

THE *Cresset*

February 2015



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



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Cresset February Issue 424

A welcome to all our readers

February already and 2015 well under way. Isn't it amazing? Here we are one month into the year and the evenings are already noticeably lighter. The flowers are starting through. Snow drops, crocuses and daffodils starting to brighten the garden.

This annual miracle never ceases to please me, although with it comes the knowledge that the weeds will be coming with them and the fight with grass and hedge will start again.

To things Cresset now.

Tony Jolley writes this month on a subject which should and I am sure will, interest us all. Most of us have in our own way an interest in life in Bottisham but sometimes feel that we as individuals do not have much involvement in it as a community. Well Tony has a sound proposal to address that. He raises the idea which has been taken up successfully elsewhere locally and which he believes would work very successfully here in Bottisham. I for one agree

Tony's idea of a community forum could work alongside the Parish Council but without its constraints to provide a vehicle for us all to feel that we belong to the Bottisham community and that the Bottisham community can be part of our lives.

Do read his article and let us know what you think. If you have ideas which you think would make it work or a view on how we could best achieve its aims, then do feed those ideas back, either via the Cresset where we can all share them, or back to Tony.

This month's magazine also has other interesting articles. You can read about a lot going on at Anglesey Abbey and down at Wicken Fen, with interesting days out for all the family. There are adverts for quiz nights and coffee mornings and dance classes amongst others.

Our sports guru Gerry Daish gives us his words of wisdom and Paddy James gives us her experiences of travel by public transport. Paddy makes great use of public transport both locally and even internationally when she goes off on her frequent trips abroad.

Finally, I have had the pleasure of editing the Cresset for some 8 years now and hope to continue to do so for a while yet.

However, I feel that somebody new might be interested in finding out how the magazine is created and may want to be involved, in the future, in its publication.

If you think that you would enjoy being involved in producing our village magazine, then do let me know. The process is fairly straight forward and is mostly computer based. A practical knowledge of e-mailing and word processing is certainly currently part of that process.

The actual printing and compositing is done by professionals, but it is the Editor's job to put together the content from the contributions and advertisers and to craft an editorial each month. This content of articles, adverts and comment is then sent to ONG in Stowmarket (you will see their advert in the magazine each month). ONG then put together the layout and print file and create the proof which comes back for refinement and review. It then goes to the printers who turn around the printing in a matter of days and deliver the magazines back to us for distribution by the team of volunteers.

I do all this on a laptop, which actually allows me to do the job wherever I am. Last year the June edition was finalised while I was in America, and others at times have been done from Scotland, such is the power of the internet.

I am happy to continue at the present time, but I am thinking of, what they call in managerial parlance, succession management.

PW



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Have you thought of advertising your business in **The Cresset**?
 Email the Editor for details: cresset@bottishampc.org.uk



LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College. We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

14th February (black tie optional)
14th March
18th April
9th May (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

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

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JONATHAN CORNELL (NIFTY) MEMORIAL CHARITY DARTS NIGHT IN AID OF THE ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE

ON SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 7.30pm
BOTTISHAM BRITISH LEGION SOCIAL CLUB

RAFFLE/AUCTION (some seriously good prizes!)
 DARTS COMPETITION (OPEN to ALL!) Registration at 7.30pm
 Trophy for both winner and runner up
 DARTS GAME (Prize for the winner)

If you would like more information, or to donate a raffle prize please contact
 Martin on 07500 700007 or email martinjohnbond@gmail.com or
 Clive on 07563 722705 or email clive.cornell@yahoo.co.uk




Bottisham Bowling Club Quiz Night

Saturday 21st March

Open to all

£3 per head 7.30pm Start.

Phone Hilda Buchanan on 811689 to book a table (Max. 8 people)
 Nibbles available at the bar

Saplings Pre-school Playgroup

Spring Term at Saplings is well under way and soon it will be half term! From February there will be a change to the timetable at Saplings. Wednesday morning sessions for 2 year olds with a parent or carer will no longer be available. However, children aged 2+ plus will benefit from the option of an additional session on Wednesday mornings. If you would like your child to join us at Saplings, please speak to Clare at the Playhut, as places are filling up fast!

To keep your little ones occupied during the holidays we have organised another bouncy castle and soft play session at Bottisham Sports Centre on Saturday 14th February from 10am - 12 noon. Drinks and cakes will be for sale. The cost is £1.50 per child. We hope you can come along and join us!

Following on from the success of our Christmas Craft workshop, we will be holding an Easter craft morning during the Easter holidays - watch this space for details! And a children's disco is also planned in the coming months - we'll keep you posted.

Saplings Committee

Copy deadline for next issue is 13 February.

Please send material to the editor at cresset@bottishampc.org.uk

Have you thought of advertising your business in **The Cresset**?

Email the Editor for details: cresset@bottishampc.org.uk



BOUNCY CASTLE
+ soft play

Saturday 14th February
@ Bottisham Sports Centre
10am - 12 noon

£1.50 per child (under 12 months free)
Cakes and drinks will be available
All proceeds go to Saplings Preschool

(All children must be supervised by a responsible adult)

Holy Trinity Church

THE BELLS OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BOTTISHAM

We wrote a note in the June 2014 issue of Cresset warning that the ancient bells in the tower of Holy Trinity church were in urgent need of refurbishment and re-hanging. We have one bell, dating from circa 1590 which is described as a rare survivor and four of the remaining five cast before 1640; three of which came from the same foundry, apparently uncommon. We noted that our main hope of securing funding of the level we would need lay with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), who place considerable importance on there being a demonstrable benefit to the community in any project that they fund. We announced that we would be putting a slip of paper through every door in the village inviting you to say whether the bells were important to you. We are very grateful that a large number of you took the trouble to respond and indeed every one of the 140 replies was positive. A number added very helpful comments, several of which were included in our application to HLF.

