

February 2024



THE
Cresset



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

BOTTISHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB 30TH APRIL 19.30



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

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

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

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

Mobile: 07369 248998

Well into the New Year now and the weather, as usual has been baring its teeth, as it does after Christmas. Colder temperatures and the threat of lying snow are always more likely into the new year rather than in the run up to the end of the year. That will make a change from the wet weather we have been having. When you travel about it is startling sometimes to see the amount of water lying in fields. Farmers will be having difficulties both trying to prepare fields for growing, sowing crops and indeed lifting crops which are wanted for market.



In the magazine now. You may notice that on occasions where a website link is printed, there may well be a second 'tinyurl' link. This is because sometimes the original link is too long to be realistically typeable. (Is that a word?). By going to the 'Tinyurl' website, I am able to create a shorter link which is easier to type. However, there are some search engines that don't like the 'tiny' link, but most do. You will see I have used one of these in the district councillors report, so you could test it out. Alternatively, you could go to the on-line version on the Parish website and simply click the link.

You will see in this month an early notice of the annual parish meeting. It always seems a shame that so few people turn up to this meeting. The one time in the year when one has the opportunity to ask questions of your PC and to hear what is planned and what is being carried out on your behalf. Perhaps this year there will be something controversial enough to get people to come out!

The proposed 'Greenway' may be one of these plans which you have doubts about or want to know more. Let's hope that like Tony Jolley (see his letter), you will have asked the questions of the council at the meeting specifically about this issue which took place on the 30th of January. However, I am sure it will still be up for discussion at the Parish meeting.

Other articles this month include John Austin's regular piece about local transport and our bus service. My perception is that the buses are being used more now than in the past. If this is the case, then it can only help to ensure its continued provision.

Another fascinating and informative article again this month from our regular 'Bird Man of Bottisham'. The thrush this month and I for one never realised there were so many variants of the genus.

Situated on the edge of a field, we have quite a few cats about and as the thrush is a ground feeding bird, I suspect that has scared a lot of the thrushes and indeed blackbirds away, because we don't see so many in our garden as we used to.

The BAMG report reminds us of an occasion in recent history which honoured the life of Thomas Christian, who was a key figure during the time that RAF Bottisham was home to the American airmen during the second world war. Fascinating Bottisham history, much more of which is recorded and displayed at the museum itself. Well worth a visit when it re-opens in the Spring.

Lots of other articles to read and info to glean. So enjoy February's Cresset and more from us next month.

Your Editor

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have appointed a new vicar! The Rev Malcolm Eric (Max) Osborne, who is currently Rector of Horringer Benefice in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, has accepted the invitation to join us. The announcement was made by the Acting Bishop of Ely, The Rt Revd. Dr Dagmar Winter on Sunday 14th January. Max was previously vicar of All Saints Church in Newmarket for nearly 10 years. In conjunction with this appointment the Estates Office at the Diocese have decided to sell the vicarage and they are in the process of buying a more modern property which is also close to the church and is thought to be more appropriate accommodation for our new vicar and his family.



As churchwarden I am charged with completing a record of all the work done in the church and churchyard known as the Works Book. As I completed the Church Works book for 2023, I thought that some might be interested and it occurred to me that many do not understand the role of a Churchwarden. The best way to describe the post is rather being like the head teacher at a large school, who is supported by teaching and administrative staff, or the Chief Executive Officer of a small company who is supported by a board of directors. The major difference, however, is that there is no external income coming to the church; all the expenses of running the church must be found by the congregation and supporters and no salaries are paid! All those involved support the church on a voluntary basis. The Churchwarden is supported by a Secretary, a Treasurer and members of the Parochial Church Council who in the case of Bottisham comprise a further seven members. The expenditure of the Church in 2022 (the 2023 figures are not yet available) was about £49,000! A major part of this was £16,500 paid to the Diocese as part of our Benefice costs for the salary of the minister as well as a further £2,000 towards direct ministry expenses. Insurance £2750, Electricity £5700, repairs to the roof £4,600 and the new sound system £15,000 and general maintenance & repairs £2,000 were other major expenses. In addition to the expenditure, we must arrange annual checks for Fire Extinguishers, the Lightning Conductor, Portable Electricity equipment, the roof alarm and gutter maintenance. Once every five years we also must arrange an inspection of the electrical circuits and overall condition of the church structure. Although we have been without a minister for over one year our Diocese contribution still has to be made!

