

# THE Cresset

December 2015



The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**BURNS  
SUPPER**



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The Royal British Legion Social Club**

**On the 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 at 7.30PM  
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*Festive greetings dear reader.*



December is upon us already and Christmas is coming ever closer. An exceptionally mild but wet few months has seen the move from summer, through autumn and into winter, seem to pass unnoticed. It is sure to get colder (perhaps it already has), but it never gets really cold much before the New Year.

Last year the wind blew from the North just at the right time when the leaves were falling from the trees. Much of the fall ended up in Will Newman's field at the back and I am sure his Christmas trees were all the better from the leaf mould mulch that they got.

No such luck this year. A light SW breeze laid them thick onto the lawn, all of which have to be raked up and cleared off the grass! The upside is that I now have the biggest leaf mould pile I have ever had. No need to buy potting compost next year, that's for sure.

Have you got your cake made? Have you got your pudding stirred? Or are you waiting until the last minute to buy one half price in the supermarket's final rush to get rid of their seasonal stock?!

Speaking of supermarkets, I think they held back a bit this year for the start of their Christmas sales. I am sure it was at least the second week in September before I saw the rolls of wrapping paper and ridiculously big tins of Quality Street. Why do they try to sell us Christmas stuff when we still want to buy things for the BBQ and the schools are just back?

Lots of activities on the go, in the run up to Christmas. There have been Christmas fairs and events both last month and yet to come. Christmas quizzes, dances and parties abound. Plenty to keep the kids amused (and the grown ups!)

Other things in this month's issue. You will see an advert by the Saturday Art Club looking for support to help with the running of the Club. Liz Cook has been holding the fort but needs some help. This is a clear example of where volunteer clubs and organisations struggle to keep going without people willing to help. We all like to have the facilities and organisations in the village which help to make it the enjoyable and interesting place that it is. Well we need to help to make it that way. If we think long and hard, we all could have some time to spare and being involved in activities like this can be very rewarding. Give it a thought and give some time if you can.

Pleased to see that Saplings managed to resolve their problem at the 11th hour. One hopes that the parents and families that use these facilities and activities will stay involved in its organisation and maintain its future. Also good to hear that the Scouts have a strong support and that numbers are growing. (21 of the 24 members turned out for the Armistice Day service at Quay; well done.)

Now I would like to take this seasonal opportunity to thank all those who help to create this monthly offering. From the regular contributors who faithfully produce interesting, challenging and informative articles, to those who respond to those offerings and make it the focal point of much discussion in the village. (This month is a good example.)

*(Editorial continued on page 2.)*

(Editorial continued.)

Then to that team of tireless Bottsamites who tramp the streets in wind and rain to put The Cresset through your letterbox, a very big thank you. In particular I would thank Ian Cole, supported by Polly, Heidi and The Ibbitts for organising the distribution.

Finally I would like to thank the lady who makes the Cresset look the way it does. Christina, with her husband Colin at ONG, working away in the depths of Suffolk near Stowmarket, puts up with me and every month produces the print file that Gary at Falcon Print in Cambridge can use to print our magazine.

**To all a big thank you again.**

*"May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;  
The spirit of Christmas which is peace;  
The heart of Christmas which is love."*

- Ada V. Hendricks

**PLEASE NOTE .... Due to Christmas holidays, the copy deadline for the JANUARY magazine, will be Friday 11th December.**

*Please send material to the editor at [cresset@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishampc.org.uk)*



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## Services in Holy Trinity Bottisham

**Sunday 6th 11am Holy Communion** *Revd Sue Giles*

**Sunday 13th** *No service in Bottisham*

**9.30am Benefice Communion** in Lode

**11am Benefice All-Age Service** in Swaffham Bulbeck

**Sunday 20th 8am Holy Communion** *Revd Lawrie Marsh*

**6pm Carols by Candlelight** *Revd John Morrill*

**Wednesday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4.30pm Carols round the Crib** *Revd Sue Giles*

**11.30pm Midnight Communion**

**Thursday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY**

*No service in Bottisham*

**10am Benefice Communion** in Swaffham Prior

**Sunday 27th** *No service in Bottisham*

**9.30am Benefice Communion** in Quy

Please note the times for Benefice services. Details of other services in the Anglesey Group of Churches (the Benefice: Bottisham, Lode, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior) can be found on the notice board in Holy Trinity.

## WEA News

Members have enjoyed the series of lectures by Marina Burrell on "Russians and the Russian Culture in the USSR". Marina, who grew up in the USSR was able to let us know that she enjoyed life there as a child, and that life at that time was nowhere nearly as bad as many of us in the West may have thought. Everyone had to go to school, could then go on to university if they so wished, and then get a job. Sporting facilities were also freely available to anyone who wanted to use them whatever their choice of sport may have been. However, no matter what one did, one had to obey the rules. If not, you were in trouble. For example, an important expression at one time was "If you don't work, you don't eat". I think many of us have heard that saying before!

If you have family connections with the United States or have ancestors who chose to cross the Atlantic at the time, you may be interested in our Spring Term series of lectures commencing on Thursday 7th January 2016. Entitled "A Brave New World?" Wendy Barnes will be exploring all the difficulties facing the English in 17th Century Virginia.

Should you wish to book a place or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Shirley Ellis on 01223 811 891.

If you would like to do any additional course or do not fancy our topics, details of other courses available in the area can be found in the WEA brochure available from Bottisham Library or on the WEA website at [www.eastern.wea.org.uk](http://www.eastern.wea.org.uk)

*Gerry Cowley*



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## ***The Royal British Legion - Bottisham & District***

This year's Armistice Day service took place on the 8th November at Quy and was well attended. The Church was full and it was a pleasure to see so many young people, guides, beavers, rainbows and cadets taking part. A big thank you to all those involved. The branches recent affiliation with the Burwell detachment of the ACF saw many cadets attending.

On the 11th at 11.00am in Bottisham, a brief remembrance service was held at the village sign and garden of remembrance. It was well attended and one incident lifted everybody who was there. A driver of a small lorry was passing up the high St., saw the gathering and immediately parked up and came and joined us. Don't know who he was, but he did the right thing. A pleasing contrast to others of the village who just walked past during the silence.

Next year's service will be at Lode with the silence observed at the memorial outside the church.

### **POPPY APPEAL**

I would like to thank all who have helped with the 2015/2016 Poppy Appeal - the volunteers, clubs, schools and businesses in Bottisham, Lode, Longmeadow, Quy, Great and Little Wilbraham Six Mile Bottom and the Swaffhams. You have again given invaluable and enthusiastic support to the work of the Royal British Legion.

Provisional amount collected in Bottisham and surrounding villages since the launch in October is £5363.97. At this stage this is £300 ahead of last year's poppy appeal. We aim to exceed the final full year figure for last year ending 30th September 2015 which was £7245.40

*Kat Rayment, Poppy Appeal Organiser*

## **LODE PARISH COUNCIL ALLOTMENT PLOTS**

A number of allotment plots have become free. One is available now, with no rental until April when £8pa will be levied.

*Yes it is hard work, but considerably less costly than a gym membership and good for the budget.*

**Anyone interested in taking it on please contact The Clerk on**

**811280**

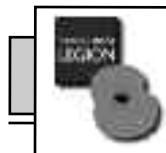
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## ***The Royal British Legion Social Club***

### **WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AT THE LEGION SOCIAL CLUB**

**Line Dancing every Tuesday and Wednesday  
(except the first Wednesday in the month.)  
Bingo every 1st and 3rd Sunday**

#### **Sunday 6th December - TACKY DANGLEY DAY.**

This year's chosen charity is Red2Green.