This alone will not have been the determining factor in the assessment of our application, but the very happy result is that we had notice just before Christmas that HLF has awarded us a grant of £48,000 under their 'Our Heritage' scheme. With this grant, along with the monies promised by the Ely Diocesan Association of Bellringers, plus contributions from the Bottisham bellringers and the Parochial Church Council, and some generous contributions from individual donors, we are now only *circa* £3,700 short of our target of £65,200.

It has been a long, and at times frustrating, process to get this far, but a very positive outcome is in sight. We are anxious to try to get close to our target as soon as possible, so that we can get the project underway. If we can sign up to starting soon, the firm who will be doing the work on the bells, Nicholson's of Bridport, would have a slot for us in late March, which would allow time for the building work that needs to be done to get the bells out of the tower - not a simple process. I hope to be able to write about this in more detail in a subsequent issue of Cresset, but in the meantime we would be very grateful to receive any donations that will help to take us towards our target. Either the Tower Captain, Derek Latchford, the Treasurer, Norman Green, the Vicar, the Revd Sue Giles, or myself (30 Tunbridge Lane; 811754) would be very happy to receive any contributions. Cheques should be made out to 'Bottisham PCC' and marked 'Bell Fund'.

Mike Young (Churchwarden, Holy Trinity, Bottisham)

Services in February 2015

Sunday 1st	11 a.m.	Family Service with Baptism Revd Sue Giles
Wednesday 4th	8 p.m.	Compline by Candlelight led by Dr Sarah Maxwell
Sunday 8th		No Service in Holy Trinity
	10 a.m.	Benefice Communion in Quy
Sunday 15th	8 a.m.	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Revd Sue Giles
	11 a.m.	Morning Prayer Dr Sarah Maxwell
Wednesday 18th		Ash Wednesday
	7 p.m.	Benefice Service in Swaffham Bulbeck
Sunday 22nd		No service in Holy Trinity
	10 a.m.	Benefice Communion in Swaffham Bulbeck

Benefice services are joint services with the other churches in the Anglesey Group (Lode, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck & Swaffham Prior). Details of other services in the Anglesey Group are on the notice board in the church

Saplings Pre-School Playgroup

Based in Bottisham Primary School grounds,
we offer lots of fun & structured play with
caring qualified staff in a safe environment.

Playgroup for 2½ years onwards

Sessions run on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday morning, 9am - 12noon and afternoons
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Pre-playgroup for 2 to 2½ years

Creative play sessions for 2 to 2½ year olds with
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WEA News

Though the first session commenced on a miserable, damp January morning, Andrew Sankey soon brightened the day with a conducted verbal tour accompanied by visual images of Hidcote Gardens. Now run by the National Trust, Hidcote, a typical "English Garden" was created by Paris born American Lawrence Johnston. After studying Classics at Cambridge he became a naturalised British citizen and fought in the Boer War and First World War. Following his retirement from the army, Johnston had the time and money to pursue his other interests like painting, music, travelling, entertaining and playing his favourite sport - tennis. However, he always found the time and energy to devote to his garden.

Other than gardening, Johnston's passion was travelling. He travelled a lot - from the stunning Drakensburg mountains in South Africa to the dangerous Himalya in China. He never forgot about his garden though and took back mementos of his plant hunting expeditions. He would carefully select only the finest plants to bring back to Hidcote.

Gerry Cowley

Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

On December 11th we all enjoyed our Christmas Lunch. Home-made food had been prepared and kind members arranged pretty table arrangements. Carols, mince pies and a quiz followed lunch and this year we held a raffle. The raffle made £47.00 and this is to be divided between Overseas Work and Holidays for disadvantaged families in Hunstanton. I am sure all the Members would like me to thank everyone who helped to make the Christmas Lunch such a happy event, and in particular Ann Langran, Julie Sale and members of the Committee for all their work over the year, running our Group. Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month starting at 2.30 in Lode Chapel. On 19th February 2015 Arwen Folkes is talking to us about her 'Visit to The Holy Land.' This was at a dangerous time and we are glad that she has returned safely.

Jill Jenyns



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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

14TH FEBRUARY 8 till late

VALENTINES NIGHT DANCE

WITH Rat Pack Cabaret Duo

The Kings of Swing

£5 Members £7 Non Members Tickets available in advance
Includes a glass of bubbly and a rose for the ladies

Saturday 21st February at 7.30pm

Nifty's Memorial Charity Darts night

in aid of The Arthur Rank Hospice

Great fun night with a seriously good raffle and auction

Sunday 22nd February 11 am to 3 pm

Prom And Wedding Fair

Lots of stalls and ideas for those special days

Free Entry.

Stalls to include - Dress To Address from Ely

DB Photographic of Burwell

Cup Cakes for You by Tracey

And more

The Tacky Dangly Christmas Charity Event that we reported on last month,
raised the total of £332.98 in aid of The East Anglian Air Ambulance.
A Great result. Well done to all involved.

Don't Forget The Regular Activities For You To Join In And Enjoy
Darts / Pool / Snooker / Billiards / Cribbage / Dominoes / Bar billiards
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THE WEDDING PARTY
by John Gasson & Connie Booth

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THE CASE OF THE CARELESS CLIENT
by Agatha Christie

MIXED DOUBLES
by Lynn Britton

IN THE SCHOOL HALL
Thu. 19th. Fri. 20th. February - **£10**
Sat. 21st. February - **£12 at 7.30**
(all prices include a glass of wine)

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At a Glance

FEBRUARY

- 3/10/11/17/18/25/26 BRBL Line dancing
3 BBPC Print League Competition No. 2. Judge: Gordon Bramham, Upminster.
10 BBPC John Margetts ARPS' will talk about The Royal Photographic Society awards.
14 RBL Valentine's Dance
17 WI Meet at the BVC Lecture Room at 7.30pm
17 BBPC 'Sports Photography' presentation by Harish Chavda ARPS
22 RBL Prom & Wedding Fair
24 BBPC 'Photoshop & Elements 12 - Demonstration' tips and techniques by Ken Payne,
24 GC 7.30pm in the Poppy lounge