After the hectic period over Christmas, we revert to a rather quieter New Year, both in the church and the churchyard. We welcome back Keith Morrison to take the Holy Communion Services on Sundays 4th February at 10.30am and 3rd March, while Sarah Maxwell will lead our Morning Prayer on 18th February. Our loyal bell ringers will ring the bells prior to each service. Looking further ahead we will be welcoming Rev Roger Bowen to take the Benefice Easter Day Holy Communion Service on 31st March.

Our regular Toddler Group continues to meet on a Tuesday morning in the church at 9am, our monthly services for the residents of Oaklands and Hilton Park care homes also continue, as does the regular bell ringers practice at 8pm on a Friday evening.

We hope to see you at one of our services.

Stuart Field, Churchwarden

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Renew Inclusive Church is relocating into Cambridge and shall be meeting at Mill Road Community Centre. This brand new facility is a brilliant community space and we are pleased to be taking this step forward as a Church.

Find us on Facebook at Renew Inclusive Church Cambridge or contact our Minister Alan Brand on 07896 000796 or Secretary Jackie Walker on 07594 450530.

And thank you to the people who visited and supported us recently with our Yard Sales at Lode Chapel, we very much appreciated your company and your generous gifts.

Jackie Walker



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

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

JOHN HARTE

The family of the late John Harte who died on November 25th would like to thank everyone for the many kind messages and cards of sympathy and support that they have received.

They also wish to thank those who attended his funeral service, it was lovely to see so many friends and former colleagues there.

With grateful thanks, Hilary, Glen, Nick, Ian and the family.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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

Good News with letter received about the A14 resurfacing

Dear Sir/Madam

A14 junction 35 to 36 resurfacing

I am writing to tell you that we plan to carry out maintenance and improvement work on the

A14 between junction 35 (Stow Cum Quy) and junction 36 (Nine Mile Hill). The work will include resurfacing, renewal of road marking, studs and marker post signs. When complete, drivers will benefit from a safer, quieter, smoother and improved road.

We plan to carry out this work from **Monday 19 February 2024, lasting approximately 6 months**. We'll be working predominately weeknights with some weekends, between 9pm and 5am/6am, weather permitting.

We'll be attending the Newmarket Saturday Market on Saturday 3 February 2024 from 9am to 2pm, feel free to come down and meet the team and ask questions about work happening in the local area.

To find out more about the scheme, please visit our dedicated website page at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a14-cambridge-junction-35-to-newmarket-junction-36-maintenance/>

To find out more about road improvements we're carrying out across the East of England, please visit our website at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/east/>.

Yours faithfully
Christina Stevens
Project Manager,
Operations East, Scheme Delivery Team

Parish Council Report

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES:

Firstly, let me thank our Chair of Council Jon Ogborn for the glowing report in January's edition of the Cresset. It is lovely to be appreciated in the things that you do. As I take on from Jon the task of writing these Notes, I hope that you will continue to read and enjoy them as a way of being connected to the work that the Parish Council is carrying out on your behalf.

The Parish Council have been very busy over the last year doing many things in the background, some of which go totally unnoticed - including maintaining the Parish Cemetery, ensuring that highways repairs are carried out, organising verge cutting and tree works to name just a few. I am pleased to say that we have a very proactive Council, and all Councillors have their own individual areas of responsibilities, which they are carrying out very well. We are currently running with 11 Parish Councillors, but still have one vacancy. So, if you are interested in taking an active role within your community, then please do get in touch with any of the Councillors or myself.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

I would like to draw your attention to the date of the Annual Parish Meeting, which is due to be held on 30th April 2024, at 7.30pm at Bottisham Sports and Social Club. This is the resident's opportunity to come and hear what the Parish Council have been doing over the last year and bring forward any suggestions for the year ahead. The evening will consist of a short formal presentation, followed by the opportunity to meet informally with your Parish, District and County Councillors - plus representatives from the police and local schools. The bar will then also be open!

TRIANGLE BY THE SHOPS

You may have noticed over the recent weeks that there has been some activity on the Triangle at the shops. The Parish Council's environmental group have been discussing the need to make the area more inviting and improve the visual appearance. As this land belongs to Highways, approval has had to be sought to carry out any works. Highways have approved the planting of bulbs and carrying out some necessary tree works - all of which have now been undertaken. The Parish Council's environmental group are continuing to investigate other ways in which the area can be improved for the residents of the village. More information will follow in due course.