Come along and see Santa and the Elves and help decorate the tree.

*Stalls - Raffle - Tombola - Activities - Hot Dogs and Burgers will be on sale.*

If anyone would like to donate items for the Tombola or a prize for the Raffle please contact the Club.

#### **Saturday 12th December - CHRISTMAS AT THE LEGION QUIZ NIGHT.**

Mince pies and mulled wine at 7pm - Quiz starts 7.30pm

Teams of up to 8 people - Entry Fee £3 per person.

*Prizes for members of the winning team.*

#### **Thursday 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE DISCO WITH VENUE DISCO**

8pm til Late. Free Entry.

#### **Thursday 31st December - NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO 8PM TIL LATE**

Members £5 Non Members £7

#### **Monday 18th January - AGM MEETING 8.00pm**

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At our meeting at the beginning of November, once again road traffic and parking issues were discussed. We are considering purchasing cones which would say 'no waiting' on them, which could be put out on the double yellow lines outside of the shops to deter vehicles from continually parking here. Blue badge holders, who are able to park on double yellow lines for 5 minutes would still be able to park but should be 25 yards away from the junction. We are aware that our PCSO covers many villages but are still not happy that Bottisham receives so little attention.

Councillor Bryant recently read a report relating to Great Shelford Parish Council who are exploring the possibility of paying for extra PCSO time as they were also unhappy with the current level of service that they received. For a conditional grant from interested parties of £1000 this would pay for 42 hours over a suggested 6 month period. This would be voluntary overtime for the PCSO and would be outside of their normal working hours, although we recognise that with cutbacks in services there may not be so many PCSO's to go round in the future. Bottisham Parish Council agreed that they would not really want to spend money on this kind of scheme and would instead encourage people to park more considerately, especially around the shops area. We have sent in our application for extra lay-bys to Highways and wait to hear the result of this.

We hope that the vehicle activated signs should be installed in Bell Road this side of Christmas. We had some problems with the County Council changing what had previously been agreed but we have now gone ahead and Councillor Jolley is liaising directly with the manufacturer and supplier who will be doing the installation for us. This will then complete the traffic calming measures in Bell Road, the first part of which was installed last year.

The information board has now been sited at the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Oxmeadow and residents are encouraged to have a look at this. Residents have asked if a dog litter bin could be provided in Lode Road and we are looking into this with East Cambs District Council.

With regards to the cemetery please be aware that the tap has been turned off for the winter to prevent the water freezing and then leaking which has happened before. It will be turned on again in the Spring. We have a gravestone in the cemetery which has collapsed and is in need of repair but I am unable to find any direct relatives. The deceased is Ada Cornwell who was buried in 1980, if anyone in the village knows of any relatives I would be grateful if they could get in touch with me. Councillor Ogborn has been working with a cemetery consultant and is preparing information for a pre-planning meeting with the District Council regarding the land we are purchasing off of Lode Road.

The Finance Committee have begun to discuss the budget for the next financial year. Last year the precept remained the same for the third year running (£23,000) but it was pointed out through the Cresset that it would have to rise significantly for Parish Council to be able to provide a new cemetery and playground. This will be discussed further and finalised at our December meeting. The County Council has also recently sent through to Parish Council reports concerning their budgets for each department and the cuts that they have to make for the next financial year. These look to be severe with the emphasis very much on making the community more responsible and we wait to see what changes take place.

I have also been asked to make people aware that a defibrillator is now located at the first entrance to the Royal British Legion. People working at and living near to the British Legion have received training on how to use this equipment.

Bottisham Parish Council wishes everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year. See you in 2016.

*(Parish Notes continued on page 15.)*

*C Fullwood, Parish Clerk*



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- 15/01104/FUL Lakepress House, Newmarket Road, External alterations including insertion of 11 windows, 1st floor level, 2 windows and 2 doors at ground level, NEW APPLICATION
- 15/01105/FUL Lakepress House, Two aluminium panels with printed vinyl logos NEW APPLICATION
- 15/01112/FUL Greenmount, 12 Tunbridge Lane, Detached single garage, NEW APPLICATION

### To the Editor

**CLIVE KING** - I would like to extend an enormous thank you to my family, friends and acquaintances for their support over the last year during Clive's illness and recent passing. Thank you all for the kind tributes and thanks to Katy at the Royal British Legion for her help.

Clive passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on October 19th 2015.

*Cindy King.*

### Dear Editor

I read Tony Jolley's article with interest. When we moved here in 1984, we did receive a Welcome pack and a pleasant greeting from Sylvia Bedford. The village has expanded with many new houses and residents and perhaps some of the feeling of community that we found then has disappeared. Lode, a much smaller village, is hosting a Newcomers Welcome event on a Saturday morning in January to share ideas about how to improve village life.

As I nod and say 'hello' to all these new faces in the village, I do wonder where they live! Many former leaders in the community have gone.

However, there are many people who do still make things happen - there are clubs, walks, the Bottisham Players, the library, the village church and Renew, other activities to join in with - the Cresset and its articles and adverts are a good start and a good example of community effort - Peter Walker organises the production and then it is delivered by a team of volunteers to every home and business in the village.

Both schools organise events and the WEA has a good lectures programme at the British Legion on Thursday mornings in autumn and spring terms but not in the summer. Many are puzzled at the lack of support for some new activities - The Hub, for instance, which Simon Goddard organised on a Saturday morning each month for clubs and craft people to showcase what they had to offer - coffee and tea and chat available. The numbers gradually dwindled and it was decided to close it.

The Wednesday coffee morning, now moved from the Queen's Court lounge to the British Legion with a nice view over the bowling green, would like more visitors to drop by for tea or coffee and biscuits and interesting chat - join us between 10.30am and noon. Everyone welcome!

*(Letters continued on page 17.)*

*Paddy James*

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### Dear Editor

I was interested to read in last month's Jolley old World, that the cause of the current crisis in the NHS was solely attributable to immigration. Having spent over twenty-five years in the health service I had assumed, quite naïvely it now seems, that the reasons for Addenbrooke's and other acute trusts being in, or on the cusp of, special measures were rather more numerous and complex.

How foolish of me to have believed that the current economic climate and the rising costs of energy, services and supplies may have placed pressures on public funds. That, maybe, with progressive developments in medicine more interventions can now be made for more illnesses, that long-term complex conditions such as diabetes, kidney and heart disorders can be better managed and that the success of these advances was evident in that we now possess an aging population. It seems quite inconceivable that I thought that being able to deliver more care, better care and maintaining those levels of care over longer periods actually had cost implications. I'm almost embarrassed to have supposed there were issues such as a shortage of GP's, resultant pressures on A&E and Urgent Care Centres, increased public expectations, impacts from modern lifestyle choices or that there were systemic legacy issues inherited from a structure which was originally designed to treat disease but now extends out into the realms of mental health, social care, rehabilitation, vaccination, family planning and beyond; or that there might be a lack of clear leadership in an increasingly Byzantine system with an absurd internal tariff structure which is married to an unhealthy obsession with paper targets rather than qualitative patient outcomes.

I am immensely grateful for the revelation that the challenges facing the health service can be boiled down to one issue, not least as this epiphany will undoubtedly make future service planning a great deal easier for all of us.