MARCH

- 3/10/11/17/18/25/26 BRBL Line dancing
3 BBPC Projected Image League Competition No. 3. Judge: Andy Gutteridge AFIP,
10 BBPC Professional wildlife photographer Colin Edwards, talks about his work.
17 WI Meet at the BVC Lecture Room at 7.30pm
17 BBPC Flash photography explained by Roy Essery DPAGB, Colchester Camera Club.
24 BBPC Print League Competition No. 3 Judge: Dr Julie Hutson.
24 GC 7.30pm in the Poppy lounge

APRIL

- 7/8/14/15/21/22/29/30 BRBL Line dancing
21 WI Meet at the BVC Lecture Room at 7.30pm
28 GC 7.30pm in the Poppy lounge

GC = Bottisham & District Gardening Club meets at BRBL Poppy Restaurant at 7.30pm; BRBL = Bottisham Royal British Legion Social Club; BBPC = Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club meets Tuesdays at Lode Chapel 7.30pm - Non Member £2; WI = Meet at the BVC Lecture Room at 7.30pm; Lib = Bottisham Community Library Assoc.; MU = Mother's Union meet at Lode Chapel 2.30pm Third Thursday. • This list is a 'quick view one liner' with brief details and a contact number if possible. Please let the editor have details by the 11th. E-mail: cresset@bottishamPC.org.uk

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RE:NEW

Last Christmas was a full-on family time for us. For the whole of the Christmas holiday, with the exception of one clear day, the house was full of a constantly changing procession of family, ranging from 18 months to 88! A dozen or more round the dining table at a time; bedrooms full to overflowing; the hosts sleeping in the lounge. Cheerful chaos! So many different characters, likes and dislikes; so many different life-experiences, hopes and expectations. Yet every one belonging; connected. Family – united by love.

Not everyone is fortunate enough to have a family like that, but we all need to belong somewhere, to feel that we are not isolated. Ever since the beginning of the human story, when God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone', and He created Eve to be his companion, we have been hardwired to belong; to be connected to others. We are social creatures, made for community, and for many of us loneliness is one of our deepest fears.

From the beginning Church has been about belonging. People being drawn together by a common faith; a shared purpose. Church too should be a family – united by love.

However, perhaps the most powerful image of the church in the Bible is not of family, but of the church as a body, with Jesus as the head. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth: 'Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.' He wrote of every part of the body being important. All the parts – hands, eyes, ears, feet – being needed for the body to function properly. 'There are many parts, but one body'. They all belong together, and when every part is doing its job the whole body is strong and healthy.

Our churches need to be places where people can feel that they belong. Church is a place where every effort must be made to promote what is the best for one another. The Bible challenges us to love one another; accept one another; encourage one another; be kind and compassionate to one another; forgive one another; live at peace with one another. It tells us that it is by sharing one another's burdens that we fulfil the law of Christ. This is what it means to belong to God's family.

This is the kind of church we are striving to build at RE:NEW. We are all in it together. Like a family it can sometimes be hard work, sometimes frustrating, but also rewarding and fun! The door is open; all are welcome!

Peter Wells

RE:NEW Services in February 2015.

We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services, and a crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

1 February. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School)
 With Holy Communion

8 February. 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)

8 February. 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

15 February. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

22 February. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

22 February. 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact
 Rev. Keith Morrison on C.813055 or Peter Wells on C.812388.
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To the Editor

Dear Editor,

Refugees from Bottisham Swimming Pool

As a consequence of Bottisham Village College closing its doors to public swimming during school hours we paid our first visit to Impington Sports Centre for an over 50's session today (12th January). www.impington.cambs.sch.uk/impington-sports-centre.html

The impression is of an extremely well run, technologically up-to-date and reasonably priced facility. Entry requires one off registration for a leisure card (including a no cost 'at the desk' digital photo), ensuring that all sessions are paid for and individual identity is recorded. The session we attended was 'heaving' but there seems to be a reasonable number of sessions available to make swimming possible and enjoyable. One downside is that the changing room/shower facilities are not ideal, but at least the shower area is warm and the water hot. While there we bumped into at least 3 other refugees from the group of former Bottisham daytime swimmers.

Perhaps BVC could learn some lessons by studying the Impington set up and we continue to believe that public swimming during school hours needs to be restored at Bottisham. We also understand that households in Bottisham recently received a full colour leaflet advertising the Sports Centre and its revised hours. If that approach had been adopted prior to making a decision to reduce the opening hours, the need for that reduction might have been avoided.

Rich Braun/Ione Evans

Jasmine

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Parish Council Report

January's meeting did not bring a lot of new business as it directly followed the Christmas break. However we have learnt that the public open space at Ancient Meadows has now been adopted by the District Council. This means they are responsible for all grass and hedge cutting and have responsibility for trees in this area. Roads and paths will at some stage be adopted by the County Council but this will take longer as they like to wait a period of time to check that there are no problems.

Parish Council have been in correspondence with the Police regarding the parking situation outside of the shops and will be meeting with the PCSO shortly to discuss this further. I know a lot of people are concerned about the precarious parking on pavements and double yellow lines which obstructs pedestrians and other road users.

Some Parish Councillors met before Christmas with a solicitor with regards to making a compulsory land purchase of land on Lode Road. He will be writing to the District Council asking them to proceed with this. We were disappointed when we were told that we would not be able to use S106 funds, which is a fund provided by housing developers for the Parish when they build homes in our village. Rules state the funds have to be used for projects that will improve the community infrastructure of the village and apparently a new cemetery or a new playground does not come under this. Under the rules the funds could also not be used to purchase playground equipment. This is very frustrating when, as a village we do not own any land so are very limited as to what we can spend the money on and is contrary to what we were led to believe. The way that funds are now provided has changed and we have been reassured that money from any future development will have no restrictions on how it is spent.