CEMETERY MATTERS

The Parish Council met in December 2023 to discuss the current Cemetery provision and the availability of burial plots. As has been previously highlighted, the parish needs more space to fulfil their responsibility as a Burial Authority - hence the need for a new Cemetery. Currently space is at a premium in the existing Cemetery, and unfortunately, we are no longer able to take reservations. Indeed, we are concerned that we may run out of space entirely before the new cemetery is completed. During the inspection it was highlighted that

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 7

more space could be created by removing the spoil heap. Quotations were sought to remove this and a contractor has been appointed to undertake the works on behalf of the Parish Council. The work is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks, so that the ground can be prepared and turfed by the Spring.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

I know that you have been previously thanked if you filled out the questionnaire for the Neighbourhood Plan, but I would like to thank you personally. Without having resident's opinions, it makes it extremely difficult to be sure that you are acting on their behalf. This data has been invaluable in helping the working group understand how residents feel about the village and where improvements can be made. The data is currently being analysed in depth to prepare further information for the consultants. When more information is available, this will be shared via the website and the Cresset update.

REPORTING CONCERNS

I am also Clerk for several other parishes in the local area and am aware of the regular concerns raised by residents - whether fly tipping or potholes etc. We encourage residents to report matters directly, as you can give more accurate and timely information. It is possible to reach the appropriate agency for most matters that come up via the "REPORT IT" tab on the Parish Council web-site. Of course, if I can be of any assistance directly, then please do contact me.

Email: clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk
Telephone: 07369 248998

The Parish Council normally meets on the first Monday of every month. The next full council meeting will be held by on 5th February 2024, 7.30pm at the Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club. All parish council meetings are open to the public. Please note that the clerk to the council does not keep regular office hours. Replies to emails and phone calls will be attended to as soon as is practicable.

Sam Chambers-Turner - Clerk to the Council

Planning Notes

a) New applications:

24/00012/TRE, 109 High Street. T1 Walnut - Reduce to pollard at 8m, evidence of major limb failure within crown, Broken limb lodged in crown. Decay visible within wound at centre of crown and risk of further significant failures. Adjacent to neighbouring property and public footpath

b) Planning Applications approved by ECDC:

23/01170/FUL, 6 Cedar Walk. Ground floor rear extension. first floor extension and new entrance porch to front

23/01006/FUL, 19 Pound Close. Alterations to ground floor layout, a roof lantern, solar panels on flat roofs, alterations to the NW elevation and construction of a cycle store



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District Councillors' Report

The District Council's Finance & Assets Committee will meet on Thursday 25 January. There will be a budget report on the agenda, though we know from past experience that this may bear no relation to the actual budget to be set on Tuesday 20 February.

At the end of November it was reported that the Council was projecting a year-end underspend of £757,000, against a budget of £16.85 million. £700,000 of this can be attributed to the Council benefiting from rises in interest rates on its deposits.

It is possible that the Finance & Assets Committee meeting on 25 January will receive the Full Business Case for the crematorium at Mepal.

The District Council's Operational Services Committee will meet on Wednesday 31 January. It will consider the improvement plan for East Cambs Street Scene, to bring it back to budget and to delivering the contracted service levels. It will also consider the grant to Newmarket Citizens Advice.

The Council held a 'behind closed doors' seminar with Sanctuary Housing on Thursday 14 December. Top of our list of questions was what is being done about the large number of empty properties—something like five per cent of Sanctuary's stock. Their response was that they were prioritising currently occupied homes in need of repair, and finding capacity to tackle empty properties in clusters. We have been following up a number of enquiries about Sanctuary repairs and long-term empty properties in local villages.

Recommendations are being finalised for presentation to February's Full Council meeting for changes to the council's constitution. These will include recommendations about the rules of procedure, responsibility for functions, the Code of Conduct for Councillors, and the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' allowances.

Our next surgery will take place on Monday 26 February, 6:30-7:30PM by zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6315424066?pwd=YjhScGtmZm5Kb1BpRmFsNnN0Nnl2dz09&omn=82265943981> or <http://tinyurl.com/CaneMeeting>

Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email or phone.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 March.

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

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Our last NAAFI Break coffee morning of 2023 and what a morning it was, it was a right family affair non stop laughter, sadly due to unforeseen circumstances though we were 3 short but the picture speaks a thousand words and we ate all the pies. in our hearts and minds no one was missing as sometimes life just gets in the way. So, we are now beginning our second year and any Veteran and their family members who want to join us on the first Wednesday of each month then please come along, the past 12 months has been a memorable blast and we would like you to be part of it too.