It has been my very great pleasure to work with many people from various nationalities, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds, from consultant surgeons to contract cleaners, all of whom, far from dragging the system down have actually kept it running, if not actually promoted, developed and improved it. At a time when trusts are seeking to bridge gaping skills shortages by recruiting from Europe and beyond and, moreover, that some trusts have called upon the government to ease overseas recruitment restrictions to facilitate this, it would seem that immigration is less of an ill and more something we can ill do without.

I am unsure what sort of a sense community was trying to be encouraged but in view of the opinions expressed I am hardly surprised there was a reluctance to rush to the cause. I find it bizarre that with this article and others that have preceded it, there is a loud call for the community to come together, yet often within them are passages that can at best be described as alienating or divisive. You ask if snobbery inhibits community. It may well do but I can think of other obstacles as well. Anyway, ending on a more positive note; given the content I felt that the inclusion of Einstein's quote on the boundlessness of stupidity was entirely apt.

*Name and address supplied*

**PLEASE NOTE .... Due to Christmas holidays, the copy deadline for the JANUARY magazine, will be Friday 11th December.**

*Please send material to the editor at [cresset@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishampc.org.uk)*

## Lucy Frazer MP Helps on Broadband

Access to broadband is critical to Cambridgeshire businesses and residents. As I met parish councils over the summer, it was clear that there are some small villages which are not properly connected.

Some people have contacted me about poor broadband in Bottisham. At a time when we are investing in superfast broadband and increasing connectivity, it is not acceptable that many people still have such issues. I want to correct this.

On Friday, 23rd October, I held an open meeting to bring together BT, Connecting Cambridgeshire and affected residents to resolve these problems and I wanted to update you on Connecting Cambridgeshire's and BT's position at that meeting.

As you are probably aware, Bottisham has been upgraded via the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme and superfast broadband is available in the village, however some premises may be particularly hard to reach meaning that a connection to the fibre network may not be possible. Where appropriate, alternative technology may be used to provide broadband connectivity (minimum 2Mbps). These technologies are likely to be delivered later in the roll-out.

Whilst I am very happy to assist with all queries, Connecting Cambridgeshire is very keen for those with problems to contact them directly. For specific broadband issues and information on the programme, you can contact Connecting Cambridgeshire by emailing [contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk). For BT-specific issues, if you have already spoken with your service provider, you can call BT directly to try and resolve the issue.

I will continue to press Connecting Cambridgeshire and BT to deliver a service that we deserve.

*Lucy Frazer MP*

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## Bottisham & District Gardening Club

The 39th Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Poppy Room, Royal British Legion, on Tuesday 27 October. Our President, Ken York, welcomed members to the meeting and reminded those present of the amount of work asked of the committee and hoped that we could raise a few volunteers to help in the coming 40th anniversary year. He then handed the meeting over to the Chairman, Derek Latchford. The minutes of last year's AGM were circulated and agreed. Derek reported on the various events held throughout the year and thanked the committee for all their hard work in making the club a success.

Unfortunately the Treasurer was unwell so unable to give her report for the year. Copies of the accounts were circulated. It was proposed that we increase the membership to £15 p.a. to cover the increasing cost of speakers. The increase was agreed unanimously with general agreement that this was good value for money. Certificates were then presented to those non-members present who were winners at the Annual Show (members receive the trophies). The committee were all willing to stand for another year and were all re-elected unanimously.

The formal business being complete, refreshments and wine were then served and members worked on the quiz prepared by Eve Cassidy and won by Jennifer Clark.

We meet at 7.30 p.m. in the Poppy Room every fourth Tuesday of the month and new members are always welcome. Our December meeting will be the Christmas Social, with mulled wine and mince pies, and will include a talk by Sylvia Overton on 'Water'.

*Tricia McLaughlin, Secretary*

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Burwell Sports Centre: Thursdays 9.30-11.30am.

**Little Movers** (Free)  
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Bottisham Children's Centre: Wednesdays 12.30-2pm

**Sun Dads** (£2 per family)  
Play and chat session for dads and their under-5s.  
Rosa Peers, Soham: 0<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, 10-12pm.

**NHS Well Baby Clinic** (Free)  
Baby weighing and advice from NHS professionals.  
Bottisham Children's Centre: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, 12.30-2pm.

To see our full timetable or get more information call us on 01223 727136 or email [sohamchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:sohamchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

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## Bottisham Community Library Association

The Library will be closed over the Christmas period. We close on **Wednesday 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday 5th January.**

We have a new Colour Laser Printer (at last) - 10p for black and white copy, 20p for colour.

Did you know you could reserve books – newly printed ones or the more obscure free of charge? Delivery usually takes a week.

We are intending to hold some sessions in the New Year offering help for Library Members with using some data bases (eg Which Magazine and Ancestry UK) and Help with using a Tablet.

Looking at recent statistics whilst numbers visiting and numbers borrowing children's books are good, adult fiction borrowing has decreased by 400 and 260 issues in the last 2 quarters. Why not make a regular library visit one of your New Year Resolutions.

Please keep Saturday 30th January 2016 free and organize a team for our Library Quiz at the Royal British Legion.

**Come to the Library, browse and borrow and help make sure it is there tomorrow.**

*Sylvia Overton*

### SATURDAY ART CLUB

Our volunteer Liz Cook whilst enjoying running the Club has found it hard as a working Mum with young children to provide the necessary time and commitment to continue next term without some more adult input. She volunteered on the understanding that others would be willing to help. A job share would be ideal so that she would not be involved each weekend in term time.

It has been running since we started volunteering at the Library (over 10 years) and been very successful. We have youngsters involved as part of their Dof E Community Service so it would be a pity both for them and the members if the Club had to close.

### BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## SATURDAY MORNING ART CLUB

We have been very fortunate in having Liz Cook running this thriving Art Club since September but she needs some

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## *1st Bottisham Scout Group*

Did you know that nearly 80 young people take part in Scouting in Bottisham every week? Not to mention the many adult volunteers who turn out to run the sessions and activities. So we thought it time that we had a regular slot in the Cresset, like many of the other village groups, to share what we get up to.

The 1st Bottisham Scout Group has 3 sections, all open to both boys and girls. Beavers start sometime after they turn 5¼ (subject to space!), with cubs starting from 8 and Scouts from about 10½. At 14 Scouts can become Explorers and/or Young Leaders – but more about all these wonderful youngsters in the future.

All sections are fully active. The beaver section is a welcoming colony and youngsters soon get their first taste of 'active scouting' at a young age. The Cub Pack faced an uncertain future recently until 3 new leaders stepped forward and we wish them well in the continued running of the pack. The Scout section are one of the most active, if not the most active, in the District. Did you know that each year in January the Scouts attend 'Wintercamp', under canvas (!) with several thousand fellow Scouts from around Britain? Previous years have seen rain, gales, snow, minus 8 degree temperatures and 'Glastonbury' like mud. We await to see what happens this time! And did you know that during summer camp this year the Scouts tried their hand at Gliding? So lots to tell in months to come.

Of course, as a charitable organisation we couldn't finish without a plea! Over the last few years we have been successful in getting grants to make the Scout Hut accessible to those with disabilities. We now have a permanent ramp for wheel chair access and our toilet facilities are accessible to all. But, our windows are now coming to the end of their life and no longer keeping the heat in as we would like. With winter coming we are conscious of how 'un-environmentally' friendly we are being not to mention the cost of heating the building.