It was agreed at the January meeting that our precept for the year 2015/16 would remain unchanged at £23000. Our expenditure for the year had been less than we had predicted and we had been able to make some savings with regard to grass cutting for the next financial year. This would be the third year that it remained at £23000 although it was recognised that this would probably have to rise the following year.

NOTE: Although we have no official confirmation yet we understand that the application for the development of 24 dwellings at the Crystal Structures site on Tunbridge Lane has been approved and we await details.

PLANNING NOTES

- 14/01340/FUL Chalk Barn, Hare Park, Six Mile Bottom Single storey side extension NEW APPLICATION
- 14/01188/FUL The Bungalow, Swynford Paddocks. Revised application of previously approved
- 14/00509/FUL for construction of garden store/stables APPLICATION APPROVED BY ECDC
- 14/01146/FUL 89 High Street. Erection of a garden studio APPLICATION APPROVED BY ECDC

BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLOR VACANCY

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Christine Bryant – Chair Tel: 811767
Or Claire Fullwood – Clerk Tel: 07914 219732 (e-mail: clerk@bottishampc.org.uk)

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The next recruitment process for wholtime firefighters opens this month (February 2015). To find out more, please log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



Michael White

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Soham Children's Centre

12.45pm-1.45pm - 3 to 17 birthday, 1.00pm-2.00pm - 1 to 2nd birthday

Bottisham Children's Centre from 12.30pm-2.00pm - 0 to 2nd birthday

Sun Dads 3rd Sunday of month, 10.00am-12.00pm at Burwell Sports Centre.

Well Baby Clinic 1st and 3rd Tuesday of month, 10.00am-11.00am at Bottisham Children's Centre, NHS services and free.

Rhyme Time Mondays 3pm-3.30pm at Soham Children's Centre

International Saturdays 11am-12pm at Soham Children's Centre

Walk on the Wild Side Mondays 1.15pm-2.45pm. Outdoor fun for all ages and abilities. Call for location details.

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Bags 2 School

Many thanks to everyone who kindly donated to our Bags 2 School collection for November 2014. We have raised an incredible £816 (2 tonne) which will be used to help fund the various projects the PTA take on throughout the year at The Bottisham Primary School. Last year we were able to help fund a brand new outside classroom, for the children to play in at break time and also use for learning activities during the summer months.

Our next collection will be in Spring 2015 (dates to be confirmed soon), so any unwanted clothing, shoes, bags, sheets etc would be welcome. All items collected are for reuse, so need to be of a fair quality.

We can accept the following items - Clothing, Shoes, Handbags, Hats, Scarves, Ties, Jewellery, Lingerie, Belts and Soft Toys.

You can leave bags throughout the year outside the Caretakers house at the Primary School grounds or ring (07764589869) for collection.

Thanks again and please keep donating to help our school children.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 13 February.

Please send material to the editor at cresset@bottishampc.org.uk

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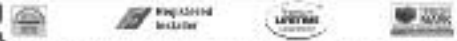
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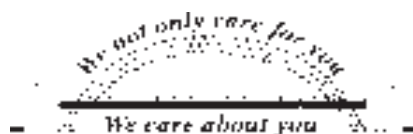
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Anglesey Abbey & Wicken Fen

Snowdrops herald the arrival of spring at Anglesey Abbey as over 300 varieties of the delicate white flowers reach their peak in February. Enjoy the snowdrops as you wander round the gardens, or join our Gardener's for a tour of the collection at 2pm on weekdays. During the Snowdrop Festival, which runs to 1 March, we open an hour earlier at 9.30am. The property can get very busy at weekends but is generally quieter on weekdays if your diary is flexible.

Preparations have begun for the planting of the new Silver Birch Grove, which will be just beyond the existing grove in the Winter Garden. Trees have been felled and planting of the 112 new trees should take place in February. Visitors purchasing tickets to Winter Lights donated £600 towards the £2000 cost of the new trees.

World Wetlands Day falls on 2 February – it marks the signing of the International Convention on Wetlands in 1971, and helps raise awareness of the importance and value of wetlands like Wicken Fen. Our Ranger's will be leading a guided walk on Sunday 1 February to explore some of the new wetland habitat being created as part of the Wicken Fen Vision. Please meet at the Visitor Centre at 1pm if you fancy joining the walk. This year the organisers of World Wetlands Day are holding a Wetlands Youth Photo Contest. The competition is open to anyone aged 15 -24, with the prize of a free flight to a famous wetland of your choice anywhere in the world. So nip over to Wicken with your digital camera or phone between 2 Feb -2 March, and you could be heading off on a journey of a lifetime. For more info visit www.worldwetlandsday.org

If you're looking for something to do on Valentine's Day (Saturday 14 February) why not join us down at White Fen for a tree care and planting day. Residents of Lode & Longmeadow, NT staff and volunteers started planting the Lode with Longmeadow Community Woodland five years ago, in which time over 6,000 trees have been planted. The day will involve re-staking and replacing tree guards and infilling gaps by planting new trees. There will also be a Children's Trail to help keep the young ones amused. The plan is to start at 11am before heading over to our wild campsite for lunch around the campfire at 12.30. All ages are welcome, please bring wellies, lunch and hot drinks and we'll provide the marshmallows. If you plan to arrive by bike or foot, the Lodes Way (NCN11) goes right through White Fen. By car, follow the road out of Lode then turn right along White Fen Drove, follow it to the end then turn right. For more information please contact our Community Ranger, Lois Baker on 01353 720274.