I wanted to start this year with a true reflection of our good friend Bernie.

Bernie was called up for National Service in Jan 1957 and was enlisted to the Royal Signals. In August of 57 having completed his training, Bernie was sent to Christmas Island in the Pacific Ocean. Bernie amongst others was placed into a working party with no idea what lay ahead. They got into paper boiler suits, put goggles on and were then told to turn about during the explosions as Nuclear H Bombs were being tested. Bernie like many others went on to experience health issues and so finally in 2023 in recognition of what they all went through, they were awarded the Nuclear Test Medal. I speak on behalf of everyone at our group, it was an honour and a privilege to see Bernie with his medal. Next NAAFI Break is 7th February followed by 6th March, 10.00am at Anglesey Abbey





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The Anglesey Group programme for 2024 began with our New Year Holy Communion Service, which again this year was combined with the weekly Thursday morning Holy Communion in St James' Church, Lode. This was led by Rev. Roger Bowen. After the service MU members provided and served a soup lunch.

Our first guest speaker of the year is Liz Butler, Licenced Lay Minister, who will be speaking to us about Christian Mission in Bihar, India.

This meeting will take place on **Thursday 15th February at 2.30pm in Fassage Hall, Lode.**

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month, and copies of our programme for the whole year can be found in all five parish churches. You are most welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langran



Bottisham Bowling Club



CHEESE & WINE EVENING

SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY AT 7:30PM

BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

TICKETS £12.50 - AVAILABLE FROM THE CLUB

NAAFI Break

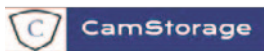
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THE FOLLY OF A BOTTISHAM GREENWAY...

Having read the recent Cresset article from Parish Council apropos the Bottisham Greenway, I became somewhat bewildered to read that this seems to be a done deal apart from some fine tuning around the Village Triangle!

We already have a perfectly workable cycle and footpath network connecting Bottisham to and from Cambridge so why do we need another one, and at such vast expense too?

Then alarm bells sounded: where is the mandate for the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), with no elected jurisdiction in East Cambridgeshire, to obligate East Cambs Parish Councils to embrace its 'Greenway' schemes. And where is the debate or discussion with the local populace to reach the stage of detailed plans?

As with other villages roundabout, I find this kind of expenditure insulting and grotesque and I strongly question who the real beneficiaries of a Greenway would be. Worryingly I also wonder what the hidden agenda is, although I think the answer can be found in the name: Greater Cambridge Partnership! Will Bottisham become another victim of the eastern urban sprawl, comparable to Cherryhinton and soon possibly Teversham!

May I suggest therefore that rather than spend millions on a folly that will only be used by a small minority, the money is spent instead on properly maintaining what we already have. As for the problems around the Village Triangle; a less costly but effective idea in my opinion would be to simply enact the law by applying some police presence and enforcement.

Community services in all their guises are desperate for funding and are thus a high priority area whereas non-essential 'nice to haves' aren't. So how about the GCP applying a bit of humanity and common sense by reallocating the money to where it really does need to be spent.

Anthony Jolley.



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Happy new year from the Red2Green Garden!

It's the new year already and staff and clients at our community garden have been busy with a variety of activities. With winter still in full swing, they have been making bird feeders to help our feathered friends through the colder months. The bird feeders are a great way to attract birds to our gardens and provide them with a source of food when resources are scarce.

In addition to the bird feeders, our staff and clients have also been tidying up the winter pansies by dead-heading and trimming them back. This will ensure that the pansies continue to bloom throughout the winter and provide a pop of color in an otherwise drab season.

The staff and clients also took part in litter picking around the college. This is an important activity as it helps our clients learn why it is important to keep our environment clean and prevent harm to wildlife.

Finally, the group took part in some arts and crafts and as we have said goodbye to Christmas for another year, they have been making some valentine hearts. A great way to get creative and express oneself while also spreading love and positivity!

Overall, it has been a productive month for the staff and clients at our garden. They have engaged in a variety of activities that are not only fun but also beneficial to both themselves and the community. Soon we will have more information on the incoming spring plants and advice to get your garden ready for that burst of colour we are all waiting for!