So far we have been unsuccessful in gaining grants for replacing the windows (we have planning and quotes in place). So our plea is for any of you out there who work for companies who may have grants that local charities can apply for or indeed funds set aside for local groups. We are very happy to fill in the paperwork to apply – we just need some ideas. So please do ask around your work place and let us know. Thanks in advance. More next month.

*Linda Jones*

*Chair of 1st Bottisham Scout Group Executive Committee [indakinglouis@aol.com](mailto:indakinglouis@aol.com)*



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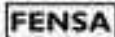
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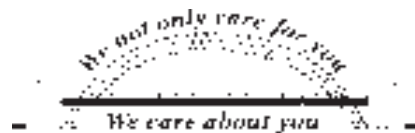
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# Christmas Quiz



**Saturday 12th December**

**Christmas at**

**The Legion Quiz Night.**

**Mince pies and mulled wine at 7pm.**

**Quiz starts 7.30pm**

Teams of up to 8 people - Entry Fee £3 per person.

Prizes for members of the winning team.

**Please contact Kate or the Club**

**on 812063**

**to book a table**



## Every day is a gift...

At the time of writing there are precisely 42.5 shopping days left 'til Christmas, 15 days 'til my wife's birthday and 19 days 'til our Wedding Anniversary. We do a lot of 'counting down the days' in life. After celebrating our youngest child's 2nd birthday recently, our 5 year old wanted to know if it was his birthday next (thinking it would be the next day!). He was quite puzzled to hear that, yes, he is the next of our children to celebrate their birthday, but not for another 100 days!

It is not wrong to look forward to things, especially spending time with special people, going on holiday & family celebrations; however, if we focus too much on the countdown, we can neglect to appreciate that every day is a gift (that's why it's called the present!).

We are now in Advent, and if we are not careful, it is easy to view this season as simply a countdown to Christmas Day (with the help of a daily piece of chocolate!), rather than the time of preparation for Jesus' coming - which it is.

My encouragement to you through Advent and Christmastime is, "Don't just count the days... make the days count" Every day is an opportunity to make a positive difference to someone, somewhere.

This Advent, I will be encouraging our RE:NEW family to make every day count by doing something specific, enabling us to focus on important areas of life, things it is good to be aware of, ways we can make a difference. I am writing an Advent resource with some practical examples of how we can do this; email or call me if you would like a copy.

You are also, as ever, very welcome to join us at RE:NEW any time!

I pray you'll have a special Advent and a wonderful Christmastime.

*Alan.*

## RE:NEW Services in December 2015.

We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services.

A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

**6th December. 10.30am** - RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School) With Holy Communion

**13th December. 10.30am** - RE:NEW Café style (at the School)

**13th December. 6.20pm** - Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

**20th December. 10.30am** - RE:NEW Family Carol Service (at the School)

**Friday 25th December 10.30am** - Christmas Morning Service. (at the School)

**27th December. 10.30am** - RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

**27th December. 6.20pm** - Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

*For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact:*

**Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558.** Email: alanbrand77@icloud.com or

**Peter Wells on C.812388.** Email: pandawells@cheerful.com

Or visit our website at [www.re-new.me.uk](http://www.re-new.me.uk)

**Copy deadline for the next issue is 11th December**

*Please send material to the editor at [cresset@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishampc.org.uk)*

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## Bottisham Neighbourhood Watch

There has been a slight increase in theft from sheds so please be mindful. As a minimum precaution always use a good quality padlock/hasp or a mortice lock on the door.



Fraudsters have been phoning victims telling them that they have been placed in the wrong council tax bracket and are entitled to a rebate. The fraudsters have mainly been targeting both male and female victims who are aged 60 and over. Never respond to unsolicited phone calls. If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online [http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone 0300 123 2040.

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has been alerted to a pension scam whereby cold callers continue to target members of the public aged 50 to 60 years old to release and transfer their pension early. If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online [www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone 0300 123 2040.

There is email in circulation that appears to have been sent from a legitimate Constabulary email address. The email appears to come from 'Lyn Whitehead' and is asking the recipient to pay an invoice that is attached to the email. If you have received it you MUST NOT open it. Instead delete it from your email system to avoid infecting your device. If you think you have been a victim of this type of email you should report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre. [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

Our local PCSO is Maria Robinson who can be contacted by phone using 101 and then asking for Maria Robinson.

## Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group

### Stay well this winter

In the past year as many of one in four residents in Cambridgeshire visited A&E when they could have used an alternative service or looked after themselves at home.

Each visit to A&E costs the local NHS £87, and that's before any treatment is given. When you look at the figures, this costs the local NHS over £4million a year. In turn this is the equivalent cost of 677 hip replacements, or 287 liver transplants or 115 more dementia nurses.

Using A&E when you don't need to can also have a knock-on effect to the rest of the hospital, as busy A&E departments resulted in 500 cancelled operations and procedures because a bed was no longer available, and longer waiting and referral times.

#### But you can help

- Stay healthy - get a flu vaccination if you are eligible
- Look after others - check on elderly friends, relatives and neighbours especially in spells of cold weather, help them to keep warm and have the medication they might need
- Be prepared - get your prescriptions in early before the holidays and see your pharmacist or GP for any issues you might be putting off
- Choose the right service - your local pharmacy can provide confidential, expert advice and treatment for a range of common illnesses and complaints, without having to wait for a GP appointment. For help with finding local NHS services visit [www.cambsandpeterboroughchoosewell.co.uk/](http://www.cambsandpeterboroughchoosewell.co.uk/)

CCG Communications Team





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*From all of us here at **Old Newton Graphics**, we wish you a **safe** and **happy** festive season.*

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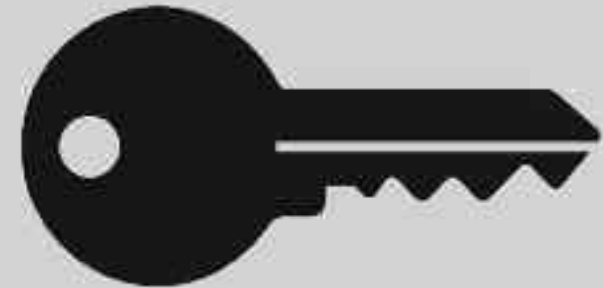
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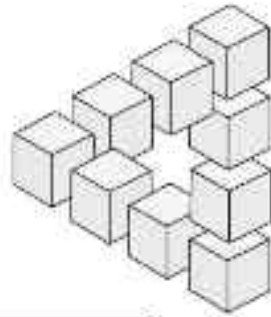
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## Christmas Shoebox Appeal

A fabulous 132 boxes were packed this year to support Mustard Seed Relief Missions Christmas shoebox appeal. The Benefice came together in St Cyriac's for the operation and huge thanks goes to all who contributed either financially, in donations or with their time. Our parcels will be shipped to children in Eastern Europe and I know they will bring a great deal of happiness when they are delivered. Thank you again to everyone that was involved.

Janet Willmott




## 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.** Please e-mail details of item, price and landline phone number to the Editor at the Cresset. E-mail details to [Cresset@Bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:Cresset@Bottishampc.org.uk). **Entries by 12th of the month for next months issue. Max 5 items.**

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TEL
Meerkat baby Oleg Toy with certificate of adoption. Brand new in original packaging.	£15	880491
Philips steam iron for sale (Elance 3100) Cost £40, good condition.	£25	880491
2 Brass lamp bases (candlestick style) £15 for both	£10 each	880491
Ladies bicycle, Blue, As new	£90 o.n.o.	811478
Lindam fabric baby play pen. Navy blue. Very good condition.	£40	812405
Apollo Boys bike, 16" wheel, (Green with Army Star) - VGC.	£35 ono	811352



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You just can't win sometimes! Two days after I'd written the words: "How on earth is he (Greg Dyke) going to save face if Platini's suspension scuppers his candidacy?" the English FA promptly pulled the rug from the UEFA Chairman! Do you think Greg Dyke reads the Cresset?!