Forthcoming events at Wicken include **Mucky Pups** (arts, crafts & adventure for under 5s) on 11 & 12 February, 10.15 -11.45am, tickets £4.50 on 01353 720274; for half-term we have **Wild Arts** on Tues 17 Feb and **Go Wild** at Wicken (geocaching challenge, shelter building and discover how animals survive the cold winter months) on Thurs 19 Feb. Tickets for half-term events, £5.25 per child, are available from the NT Box Office on 0844 249 1895.

Finally, there's a fair chance that New Year's resolutions to lose weight and take more exercise maybe waning – if so, why not join our weekly health walks. There's a walk at Wicken every Wednesday and Anglesey Abbey every Thursday. Walks depart at 10am and cover a distance of 3-4 miles, lasting around one hour.

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Public Transport Matters

Public transport does indeed matter – we saw the chaos caused to people's plans due to the overrunning railway works near King's Cross after the Christmas celebrations. It is fortunate that no-one was badly injured in the resulting crush of people at Finsbury Park station. Peterborough station also had problems as some King's Cross trains terminated there.

We value our local 10,11 and 12 services but sometimes as people age or become disabled a more supportive, personal type of bus service is needed and it is good to see that the Ely Soham Dial a Ride service is being offered a lifeline of £15k in the form of a grant by East Cambs. District Council. Closure can be suspended and hopefully a financial plan can be worked out to enable the service to continue. The Voluntary Network offers dial-a-ride for Newmarket and our area on 01638 608022 and Cambridge dial-a-ride is on 01223 50633. Country Living in January had an article on how to revitalise your village and it listed providing local transport including community transport. The Campaign for Better Transport has listed Peterborough as the hardest place to live without a car due to the lack of public transport.

Rail fares rose on the 1st of January and we are told that this is in part due to the involvement of foreign rail companies. An appreciated Christmas gift each year is the special Christmas and New Year editions of the Mainz, Germany local paper – I read that their bus (locally run) and train fares are due to rise by 2.55 per cent!

With family to visit in Bedford we do find the X5 a good service – the A14 is a busy road but we can relax and read while the bus driver copes with the traffic problems. We alight at Maids causeway on the way back to Cambridge and then can catch our local bus home from there. As it is a well-used service, we depart from Parkside to ensure a seat. Bus journeys can be a time of exploration and I have been lent an interesting book 'Great British Bus Journeys – Travels Through Unfamous Places' by David McKie – the cover bears the exhortation by James Naughtie to 'Climb Aboard'. It covers 25 routes around the country including Uttlesford and Irthlingborough areas but also Trafalgar Square! It has interesting little stories about the places en route.

Articles continue to appear in the papers concerning the need for more connecting rail routes around the country. The name Beeching often appears as the bad guy but it has been pointed out that Ernest Marples, the then Transport Minister, was really responsible for the cutbacks and closures – he ran a company that built roads. There was public outrage so he sold his shares – it is said to his wife. He finally left the country and lived for the rest of his life among the vineyards in Beaujolais. We may one day have a restored rail connection to Oxford but we must continue to use what we have – as always, use it or lose it!

The cross-channel ferry companies are facing problems due to competition from Groupe Eurotunnel and its company MyFerryLink and the new regulations for maritime pollution (Marpol). P and O and DFDS claim unfair competition. The Competition and Markets Authority has been involved and MyFerryLink is now for sale. Should DFDS buy it? They are closing their Portsmouth to Le Havre route. P and O reckons that due to Marpol its annual fuel bill will rise by about £30 million a year. Stena Line quotes £41 million a year.

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David Peck

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Bottisham Community Library

You have probably made (and broken) your New Year Resolutions by now but I saw yesterday in London a sign outside a Public Library encouraging joining the Library and taking advantage of the internet facilities available. It is not too late to make resolutions! Regular users will be very pleased to know that a laser printer for public use is on order and should be connected soon. This will be very welcome.

We have a new volunteer - Jane Wright – and are pleased to welcome her to our association. We currently have another volunteer waiting to start training. We should gladly welcome further people to come forward to help

More fun sayings:

A boiled egg is hard to beat. • A bicycle can't stand alone; it is too tired. • When a clock is hungry it goes four seconds. • He had a photographic memory which was never fully developed.

Sylvia Overton

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire

Our job is to make sure you have a say when important decisions are made about local health and care services. We are interested in any recent experiences you have of a local health or care services that you are happy to share with us.

The big health story in the news this New Year is about pressures on our local hospitals. We know that these are linked to other issues like getting to see a GP when you need to and getting care in place when you are coming home from hospital. We have two new projects that will look at some of these issues from a different view point.

In our **“First Steps to Health”** project we want to find out about the first thing you would do to solve different health issues. Would you work it out yourself, see a pharmacist, call NHS 111 or see your GP? We all solve things in different ways. Knowing what you do can help our local GP Practices and the people who make decisions about local health services plan better care. Please do take part in our survey either on our website or by contacting our office.

We also need you to help us develop our local **“Care Home”** project. We want to use our statutory **“Duty to Enter & View”** local care homes. This means we have a legal right to visit places that provide public health or care services, to see what kind of care they are providing. We need to recruit **volunteers to be “Authorised Representatives”**. Your role will be to go into local care homes and talk to the people there about the care being provided. This might include talking to residents, their relatives, friends and care home staff. You will get lots of training and support.

Do you have any recent experience of a local care home, or do you know someone who has? Please tell us about it. We will use what you tell us to plan which homes we will visit and what to look at. We are also talking to the County Council and the Care Quality Commission, to help us plan where we should visit.

Get in touch to find out more or we can come and talk to your group about Healthwatch. Call us on **01480 420628** or visit www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk
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Monday 9 March

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King Edward Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket

Sessions in Burwell:

Friday 13 February

13.00 – 15.15 & 16.30 – 19.00

Burwell Community Sports Centre, Buntings Path

Sessions in Cherry Hinton

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Cherry Hinton Village Centre, Colville Road

Sessions in Cambridge City:

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Wednesday 4 March

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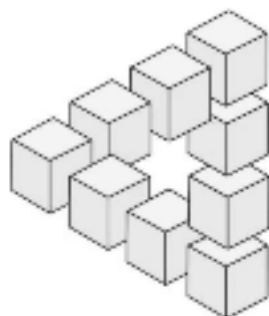
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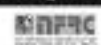
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

Well, we're already a month into the new year! Let's take a look at what 2015 might have in store for us. Something for everyone here, surely!