If your new year's resolution is to get more involved in the community this year, don't forget that we are always looking for more volunteers, including fundraisers, admin support, gardeners and more! Just head over to www.red2green.org for more information.

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB

Cheese & Wine Event

SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2024 - 7:30pm START

At Bottisham Sports & Social Club, Downing Close, Bottisham

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Public Transport Matters

Do you use cash to pay for bus journeys or do you use a card? Public transport contactless payment cards ('smartcards') were first introduced in a big way in Hong Kong in 1997 with the 'Octopus' card, and then Transport for London (TfL) adopted a somewhat similar system with 'Oyster' in 2003. Travellers were charged a small fee to buy an Oyster card, but then Oyster could be used to hold period tickets, travel permits and, most usefully, credit for travel ("Pay as you go"). The use of Oyster successfully speeded up the boarding process on buses in London so much that it led to the (somewhat controversial) decision by TfL a few years ago to stop accepting cash for payment of bus fares in London.

When Oyster came in as a smartcard in London in 2003 it was an amazing thing as it made bus and tube travel in London so much easier, and I even remember buying both my daughters an Oyster card when they moved to live in London after university (so I could get the experience of how it worked). But its ease of use and popularity came with a cost for TfL as it required TfL to act like a bank, with all the back-office systems, infrastructure, and complex security protocols that that involved.

So TfL looked for a way to cut these costs and, in conjunction with the banking industry, standards for the use of the contactless EMV (Eurocard / Mastercard / VISA) protocol on public transport were developed, firstly just for London but then about 10 years ago, developed for public transport generally across the UK. TfL very much promoted and encouraged this new 'contactless' technology on public transport and it rapidly spread across the UK so that it had near universal acceptance on buses - both Stephenson's and Stagecoach accept contactless EMV bank cards. I remember being surprised 2 years ago when I discovered a smallish local bus operator in Bedfordshire, and running bus services on behalf of the local council, that didn't accept such cards for payment of bus fares.

But TfL's Oyster card still exists. Is it worth having one if you already have a contactless bank card? (Oyster cards cost £7 to buy). Well it can be, if you have an age-related, HM Forces or disabled Persons National Railcard, have registered your Oyster card, have 'linked' Oyster to your railcard, and want to travel on Rail or tube journeys solely within London (i.e. not using a day Travelcard rail ticket from Cambridge, which covers travel on all public transport in London). Why? Because you will now get the standard National Railcard 1/3 discount on off-peak travel with your Oyster card: this discount isn't available on EMV contactless bank cards for such journeys that are entirely within London.

But it's a bit of a laborious process to do that registration and 'linkage' of your Oyster card, so perhaps it's rather unlikely to be of much use to many Cambridgeshire residents like us.

Happy Travelling!

National Traveline Enquiries (for bus services) -
www.traveline.info or 0871 200 22 33 (a Premium-rate service)
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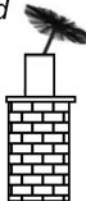
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WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 10th February - Bowling Club - Cheese & Wine Evening

The bowling club is holding a fundraiser, join them for this tasty event.

Saturday 17th February - Library Quiz Night

The library is holding a fundraising event. How clever are you?

Friday 23rd February - Open Mic Night - 8pm start

Our regular monthly event, a great night not to be missed.

Saturday 2nd March - 'The Numbers' 8pm start

This band will get you moving on a cold spring night.

Bring your friends just £5 for members and £10 for non-members.

Saturday 23rd March - Bowling Club - Race Night

Fancy a little flutter, join this fundraising evening. You Could win!

Friday 29th March - Open Mic Night - 8pm start

Our regular monthly event, a great night not to be missed.

Saturday 30th March - Easter fun for the children

Saturday 8th June - The Village Fun Day

A fun day when the whole village comes together.

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

Health Advice from Medical Staff:

Please remember homely remedies as most coughs and colds do not require medical attention. Please visit the 111 website <https://111.nhs.uk/> when you are unwell which directly takes you step by step through your symptoms and advises on the best course of action which may be a review at a local pharmacy, seeing your GP or attending A&E. If you use the 111 website out of hours it can even book you into a GP out of hours slot automatically!

If you have received a message to book for a medication review or health review please book this appointment. We are monitored regarding these reviews and your assistance would be appreciated.

We have physiotherapists available two days a week and you can book directly in to see them about any musculoskeletal problem.

New Year Tip: Walk more and drive less where possible. Better for health and the environment.