While we're on the subject, I see my old friend Jérôme Champagne has again popped his lid into the ring for the FIFA Presidency. I quite like Champagne (in more ways than one!). Previously ousted by the Septic One, JC will be running on the 'openness & reform' ticket, promising to to modernise the organisation and to publish the salaries of the FIFA executives. The FA has not, to date, disclosed who is to be the recipient of their backing but, if Mr Dyke is following this column, perhaps he might be persuaded to join me in going down the French rue! In the meantime the Mad Hatter-Blatter has compounded his lunacy by admitting that the Russian World Cup deal was stitched up before the official voting! Is there no end to this man's skullduggery?

We are told by the Sports People's Think Tank in their annual report to an All-Party Parliamentary Football Group at Westminster that, at the current rate of progress, it will be another 31 years until black and minority ethnic managers are properly represented in English football. It seems that the 'properly represented' idyll would not be reached until the percentage of BME incumbents of elite coaching/management posts rises from the current 4% to the 25% that would reflect the number of BME players in the professional game. I won't bore you with another volley about the flawed arguments of the 'Rooney Rule' campaigners (I fired both barrels last November if you remember!) but I would just like to highlight an example of the nonsense emanating from these 'visionaries'. Former journeyman striker and now SPTT chairman, Jason Roberts, talks about a "structured exclusion of a minority in football"; then, in the next breath, he laments that we are losing potentially top managers and coaches because "When you're a black player and you're coming to the end of your career you think, 'well there's no opportunity for me as a manager', and the statistics only prove that." Sounds like a self-fulfilling prophecy to me!

So the South African government, in their wisdom, decided to effect a moonlight flit from prison to 'house arrest' for Oscar Pistorius in late October, having incarcerated him for less than a year for slaughtering his girlfriend on Valentine's Day 2013. The RSA judiciary termed the move 'correctional supervision'; Reeva Steenkamp's relatives, demonstrating extraordinary restraint, called it 'getting off lightly'; I would go a tad further and call it a hideous travesty of justice. It's difficult enough to understand how a man guilty of 'culpable homicide' received a sentence of only five years in the first place, but to release him after having served only one sixth of his time... well, it smacks of politics doesn't it? All part of the big fudge to appease the lobbyists on both sides of the divide – one side favouring the courageous, record-breaking, national athletics hero; the other deploring an egotistical, gun-slinging psychopath.

Personally, I've always had my doubts about Pistorius: he never even struck me as a magnanimous winner. Do you remember that unedifying protest of his, over the blades worn by the Brazilian Alan Oliveira in winning the 2012 Paralympic 200m? That gave the world a glimpse of the ruthless, self-centred heart of the man who ran as if victory was his entitlement rather than something for which to compete. Neither did his bleatings about fairness cut any ice with the insightful Mrs Nut, who repeatedly observes "He's got no warmth in his eyes". I guess the story will endure, ad infinitum, for the prosecution has been

(Sports Nut continued on page 47.)

## Bottisham Village College Adult and Community Learning



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November, come along and learn something new at one of our day courses?

Decorate your Christmas Cake (Igloo and Penguins) / Dressmaking (9.30 am – 4.00 pm)  
Flowers for Christmas / Indian Street Food / Paediatric First Aid (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Nov) (9.15 am – 3.15 pm)  
Make a Stained Glass Sun Catcher / Upholstery and Chair Caning (9.30 am – 4.00 pm)  
Website in a Day / Courses run from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm unless specified

In the meantime, don't forget our 5 week evening courses commencing after half term:

Baking for Christmas (from 3 Nov) / Authentic Indian Cookery (from 5 Nov)  
Sugarcraft – Miniature Shoes & Handbags (from 5 Nov)

To enrol, see our website, or contact the Community Office

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*(Sports Nut continued.)*

given leave to appeal the dismissal of the murder charge and the forthcoming proceedings will doubtless be front page news again shortly.

Well it didn't take long for the noble sport of Rugby Union to descend to a football-style 'hanging the ref out to dry' charade, did it, once the knock-out stages of the World Cup were under way. Poor old Craig Joubert, making a call on what he saw in the moment, without deferring to the god of action replays, and unwittingly handing Australia an undeserved penalty which won them a place in the semi-finals at Scotland's expense. In making an honest mistake he subjected himself to a level of scrutiny and criticism quite unprecedented away from Association Football. Perhaps his biggest mistake though, was to leave the field in a hurry after the final whistle without engaging in the usual niceties – doubtless fearing for his own safety – a cardinal sin which brought pompous denigration from all quarters followed by an enforced early return home. The players, quite rightly, immediately accepted his decision on the pitch, but I ask all those queuing up to character-assassinate Joubert, does not the famous respect for referees in rugby extend to pundits and spectators too?

Anyway, congratulations to New Zealand on winning the World Cup. Their seemingly infinite pool of talent seems set to dominate world rugby for the foreseeable future, but I hope it'll be at least another 4 years before we see the Haka again! What makes opponents put up with this grotesque anachronism?!

*TTFN - Gerry Daish*

## NEWS RELEASE



### December Bulletin

IT is that time of year again, when we're enjoying a tippie with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and getting ready to 'deck the halls'..

The Fire Service has these messages to help ensure that your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke!

- Kitchens are a fire hotspot and where the majority of house fires start, so take care when cooking festive fancies. Never leave cooking unattended and always turn off appliances when not in use.
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure that they conform to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets. Avoid adaptors.
- If you like the ambience and aroma of candles please take extra care to ensure that they are safe, on fireproof plates or holders, out of reach of children and dogs tails, and not near soft furnishings or in draughts.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol? whilst smoking or cooking.
- Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm, which is correctly fitted and which works - two in a two storey house. NEVER take the batteries out to power presents or for any reason, other than to replace them\* - and test weekly.
- \*some smoke detectors are equipped with long life batteries – up to ten years.

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @cambsfrs. Contact: 01480 444500, www.cambsfire.gov.uk

*Michael White*



## Bottisham Early Morning Swimming Club



A new club has recently been formed since the week-day closure of the pool and we are seeking new members.

We currently open from 0845 to 0830 hrs.  
2 days a week and plan to increase to 5.

For more details please contact: Colin Marshall - Secretary  
Tel. 01223-847047 E-mail: [collnm@btinternet.com](mailto:collnm@btinternet.com)

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PLEASE NOTE .... Due to Christmas holidays, the copy deadline for the  
JANUARY magazine, will be 11 December.  
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**Jolley Old World**

**An utter disgrace!**

Shortly after the November Cresset was issued I had my knuckles well and truly wrapped by Paddy James for inferring that the Wednesday coffee morning at the Legion was only attended by the more ‘mellowed’ residents of our society. I’m very happy to be reprimanded by anyone who would like to take issue with anything I’ve said in this column but I can only speak as I find. Possibly I made the mistake of not actually going in. Hopefully Paddy will take the opportunity to correct matters in this issue or the next.