Football: despite Chelsea setting the early pace in the Premier League, it looks as if Manchester City are poised to push them all the way, with help from their new 'permanent' signing Frank Lampard who, incredibly, it transpires, did not sign a contract with New York City and in effect transferred directly between the two English clubs! I use the term 'English' very loosely of course!

There is plenty of excitement nearer home too: by the time you read this, we will all know Cambridge United's fate in the FA Cup at the hands of Manchester United on 23rd January in a mouthwatering and lucrative experience for all involved at the Abbey. And Ipswich Town are riding high in the Championship... what an incentive for our own Callum Fullwood to graduate from his academy status over the next couple of years.

The FIFA circus rumbles on, now with declarations of interest from both Jerome Champagne, a French former diplomat, and Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan, in running against 'Septic' Blatter for the FIFA presidency. There seems to be British support for the Jordanian, and his smooth platitudes about openness and fair play, but I've seen a good deal more substance from Champagne in his proposals for improvements including, quotas for foreign players, sin bins. Sadly, we shouldn't bet against Blatter winning a fifth term though; the Asian Confederation has already announced their support for him. How does this crooked old fox do it?!

Cycling: Sir Bradley Wiggins was all over the news in January, firstly with his Sky contract extension enabling him to compete in the much vaunted Paris-Roubaix one-day classic in April before his return to the track; then with the launch of his own new Sky-backed road racing team to support British preparations for the 2016 Rio Olympics. Heady stuff indeed, whilst Chris Froome goes about redeeming himself in the 2015 Tour de France after crashing out embarrassingly last year. Picking a winner from Froome, Nibali, Contador, Quintana will be tricky, but don't be surprised to see Welshman Geraint Thomas spring a bid for a day or two in the yellow jersey in the early stages.

Cricket: in a massive year for the England team(s), under split captaincy, we have the World Cup in Australia first, commencing on Valentine's Day led by Irish 'Englishman' Eoin Morgan. Then a test tour to the Caribbean in April and May, taking in Antigua, Grenada (for the first time) and beautiful Barbados, during which we hope that Captain Cook rediscovers his batting form before the 'warm up' two match home test series v. New Zealand and the 'main event' Ashes series of five tests against the Aussies in July & August. With a full programme of ODIs throughout the summer too, we hope we'll be too busy to worry about the pros and cons of Kevin Pietersen's fall from grace which has irritated us for so long.

Rugby: the Six Nations Championship kicks off on 6th February with a tasty looking fixture between Wales & England, with England the bookies' favourites after finishing runners up for the second year running in 2014.

Athletics: sadly dominated by drugs stories of late, athletics is attempting to clean things up by increasing the doping ban from two years to four. Did you know that 40 (yes forty!) Kenyans have failed drugs tests in the last two years? American sprinter Tyson Gay's coach Jon Drummond, himself an Olympic gold medalist, received an eight year ban from coaching in December after Gay spilt the beans on him to have his own sentence reduced! Such loyalty between colleagues! When, oh when are we going to wake up and start banning these cheats for life?

(Sports Nut continued on page 51.)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

Boxing: it seems the world of pugilism is full of unanswered questions at the moment. Will Amir Khan get his fight versus Floyd Mayweather, or perhaps Manny Pacquiao, this year following his recent defeat of Devon Alexander whilst wearing £20,000 gold trimmed shorts? (What's *that* all about?) Will Chris Eubank Junior ever get to fight as well as he talks? Or as well as his Dad? Will British Lightweight Anthony Crolla fight again after his vicious beating at the hands of his neighbour's burglars? I'm sure everyone salutes his bravery and prays for a full recovery and return to the ring to fulfil his dream of a world title shot. To finish on a happier note: Muhammad Ali was released from hospital just in time for his 73rd birthday in January following a pneumonia scare which turned out to be a bladder infection. Long live The Greatest! Just for fun, does anyone care to suggest a greater sportsman in the history of the world?

TTFN

Gerry Daish

East Camb District Councillor's Notes

CRYSTAL STRUCTURES SITE, BOTTISHAM

On 7th January, the Planning Committee considered a full application to change the use of the Crystal Structures Site off Tunbridge Lane from employment and for 24 dwellings. A previous application was refused last July. The meeting had presentations from the planning officer, the applicant, a neighbour and the Parish Council. This time, the application included an outline application for 600 square metres of space for non-domestic institution use (eg a dental practice) or business use (eg office or research).

There had been improvements to the design arising from requests from District Councillors at the meeting last July. The dwellings will comprise 9 Affordable Homes for rent under a Housing Association for those with connections with Bottisham and 15 for sale on the open market. There will be 6 two-bedroom, 7 three-bedroom, 10 four-bedroom and 1 five-bedroom dwellings. There are 33 planning conditions to be met and approval was given subject to a legal agreement on financial contributions towards off-site public open space provision and maintenance. Education provision will be covered by funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy to the County Council.

Papers for the January meeting may be found on the District Council's website and the draft minutes will appear on the February meeting papers. These provide a large amount of information about trees and landscaping, archaeology, potential contamination, parking, traffic calming, ecology, drainage, energy and construction impacts.

ANCIENT MEADOWS, BOTTISHAM

The public open space at Ancient Meadows has now passed into the ownership of the District Council from the Administrators of Land Charter Homes, subject to Land Registry confirmation. The grass and trees should now receive regular maintenance by the Council's Open Spaces Team. It comprises about 4000 square metres of land on either side of the development and the square open area. As decided in legal agreements back in 2005 and 2007, the space is for recreational use by the public.