Missed Appointments: There were 31 missed appointments in December, do please inform the surgery if you are unable to keep an appointment. It is only fair for other patients who could use the slot.

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

Next Meeting: This will be at 6.30pm Thursday 28 March 2024 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meeting, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or speak to reception.

Bottisham and District Gardening Club

We held our Christmas party in early December and seated at the long table we enjoyed mince pies and stollen, and drank mulled wine. The competition entries for the best Christmas table decoration lined the tables and the one prepared with fresh flowers was won by Dora Gale.

The gardening quiz that I had prepared proved difficult (not everyone does the Daily Telegraph Cryptic crossword!) but the Christmas Quiz organised by Cindy King was well received. We then had a few games of Bingo. A good social occasion, rounded off by a raffle.

Our speaker on 27th February will be Gerry Daish (Bottisham Bird Brain)

Meetings are held in the Social Club Poppy Room at 7.30pm.

Sylvia Overton



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This month a bit of history for you. On Sunday 16th October 1988 a Memorial Plaque was unveiled in honour of Thomas J. J. Christian Jr., Commander of the 361st Fighter Group USAAF, by his daughter Ms Christian Wilson Fleming and the new street was named Thomas Christian Way by Councillor Wright, the then Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council.



This month's photo shows the occasion with the bugler from USAF Alconbury who played the last post.

This was followed by a two-minute silence and the flypast of a P51 Mustang. The site where the housing estate now stands was accommodation which housed 2,841 personnel in Nissen huts and a communal site with a church, sickbay, and a number of prefab type buildings. After the Americans moved out it was used by Belgian airmen and later by the National Hostels Association, before being taken over in 1948 by the Committee for the Education of Poles in Great Britain to house a secondary school for boys.

In November 1948 the Nichola Copernicus Grammar School for boys moved in, where they were taught English. By 1951 pupils were taking O-Levels and A-Levels and stayed in Bottisham until 1952 when they moved to Diddington Park near St Neots.

The site was then used by the Green family as a farm until becoming a housing estate. What is now named Lysander Close after the aeroplane which was based on the airfield was also used as living quarters and NAAFI for 105 WAAFs.

And was where the Bottisham Airfield Museum started.

To bring you back to 2024, the museum reopens on Easter Sunday 31st March and Wednesday 3rd April and thereafter till 10th November. Our events start on 19th May with a Classic car show, a D-day themed Sunday on 2nd June, Bottisham at war/forties weekend on July 6th-7th, and Classic car shows on August 11th and October 6th.

If anyone would like to join our volunteer team helping in the cafe or the museum, please contact the museum. Our telephone number is 01223 891254.

Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer.

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

The library was filled with youngsters on January 13th as both a Lego group and story and rhyme time session were taking place. The committee were pleased to make a small presentation to both Laura Overton and Quratulain Tahir to thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment to these activities over the year.

We are sorry that Quratulain will shortly be moving away from the village. Thank you to her and hopefully another volunteer will come forward.

Lego Club dates are Saturdays 10th February, 9th March and 13th April.

We hope that many of you have made New Year resolutions to use our library. We have been told that our collection of picture books for the very young far surpasses the number and quality of those in the main library.

Our Annual Library Quiz on Saturday 17th February has an advert below in the magazine

Sylvia Overton

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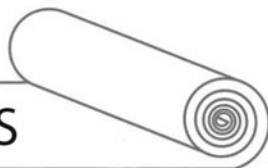


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News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

WINTER WILDLIFE WATCHING

You may have seen the ITV and local media coverage of the turning on of the taps to help create a winter wetland for wildlife and reduce CO2 emissions at Wicken Fen. Water from the lodes is at a higher level, so gravity enables the water to flow through pipes onto the fen without needing a pump. The water attracts wildfowl including wigeon, teal, shoveler, gadwall, geese, egrets, and most recently whooper swans. It's well worth a visit to the areas of open water on the reserve such as Burwell Fen and Baker's Fen to see the wildfowl. The process of turning on the taps also helps mitigate the effects of climate change, as re-wetting peat enables it to lock in carbon, rather than it being released into the atmosphere. You can find out more about this process on our website.



WICKEN 125 AND VISION 25 CELEBRATIONS IN 2024

Next year we celebrate 125 years since the National Trust acquired its first two acres at Wicken Fen, and 25 years of the Wicken Fen Vision project. We've got lots of exciting plans and hope our local communities will be able to join us for some of the activities. Our anniversaries are on May 1st, and we will have a public event on Saturday 4th May to celebrate. More information will be in future editions of this magazine.