Thank you also to the person who had a slightly different view about whether the Home Secretary was correct in saying the UK can longer sustain unbridled immigration. Their argument being that; this country should welcome any one that wants to live and work here and that immigration provides the UK with a net benefit and a secular multicultural society. The fact of the matter is that we are a country a third of the size, but without the land mass, of either France or Germany yet France and the UK share similar size populations. According to the UN Britain is set to remain the third greatest destination for migrants in the world. Currently every public sector ‘service provider’ in Britain is heaving under the strain of demand caused by population growth. You need go no further than Cambridge to see clear evidence of this in our hospitals, medical practices, social welfare, councils, roads, schools, stations...

Has anyone heard of or recognises the name ‘Henry Willink’? No, neither had I until I read an extract from a book by Joshua Levine. Levine writes that; after the ‘Blitz’ the then Government had anticipated hundreds and thousands of deaths but instead it was faced with large numbers of homeless people with nowhere to stay, no money, clothes or possessions. Sound familiar... The ‘authorities’ at the time had no idea what to do about any of this. So, the Government’s reaction was to appoint ‘Henry Willink’ - a long forgotten war hero and Conservative MP - to overhaul the structure of London along progressive lines. As a Great War artillery officer, Willink understood the concept of a ‘front line’. He gradually started to make replacement housing available and removed the ‘poor law’ stigma that was making claimants feel more like Dickensian beggars than victims of strategic bombing. He introduced benefits and information centres where the dispossessed would receive help and advice. These reforms can be seen as the early stirrings of the ‘welfare state’, an acknowledgement that the vulnerable need to be protected rather than judged. Today modern Britain owes a great debt to Willink and much of what emerged from his foresight and vision we now take for granted. But if Willink were alive today I wonder what he would make of the exploitation of his legacy? Let’s just remind ourselves again of the *raison d’etre* behind Willink’s vision; the welfare state is to protect the vulnerable and needy!

I’ve no idea whether Sports Nut will comment on the Scotland v Australia Rugby Union World Cup game so apologies if I’m stealing some of his thunder; So Craig Jourbert continues to expresses his dislike of British rugby by, and I never thought I would ever say this, denying Scotland of a well-deserved win. But not only that; he showed utter contempt toward both teams by sprinting off the pitch at the end of the game without the decency of shaking hands with the players - 30 chaps who had tussled and skirmished for 80 minutes providing the spectators with edge of the seat end to end entertainment. With Scotland in the lead by 2 points and with only 3 minutes to go Jourbert awarded Australia a penalty that was within easy

*(Jolley Old World continued on page 52.)*

*(Jolley Old World continued.)*

kicking distance of the Scottish posts. A penalty I might add which at best was a no more than a scrum in favour of Australia for a Scottish 'knock on'. But no, out of a melee of hands and feet Jourbert 'hesitantly' judged it to be a deliberate Scottish 'knock on' followed by a Scottish offside which demanded a penalty kick. The fact that Jourbert was hesitant in making the decision suggests to me that there was some doubt in his mind - in which case any sensible referee would have referred to his touch judge (linesman) particularly at such a crucial time in the game. The cynicism in me suggests that his bias against British sides was played out in those few seconds of hesitancy. In fact when ITV later showed the replay you could see the Scottish captain pointing to his arm and talking to Jourbert suggesting something had happened in the fray that Jourbert hadn't seen. The replay proved Laidlaw to be right and showed that the ball clearly came off an Australian hand which meant the ball was played on and therefore in play when the Scottish player picked it up. What a travesty on which to end the game! English fans in particular have come across this referee before with England often fielding their 15 against an opposing 15 plus Jourbert. Yes, there are subtle differences in the style of play between Northern and Southern hemisphere sides which, most world class referees are mindful of - but neither is more right or wrong than the other. The prejudice displayed by Craig Jourbert during that game was an utter disgrace to the referee profession!

TJ

**"The worst thing in politics is to tell the truth at the wrong time" - Denis Healy.**

### **War Detectives DVD and report available now.**

Over the last year, Red2Green's clients and learners have worked with local school children, all as War Detectives, to explore the stories and experiences of local people who lived or fought through the Second World War. The final event in June, to coincide with the 70th Anniversary of the end of the war, involved burying a time capsule near the War Memorial in Swaffham Bulbeck - the contents of which included a final report and a DVD containing 45 minutes of local peoples stories - and is now available for £3 (+ £1 if you want it posted to you).

If you want a copy please write or call in at Red2Green, Harvey's Barn, Park End, Swaffham Bulbeck, CB25 0NA or email [info@red2green.org](mailto:info@red2green.org) or phone 01223 811662. Thanks - first come, first served.

*Nigel Fenner*

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## ***Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group***

**Congratulations:** Both Dr McGrath and Dr Thijskens have given birth to gorgeous baby girls, mums and daughters are doing well.

**More on Flu Vaccinations:** The Practice thanks patients for attending the flu clinics, to which there has been a good response. However there is still vaccine available so please contact reception if you wish to take advantage, before it all goes.

**Tombola at Flu Clinics:** Thanks to all those who kindly contributed to this. Over the two sessions £141 was raised with a further £10.60 from the Red Bucket Appeal to go towards purchasing a second Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitor as requested by the Practice. Patients attending on 31 October seemed generally amused to find the surgery decorated and staff attired appropriately for Halloween.

**Self Care for Life:** NHS is promoting self care for life, with advice on how to look after your health, to keep well and to deal with chronic conditions. It is important to try and ease pressure on the NHS. See the surgery noticeboard or website [www.nhs.uk/selfcare](http://www.nhs.uk/selfcare)

**Patients' Group:** The Patients' Group would be delighted to hear from you - please see the notice board in the waiting room for details, speak to the receptionist or look at the practice's website for further information [www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/ppg.aspx?p=D81055](http://www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/ppg.aspx?p=D81055) and see what your Patients' Group has achieved.

**Walks for Health:** The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 11th December and in 2016 8th and 27th January, 5th and 24th February, 11th and 30th March, 8th and 27th April. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

**Next Meeting:** Patients' Group will meet on 28 January 2016 venue to be determined. Come along to learn more about the Patient Group or if you would like to join us.

*Bottisham Patients' Group*



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Ladies Ballet	6.30-7.30pm	Tel:-	01223 812154

Classes also available in Burwell on Thursdays

## Saplings Preschool Playgroup

A massive thank you to those people who listened to our plea and came along to the EGM on Wednesday 4th November. We now have enough people on the Saplings Committee to continue to run our preschool and hope that the new committee will continue the good work of those stepping down this year. Thank you too to those who have been involved for the last few years – your contributions are huge and so appreciated.

We have several reasons to be cheerful at Saplings; not only do we have new found support for our committee, but we are also celebrating the success of our recent Ofsted inspection. Saplings was given a rating of ‘good’ overall, with ‘outstanding’ for child welfare. A huge thanks goes to Clare, the playleader, and her team Gill, Sue & Sarah, who have worked hard to achieve this great result.

*A couple of dates for your diary:*

**Saturday 5th December** - Christmas Craft Morning  
10am - 12 noon at the Playhut, £3.00 per child.

Festive arts and crafts for your budding artists. Refreshments available

**Saturday 19th December** - Christmas Disco

4-5pm at Bottisham Primary School Hall £2.00 per child including a gift from Santa  
Refreshments available Let your little ones strut their stuff on the dancefloor!

Both events are open to kids aged 6 and under.