Dist Cllr Robert Stevens

Copy deadline for next issue is 13 February.

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Jolley Old World

A 'Village Society' for Bottisham?

But first, as I write, the Post Office in Bottisham Village Stores is undergoing refurbishment with the powers that be saying they have consulted with the village concerning their wishes. The truth more likely is that the decision had already been made regardless of a consultation. We've already seen in the Bell Road Masterplan how responses to questions can be twisted to suit a particular outcome. I cannot help but think that to put a counter distributing cash and other such like adjacent to a window and in the proximity of an open door is rather foolhardy and pays scant attention to staff and customer security. How this managed to pass a 'risk assessment' I cannot but wonder. The cynic in me suggests it's all part of a grandiose Post Office plan to encourage 'Internet On Line' usage of services thus prompting eventual closure!!

But now to my main topic; as Bottisham has grown I've frequently heard it said there's not enough happening to stimulate and to inspire a 'Community Feel'. Others have commented that there are broader matters influencing the natural village environment which require better communication and more rigorous reflection. I do empathise wholeheartedly with both viewpoints but in order to revive or to instil a 'community spirit' you need a willing community. Sadly, my belief is that we in Bottisham now tolerate 'Community Inertia' and so have lost what was once a 'willing community'!

However, quite by coincidence over the Christmas and New Year holidays this topic of 'community spirit' cropped up whilst chatting with a number of acquaintances, both old and new. Examples were conveyed as to how some villages pull together to promote a particular community project or objective. And I was interested to hear about and indeed became envious of those villages where such 'community forums' exist in one guise or another. In these 'forums' community matters are raised and, where relevant, are proactively addressed allowing initiatives to be put in place without the burden or bureaucracy of local government. Often overseen by a small nucleus of folk this band of willing volunteers involve themselves in the sort of 'community action' that often sits outside the scope or remit of a Parish Council. And what makes these 'forums' truly remarkable is that local people are willing to be co-opted in to help when a specific expertise or a vocational skill is needed. Furthermore these 'forums' can confront any issue and can formally press a case for a particular opinion and or outcome.

But let's be perfectly clear and without confusion – Community Forums to do not replace the role of Parish Councils, and if asked to do so can support and can complement the work of Parish Councils in certain village matters.

Just two models of such 'forums' not far away from us are the 'Haslingfield Village Society' and the 'Fulbourn Forum for Community Action'. I would recommend anyone wanting to know more about these organisations and what they do for their local community, often in partnership with other village groups, to use your Internet Browser and research either organisation or any other Community Forum.

Should a similar 'Community Forum' ever be considered for Bottisham it could for example inspire action of all kinds in support of improved community amenities and even possibly a Community Website including an archive for historical documents, maps, books and photos. A 'Community Forum' could even spearhead and develop ideas for improved community cohesion and an enriched community spirit through purely social get-togethers like a village festival. An annual 'Harvest Feast' is one such initiative that several community forums seem to put on which typically include a Hog Roast, Ceilidh and a display of farm machinery, etc.

Having found out from other communities about the indigenous potential that often lies dormant I wonder how willing the hidden potential in *(Jolley ol' World continued on page 56.)*



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(Jolley continued.)

Bottisham would be in trying to renew and to advance community participation? So, having thrown down the gauntlet I wonder if anyone is willing to take up the challenge?!

Your views please on a 'Bottisham Village Society' to the Editor... TJ

"People say I'm into my second childhood. The reality is that I never left my first one".
Spike Milligan

TEGWEN KNIGHT

Marion Brown, her family, her sister Betty and family, would like to thank everyone for the cards and sympathy shown on the sad loss of their mother Tegwen Knight, who passed away peacefully in hospital on 14th December 2014 aged 93 years.

She will be missed by us all.

DAN MCMAHON

FEBRUARY 1930 – DECEMBER 2014

Our family moved to Bottisham in August 1971. The primary school was still at the village college site, the playing fields were lined with tall trees, there were three pubs in the village and no swimming pool. This was before the time of Queen's Court (where there was an orchard) and Hilton Park and there were far fewer houses. Our dad, Dan McMahon, had recently left the U.S. Navy after 25 years of service and was reading History at Downing College, Cambridge. Dad became a teacher at St. Bedes School, then at Newport Grammar School and was a member of the Staine Hundred Local History Society.

We children gradually left Bottisham, returning for student holidays, 'between jobs' and for a bit of TLC and a good meal at weekends. After retirement, Dad enjoyed reading the paper, keeping up with current affairs and meeting his friends at the Bell where he had his own pint mug behind the bar. Over the years, our visits home became less frequent until our mother, Felicity, died in July 2001. We then started to visit Dad in Bottisham more often.

As Dad became frail, the community network kicked in. Friends and neighbours looked in on Dad to make sure he was okay, popped to the shops for him, helped him to visit the surgery and found him after he fell and needed emergency care. In the last year Dad was in and out of Addenbrookes Hospital, had a brief stay at Queen's Court in August and went to Hilton Park two days before Christmas. Our family certainly made full use of Bottisham. It has everything a family will ever need: good schools, sports facilities, shops, pub, surgery, dentist, care homes and Church (with a good bell tower for ringers). What a great place to live.

Dad died on Boxing Day in Bottisham, the village that was his home for nearly 45 years. In those years he lived at 4 different addresses, saw his family grow with the addition of 6 grandchildren and made many friends. The list of Bottisham people that helped Dad in his final years and days is too long to list but a special mention is to Tunbridge Close residents James & Harriet Fitch (good friends for many decades), Mike & Jane Seakins, Nick & Anthea Smith, Neil & Angelique Ridyard; also to Gregg & Thelma Dean, Dr Croucher and the team at the surgery, the staff at Bottisham Stores, the teams at Queen's Court and Hilton Park; and to Rev. Sue Giles and Deacon John Morrill for the prayers. Thank you for looking after our dad so well, we will miss him.