Bottisham WI

Our Christmas Party early in December was well supported and each member had brought a plate of festive food to share. We had a Christmas quiz featuring lines from Christmas carols or Yuletide songs. We played Christmas Bingo, had a Secret Santa sack where we exchanged presents and were then entertained by the committee with an unusual interpretation of the 12 days of Christmas. Simple fun but with good company and good cheer. As usual at this time of year we finished the evening with singing a few carols and "We wish you a merry Christmas." And we had an excellent raffle.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 20th February when Kevin Pigney will tell us about his Photographic journey.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room.

Sylvia Overton



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Bottisham Bird Brain

Every winter, the ranks of the Thrushes are swelled by a couple of notable arrivals from Northern Europe and Scandinavia, looking for easier pickings in the food chain as the harsher conditions begin to bite.

You might notice flocks – sometimes mixed flocks – of these birds populating our fields, trees, bushes and hedgerows between late October and early March, making the most of the winter berries and seeds. I have a feeling – simply from personal observation – that numbers of both Fieldfares and Redwings are somewhat down this year, but I'll wait and see what official counts produce before spreading too much doom & gloom!

These birds are worth more than a cursory glance though, while they're here. Both display striking plumage and are easily distinguishable from other members of the Thrush family, once you know what you're looking for!

The Redwing – *Turdus iliacus* – the smaller of the two relatives, rather resembles a Song Thrush and is roughly the same size, although slightly smaller but stockier in general appearance. The two significant features of the Redwing are, firstly, the orangey-red patch in the 'armpit', usually visible on the flank of the body under the wing coverts, and secondly, the two light stripes above and below the eye, giving a rather smart, best-dressed, look which is absent in the Song Thrush. This impression is further enhanced by the arrangement of the spots, which tend to form striations down the breast, from chin to belly. I have to say, the Redwing is one of my favourite winter birds...there's something captivating about seeing that red flash for the first time each year! We can expect c. 700,000 temporary immigrants each winter, throughout the UK, with a small, but apparently increasing number staying to breed in the north of Scotland.

The Fieldfare - *Turdus pilaris* – is more comparable with the Mistle Thrush in size and demeanour, being a couple of inches longer than the Redwing and sporting a more varied, though often dull, plumage. The speckled breast is there, like other thrushes, but it shows very light underparts and underwing which contrast with the chestnut brown back, grey head, neck, and rump. These colours are often not too obvious, but shape and movement can be good diagnostic features (together with size, of course). The Fieldfare appears as a rather long, slightly untidy bird, with wings that tend to droop lazily under the tail, as opposed to resting on the rump. And when flying, they alternate between beating the wings rapidly, and closing them, resulting in an undulating flight-path. Fieldfares numbers will be similar to those of the Redwing, most winters, but as far as resident birds are concerned, the RSPB estimates only 1-2 pairs stay for breeding! I've always been fascinated by their



(Continued on page 39)

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(Continued from page 37)

compulsion to leave 'en-masse' for the summer... given the abundance of other thrush species as resident birds, you would think a few more Fieldfares (and Redwings) would find our country hospitable enough, wouldn't you?!

The reason I'm lumping these two species together in one bulletin is not solely due to their similar migration habits; it's because you will very often see them together in mixed flocks, ranging from a handful of birds to several hundred, especially when the weather becomes severe. Neither 'Iliacus' nor 'pilaris' visit gardens very often, unless the rural scene is snow bound and you have plenty of berries available. But, given the surrounding areas of our beautiful village, you shouldn't have to walk far at this time of year to find fields and hedgerows alive with their chatter and foraging. As with other thrushes, their diet is mixed, including worms, snails, grubs, beetles and caterpillars as well as vegetation.

There is another notable bird that visits us from northern Europe/Scandinavia in varying numbers each Winter without staying to raise a family, and that is the Waxwing, which has been seen as near as Cherry Hinton and Swaffham Prior recently! However, we'll leave this stunning creature for a future edition. It's absolutely unique, so in the meantime find a picture so you know what it looks like, and keep your eyes peeled at all times!

By the way, did anyone participate in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch (26-28th January)? If you did, feel free to let me know how you got on...