*The Saplings Committee*

## Bottisham now has a Village Defibrillator

An automatic defibrillator has now been installed at the British Legion Social Club. Money was raised through fund raising by Andrew Smith of Oakington, who wished to donate a defibrillator to the village.

Andrew's son collapsed and died on a football pitch about 5 years ago at the age of 17. Too late they found out that he had a heart condition and may have been saved by the use of a defibrillator. Andrew then decided to raise money for SADS through charity bike rides and raised enough funding for 3 defibrillators, one of which he wanted to donate to Bottisham and contacted Kevin Crisp whom he knew through Bottisham football, as he knew that they had young children playing sport in the village.

The funding was given to SADS UK.(Sudden arrhythmic death syndrome), who supplied the equipment and gave the training.

To be available to everybody, it is situated under the porch outside the first entrance to the building.

Designed to be available to everybody, training has been given to some members of the Legion club committee, Bowls Club and Parish council.

However it is fully automatic and can be operated by anybody with the spoken voice instructions.



**Christmas Food & Gift Fair**

Come and enjoy a festive glass of mulled wine...  
 ...and choose from a selection of delicious Christmas fish, seven, cheese, cakes, pastries and accessories.  
 Christmas gifts for all the family.  
 Christmas ornaments, scented candles, jewelry, Jewellery - all new this year.  
 original art from local artists at affordable prices.

**Saturday 5th December**  
**The Old Rectory**  
**Swaffham Bulbeck**  
 10.30am 'til 2.30pm

In aid of the Kew Gardens - Warf Project & W.Mary's Church

Our speaker was Peter Edwards who gave an informal talk on Antiques and Collectables. He has followed his family in trading and dealing and gave us many insights into the trade. He has a franchise at Waterside Antiques in Ely but also attends shows. He said that most people were collectors and traps (even a man trap) and barbed wire were amongst the most bizarre. He told us that now was not the time to sell china or brown furniture but if you were looking for an investment it could be worthwhile, and that there was no money in metals at the moment. He said that military items - medals, helmets and postcards especially, sheet music, old children's books and garden tools for summer months were currently popular items. He told us to look in the rummage boxes under the tables, that car boot sales were expensive and not to set too much store by the many TV programmes. An interesting and amusing talk.

- 31 Shoe Boxes were filled for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child.
- Members sent £75 to the BBC Country File Children in Need Ramble Campaign after their Wandlebury walk
- We are looking forward to our Christmas meal on 14th December for members at the Newmarket Golf Club as part of our Christmas Celebrations

Our next meeting is Tuesday 8th December when Jude Simpson Comedian will entertain us - 7.30pm in the College Lecture Room.

*Sylvia Overton*

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**PLEASE NOTE .... Due to Christmas holidays, the copy deadline for the JANUARY magazine, will be Friday 11th December.**

*Please send material to the editor at [cresset@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:cresset@bottishampc.org.uk)*



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## Public Transport Matters

I wrote in October of the chaos at Cambridge railway station as regards ticketing while the rebuilding is being carried out. We, therefore, allowed time before our train was due in order to renew our senior rail passes and obtain tickets through to Portsmouth. Sorry, says cheerful young man, we don't do renewals here, you have to go to another office. But he could do the tickets to Portsmouth and give us a receipt so that we could get our passes at King's Cross station. Efficient chap there organised the renewals and asked whether we really meant to go to Portsmouth from Victoria station rather than Waterloo. We had just presumed that the young chap was booking via Waterloo and hadn't mentioned it. We ended up with new tickets stapled to the old ones and with the correct route but, of course, we now couldn't put them through the machines at the platforms. Fortunately, there was always a member of staff there to wave us and our luggage through. With assisted boarding with a mini-bus ride into the innards of Brittany Ferries Pont-Aven and then the lift we were soon settling into our pleasant crossing to Santander for 5 nights. Our return journey turned out to be rather more rocky as we entered the Bay of Biscay! Once again I checked at the little tobacconists near our hotel and discovered that our bus card like an Oyster card was still valid and in credit! We topped it up and set off into the centre and visited the little café in the railway station to be greeted with happy smiles of recognition and handshakes with the staff – a lady, her dad and uncle! Who needs pastures new – revisiting happy times from the past can be gratifying.

£100,000 is being invested into an upgrade of Newmarket railway station – a partnership of Abellio Greater Anglia, Newmarket Racecourses, Jockey Club Estates, Tattersalls, Suffolk C.C. and Suffolk Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. (Mark Carne has suggested that businesses should pay for new railways as they can benefit). New signs saying 'Newmarket Home of Horse Racing' and new LED customer service screen to provide an easier review of running information and a card-only ticket machine where you can also collect tickets bought on-line. Jet-washed platforms and hanging baskets. Car park improved. However, there has been a complaint that this is not good enough! – increase to a half-hourly service to prevent standing at busy times and increase the car-parking available. A Newmarket station on the Ely to Bury route or re-open Chippenham junction?

The campaign group Rail Haverhill has collected 3,000 signatures in support of a rail link between Haverhill and Cambridge. You can join on-line or they will have a market stall on December 4th. They feel it would benefit commuters as Cambridge housing is now so expensive. Simon Norton, the transport campaigner, is arguing for revenue support for buses as he says that a comprehensive service cannot be provided on a purely commercial basis. The City Deal makes no provision for this. Rail Future East Anglia has published a map of how a metro system for Cambridge and around could look.

National Express continues to zoom along the A1303 but there are still no signs or information at Newmarket bus shelter by and opposite Hughes. I have now got Suffolk C.C. involved and they are contacting National Express.

Congestion continues to be a major problem in Cambridge and there are regular complaints of delayed buses. Our non-show today of the 10 at 10 a.m. turned out to be due to the installation of temporary traffic lights in the heart of Newmarket and total chaos there! You feel sorry for the bus drivers having to cope all day. Bob Stevens has told me of an informative website 'Realtime Trains' which gives details on the progress of every passenger and freight train in the country to the nearest minute and their history for the past seven days. It is interesting to explore the freight trains and their routes in connection with

*(Public Transport Matters continued next page.)*

*(Public Transport Matters continued.)*

the wish to get more of the A14 freight traffic on to rail. The doubling of the line between Soham and Ely will help but the Felixstowe branch line should be done first. Bob suggests various ways that things could be improved.

The first new railway in a century between a major city and London – Oxford to London Marylebone via Bicester has been opened by Mr. Carne. It is operated by Chiltern Railways -12 miles of new track, three stations at a cost of £320 million. Chiltern is owned by Deutsche Bahn. This is part of the east-west rail project linking Oxford to Milton Keynes and Bedford and on to us in Cambridge, then Ipswich and Norwich and dubbed the Varsity Line. Crossrail 2 would benefit us too. Upgrades on other routes are being delayed due to costs - the Trans-Pennine route, Midland Mainline between Bedford and Sheffield and the stretch between Bedford, Kettering and Corby.

National Express coaches are running over the Christmas period and 95 per cent of rail services will run except that there will be 'works on the line' including Greater Anglia. Paddington station will be closed on December 27 and 28.

Just a reminder that Seat 61 is a very useful website when travelling to France – he recommends Eurostar to Lille and then changing to a TGV. Having heard of the recent experience of neighbours changing trains at Paris, which involves changing stations, it is obviously preferable!

**Rail info: 08457 48 49 50      traveline: 0871 200 22 33**

*Happy travelling!*

*Paddy James*

## News from Wicken Fen & Anglesey Abbey

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Dr Norman Moore, who has rightly been described as a giant of conservation. Norman was a world renowned dragonfly expert and made the crucial link between declining bird of prey populations and the use of pesticides in the 60's & 70s. He served on the Wicken Fen Local Committee for a number of years and was instrumental in helping to get the Wicken Fen Vision off the ground in the late 1990's.