Chris, Stephanie & Patrick McMahon

Bottisham Patients' Group

How do you let doctors know how satisfied you are with your care? This year, owing to funding cuts, you haven't had the opportunity to complete the GPAQ survey (General Practice Annual Questionnaire) to give the Practice your views on the services it has provided for you and your family. Instead, the Practice is using the 'Friends and Family Test' and forms to complete for this have been available next to Reception since last December. They ask you to say whether you would recommend the care and treatment you've received at the Practice to your friends and family. Carrying out this survey is an NHS requirement upon the Practice but your participation is voluntary. You can complete a form when you leave your next visit to the surgery, or online at www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk by clicking on 'Friends & Family Test' in the right hand column of the home page. There is a space for you to expand your response with comments if you wish. In time the results of the test will be published there each month. The test does not replace the complaints procedure and the suggestions box will remain in place in the waiting room. More information can be found at: www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSServices/Pages/nhs-friends-and-family-text.aspx.

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Care Quality Commission Report In September the CQC inspected Bottisham Medical Practice for a project to inform the structure and focus of future inspections in England. During their visit, the inspection team asked five questions about the quality and safety of services provided at the Practice: are they safe?; are they effective?; are they caring?; are they responsive?; are they well-led? Go to www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/info.aspx?p=13 to read the report of CQC's findings. It is generally glowing in its judgements under all five of the questions and the inspectors were impressed with the involvement of the Patients' Group.

The Red Bucket Appeal Our fund raiser to pay for a 24-hour blood pressure monitor for the Practice has got off to a good start. During its first six weeks £185.15p has been collected, so with the £100 raised at the 'flu clinics tombola we are just over £1200.00 short of our target. When you visit the surgery please remember to put your loose change in the bucket, or you can make a donation by cash or cheque made out to 'Bottisham Patients' Group'.

Health Walking Group There will be two PG walks in February, led by Steve Gilson, our accredited walk leader, on Wednesday 11th and Friday 27th starting from the surgery car park at 11.00 am. Anglesey Abbey walks continue weekly on Thursdays from the Visitors' Centre starting at 10.00 am. All patients are welcome on all these walks.

Bottisham Patients' Group Committee

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War Detectives – progress

By the time you read this, War Detectives from Red2Green, the Primary School and Bottisham Village College will have explored with local residents what **RATIONING** was like in World War 2.

Activities we planned included

- darning socks, knitting and making peg rugs
- Digging for Victory,
- How to survive on a week's ration and
- Encouraging local residents to share stories about food, petrol or clothing rationing including bringing along any artefacts like a rationing book.

The event took place at Red2Green on Monday 19th January 2015.

War Detectives filming: world premiere in June 2015

In December fifteen War Detectives from Red2Green, Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School and Bottisham Village College took on interviewer, sound engineer, camera operator, lighting operator and editor roles in filming local people share their experiences of the Second World War. They were helped by HI8US "a media and arts charity with a long history of producing innovative media with young people in their communities" who have worked with Red2Green before.

Local people filmed were Ron Butler (*shown in the picture being prepared for filming*), Heather Hatley, Cliff and Daphne Baigent, Ken King, Stanley Hedges and Steve Gotts (a local expert on the American Air Force based at Bottisham Airfield).

HI8US will produce a half hour film that will be premiered at the Commemoration event the War Detectives will hold at Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School on 10th June 2015 commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. After this date the film will be available online.



War Detectives: codes, lies and spies

In the same way we explored rationing on the 19th January we invite local residents to share any experiences or artefacts they might have that relate to codes, lies and spies. For example have you ever used morse code or semaphore or magic ink? Or do you have any spy stories to share? Whether you do or not, please join the War Detectives at Red2Green on Tuesday 10th February 2015 for CODES and / or 22nd April for LIES and SPIES. In-between we plan to take the War Detectives AND local residents to Bletchley Park on 16th March to 19th March (inclusive). **If you want to come to Bletchley Park please phone 01223 811662. First come, first served.**

The War Detectives project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

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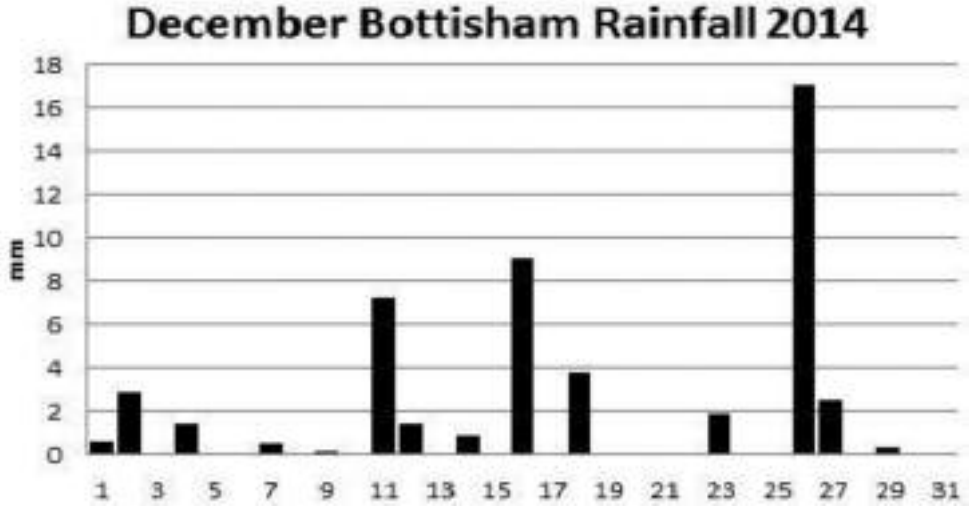
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The Rain Spot

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Terry Chapman



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