I'm going to take the unusual step of including a whole poem this month – from one of my favourites: the prolific John Clare. The Fieldfare is only one of the birds mentioned, but to snip two lines from such a beautiful piece of verse would be sacrilege, so please allow me to regale you with the entire work! (Emmonsail's Heath, incidentally, is in fact in Cambridgeshire – near Helpston.)

TTFN - Gerry Daish

I love to see the old heath's withered brake
Mingle its crimped leaves with furze and ling,
While the old heron from the lonely lake
Starts slow and flaps his melancholy wing,
And oddling crow in idle motions swing
On the half rotten ashtree's topmost twig,
Beside whose trunk the gipsy makes his bed.
Up flies the bouncing woodcock from the brig
Where a black quagmire quakes beneath the tread,
The fieldfares chatter in the whistling thorn
And for the awe round fields and closen rove,
And coy bumbarrrels twenty in a drove
Flit down the hedgerows in the frozen plain
And hang on little twigs and start again.

John Clare: Emmonsail's Heath in Winter

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PARISH CLERK

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_____ clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk - Tel: 07369248998

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

CHARLOTTE CANE _____ charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk - Tel: 07976 607512

JOHN TRAPP _____ john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk - Tel: 01223 812120

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

ALAN SHARP _____ alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk - Tel: 07794 292941

Useful Information

Bottisham Website:	www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk
Parish Council Chairman: Jon Ogborn, jon.ogborn@bottisham-pc.gov.uk	07486 372780
Parish Council Clerk: Sam Chambers-Turner, clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk	07369 248998
Holy Trinity Church: Stuart Field, Churchwarden	01223 604019
Roman Catholic Priest: Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard	01223 211235
RE:NEW/Lode Chapel: Rev. Alan Brand	01223 812558
Bottisham Surgery: Enquiries and Appointments	810030
Out of Hours only - Urgentcare Cambridge	111
Bottisham Library: Library hours, <i>see advert previous page</i>	01223 812354
Cambridgeshire Police HQ:	01480 456111
Cambridgeshire Police: (NON-URGENT MATTERS)	ring 101
In EMERGENCIES	ring 999
Local East Cambs Policing info: www.cambs.police.uk/Neighbourhood-Policing/East-Cambs	
Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator: kevin.g.evans@ntlworld.com	01353 614892
Bottisham Pharmacy:	812321
Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club: Secretary Bev Clowes, Bottishamcsasc@gmail.com	812063
Bottisham Community Primary School:	811235
Bottisham Village College, School:	811250
Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information	811372
Bottisham W.I.: Secretary - Jenn White • mrandjw@btinternet.com	811600
Bottisham Scout Group: Group Contact: Linda Jones	813040
1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies: Kay Pearce	811055
Girlguiding Bottisham District: Cambs County office • www.cambseastguides.org.uk	01223 813917
Bottisham & District Gardening Club: Secretary: Julia Green	811467
Bottisham Bowling Club: Peter Clowes, Secretary	811565
Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club: Nora Watson, nora@gandnwatson.uk	812121
Bottisham Cricket Club: Chairman: Will Allen, Chairman@bottlodecricket.co.uk	07713 007757
Bottisham Youth Football Club: Adam Bridgland, adambridgland@hotmail.com	07764 488599
Bottisham Local Charities Trustees: secretary - Jonathan Barrett	07920 425154
Bottisham Pool Association: Manager - Harry Bubbs	811121
Bottisham Royal British Legion Branch: PoC, Peter Walker;	811402
www.Britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham	
Queen's Court Day Centre:	811905
East Cambridgeshire District Offices:	01353 665555
East Cambridgeshire District Councillors:	
Charlotte Cane, 34 Swaffham Road, Reach	07976 607512
John Trapp, 104 Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	01223 812120
Cambridgeshire County Councillor: Alan Sharp, Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	01638 507485/07794292941
MP for Constituency: Lucy Frazer, MP, lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk	
www.lucyfrazer.org.uk	
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Milton Road Tip: Apr to Sept – Weekdays 9.00am-8.00pm: Weekends 9.00am-6.00pm	860674
Oct to Mar - 9.00am-4.00pm	
CRESSET Editor: email: BottishamCresset@gmail.com	
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Starting Location	Date	Month
Queens Court Care Home	10 th	February
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	16 th	March
Bottisham Village College (<i>sports centre car park end</i>)	20 th	April

Further Information:

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am for approx. 1.5 hours, refreshments 11:15am (donations welcome!)

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

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