Preparations for Christmas are in full swing at Wicken Fen. Children can come and see Father Christmas at the Fen on Saturday & Sundays, 5 - 20 December, timed tickets from 10.30-2pm. We also have a Christmas Elves Workshop with Father Christmas for under 5s on 9, 10, 16 & 17 December, 10.15-11.45am. Tickets for both events (£8.50 including a present) and are available from the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274. Please book early as both events will sell out.

A quick reminder that tickets for Winter Lights at Anglesey Abbey have sold out. If you're lucky enough to have tickets, we hope you have a fantastic evening.

This year we are re-creating Christmas 1960s style in the Domestic Wing of the House. This is a chance to enjoy the smells, sights and sounds that went on 'below stairs' as the staff prepared Christmas fit for a Lord. The event runs from Thursday - Sunday, from 3- 20 December, 11am-4pm.

If you're planning a Festive walk over Christmas, Wicken Fen is open every day except Christmas Day, 10am - 5pm, Anglesey Abbey is closed Christmas Eve - Boxing Day inclusive, re-opening at 10.30 on Sunday 27 December.



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**Saturday 5 December**

**WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION AT WANDLEBURY PARK. CB22 3AE.**

1pm-4pm. Adults only. £6.00 (£5.00 members)

Join the Cambridge PPF team for a tree trail and acquire basic skills of tree identification.



**Saturday 12 or Monday 14 December**

**CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FOR ADULTS AT WANDLEBURY PARK. CB22 3AE.**

10am-12noon, or 1pm-3pm each day. Adults only. £10 (members £9)

Christmas wreath and decoration making from natural materials.

**Saturday 19 December**

**CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN AT WANDLEBURY PARK. CB22 3AE.**

Either 10am or 2pm. Children must remain accompanied throughout. £5 per child. (£4 members). Help your children make rustic decorations using natural materials from the park.

**Friday 1 January**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY GUIDED WALK AT COTON RESERVE. CB23 7PZ.**

11am-1.30pm. Free of charge - donations welcome.

Walk booking essential. To book lunch in The Plough, ring 01954 210489.

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**12th December (Black Tie optional)**

**Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.**

The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site. For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159 or check out our website: [www.letsdanceclub.org.uk](http://www.letsdanceclub.org.uk)

\*Let's Dance Club is a "not for profit" organisation established to provide dances for the community.

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SARAH BROWN	19 Beechwood Avenue	813203
HILDA BUCHANAN	55 Beechwood Avenue	811689
MARIA DICKSON	5 Jenyns Close	812499
ROS HALL	18 Spring Lane	811819
NICK JERMAN	28 Tunbridge Lane	813044
JULIA LATIF	22 Beechwood Avenue	07584 352332
ROMAN MACZKIEWICZ	12 Peacock Drive	811561
STEVEN O'DELL	23 Downing Close	812230
JON OGBORN	3 Woodward Drive	812631
TONY JOLLEY	141 High Street	812911

<b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>		
MATHEW SHUTER	The Old Maltings, High St, Brinkley	01638 508729

<b>PARISH CLERK</b>		
CLAIRE FULLWOOD	26 Peacock Drive	07914 219732

<b>EAST CAMB DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</b>		
VINCE CAMPBELL	11 Jenyns Close	811490
DAVID CHAPLIN	Tunbridge Hall, 60 Tunbridge Lane	

<b>MP FOR CAMBS SOUTH EAST</b>		
Lucy Frazer	House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA	
	<a href="mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk">lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk</a>	
	<a href="http://www.lucyfrazer.org.uk">www.lucyfrazer.org.uk</a>	

### BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

#### LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	3-5pm and 6-8pm
Wednesday	10-11.30am
Thursday	3-5pm
Friday	6-8pm
Saturday	10am-12noon

*Working in Partnership with the  
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## Useful Information

<b>Bottisham Website:</b> .....	WWW.BOTTISHAMPC.ORG.UK
<b>Holy Trinity Church:</b> Revd Sue Giles.....	812726
<b>Roman Catholic Priest:</b> Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard.....	01223 211235
<b>RE:NEW/Lode Chapel:</b> Rev. Simon Goddard.....	01223 812881
<b>Bottisham Surgery:</b> .....	
Enquiries and Appointments.....	810030
Out of Hours only – Urgentcare Cambridge.....	111
<b>Bottisham Library:</b> .....	812354
Library hours: Monday Closed; Tuesday 3-5pm and 6-8pm; Wednesday 10-11.30am Thursday 3-5pm; Friday 6-8pm; Saturday 10am-12noon	
<b>Cambridgeshire Police HQ:</b> .....	01480 456111
<b>Cambridgeshire Police:</b> .....(NON-URGENT MATTERS) ring 101 - In EMERGENCIES ring 999 Police community support officer Ian Hawkins PCSO 7274 at Ely Police Station.....	Contact through 101
<b>1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies:</b> Kay Pearce.....	811055
<b>Bottisham Bowling Club:</b> Keith Gibson, Secretary.....	811049
<b>Bottisham Boys Football Club:</b> Jim Tideswell.....	812591
<b>Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club:</b> Nora Watson.....	812121
<b>Bottisham Community Primary School:</b> Headteacher Paul Belzar.....	811235
<b>Bottisham Cricket Club:</b> Graham Barker/Charles Fletcher.....	812087 / 811039
<b>Bottisham Football:</b> John Turner/Tim Sale.....	07841592203 / 07743862836
<b>Bottisham Pharmacy:</b> .....	812321
<b>Bottisham Pool Association:</b> Manager - Jason Rye.....	811121
<b>Bottisham Royal British Legion Club:</b> Secretary - Suzy Woolley.....	812063
Branch Chairman: Dave Frost.....	www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham
<b>Bottisham Scout Group:</b> Group Contact: Linda Jones.....	813040
<b>Bottisham Sports Association:</b> Graham Barker.....	812087
<b>Bottisham Village College, School:</b> .....	811250
Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information.....	811372
<b>Bottisham W.I.:</b> Secretary - Jenn White • mrandjw@btinternet.com.....	811600
<b>Cambridgeshire County Councillor:</b> Mathew Shuter.....	01638 508729
<b>East Cambridgeshire District Offices:</b> .....	01353 665555
<b>East Cambridgeshire District Councillors:</b> Vince Campbell, 11 Jenyns Close.....	811490
David Chaplin, Tunbridge Hall, 60 Tunbridge Lane	
<b>Girlguiding Bottisham District:</b> Cambs East County office • www.cambseastguides.org.uk.....	01223 813917
<b>Parish Council Chairman:</b> Christine Bryant.....	811767
<b>Parish Council Clerk:</b> Claire Fullwood.....	07914 219732
<b>Queen's Court Day Centre:</b> .....	811905
<b>MP for Cambs South East Constituency:</b> Lucy Frazer, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.....	
E. lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk W. www.lucyfrazer.org.uk	
<b>Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Helpdesk:</b> .....	0845 3030666
<b>Saplings Playgroup Playhut:</b> .....	813226
<b>Milton Road Tip:</b> Apr to Sept - Weekdays 9.00am-8.00pm; Weekends 9.00am-6.00pm.....	860674
Oct to Mar - 9.00am-4.00pm	
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