimes the Skylark is little more than a dot in the distance but, stick with it and you'll catch him on the descent within around five minutes. He will invariably cease abruptly upon landing but, if you miss out, there's bound to be another one along shortly. Enjoying this wonderful spectacle, you'll be in good company... William Wordsworth wrote of the "Ethereal minstrel! pilgrim of the sky!" but, in my opinion, no-one has captured the magic of the Skylark as beautifully as Shelley...

TTFN - Gerry Daish

Hail to thee, blithe Spirit!

Bird thou never wert,

That from Heaven, or near it,

Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.

To a Skylark - Percy Bysshe Shelley (1820)

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Community Herb Bed News

What mixed weather we have been having! At least gardens and the Herb beds are being well watered! The plants are growing well.

Jan and I added a bit more colour to the beds before the coronation weekend, with some red and yellow primulas from Red 2 Green.

Basil, Sorrel and Parsley have been sown in pots and when ready, some will be added to the beds, so do pop along and take snips of any herbs you may need for your dinner!



We will also be adding a curry plant and bergamot when the plants are big enough, which will add further interest. The curry plant gives off a wonderful pungent scent.

Herb of the month; BERGAMOT (the plant that we have is Bergamot Lemon-Monarda citriodora)

Growing - Bergamot enjoys a sunny position in rich and well-drained soil. It can also be grown in pots or tubs.

Bergamot is probably most well-known for flavouring Earl Grey tea. The fragrant flavour comes from the oil of the bitter inedible, citrus bergamot orange fruit.

However, the lemon bergamot plant, which has attractive pink purple flowers, is attractive to bees. In America it was once called Prairie Bergamot, as the native flower was found growing in dry meadows. However, it is now commonly grown in cottage gardens. Its other name is 'wild bee balm'.

Suggestions on the plant label include: "try with fish, use in pot pourri or add leaves to salads or use in tea infusions"

RECIPE A quick search on the internet brings up many results for using bergamot to flavour and decorate (with edible flowers) cookies, cakes and tea, some meat dishes such as game and also fish.

Caution please check carefully that you have correctly identified your plant before using any part for edible usage.

The simplest idea is a bee balm tea infusion:

Ingredients

1 cup of water. 3-4 freshly picked bergamot leaves 4-5 bergamot flower petals. **Method:**

Boil the water

Add the leaves and petals to your tea infuser

Add boiling water to the infuser

Allow the tea to steep for 5-10 minutes.

or until it tastes how you prefer

Pour the tea, straining it through the infuser

Add a sweetener if desired such as honey or sugar

Relax and enjoy!



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Anglesey Abbey



The garden is fresh with colour and sound, the flowers are blooming, and the birds are singing (very loudly!) The Herbaceous Garden is beginning to show of its annual colour and invite visitors in for a closer inspection of delphiniums, hostas, and alliums. Don't miss this garden looking its very best towards the end of June- early July. That's not all there is to see in the garden, this year the Formal Garden will be looking quite different from previous years with a display of orange and white African Marigolds.

Due to the dahlia plant stock suffering a virus causing a reduction in flowering and a reluctance to root easily from cuttings the team have sent a few dahlia plants to the Plant Conservation Centre to undergo micro propagation. There has been some research into Rose sickness, which shows positive effects of growing a certain species of Marigold in soil previously having had sick roses growing, and we're hoping to have a similar effect on the Dahlias. Don't worry though, our usual Dazzling Dahlia display in the Dahlia Garden has not been affected and displays will begin to look good towards the end of August.

The Magic of Books display is highlighting some beautiful and unusual books from the collection, opening up their pages and revealing some truly unique illustrations and bindings. Each month we are showcasing books chosen by staff and volunteers with the Wonders of the Library display. In May, Beth, our Welcome and Service Assistant, chose two books, both excellent examples of early 20th century book-binding. She is especially fond of the cover of 'The life of Napoleon Vol III' with it's Cosway-style binding, elaborate floral design, miniature painting, and framed edge with pearls, and in contrast the simple yet elegant cover of 'Sonnets of Shakespeare.' Come along in June to see this months Wonder of the library and discover more about the Magic of Books at Anglesey Abbey.

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