



THE   
*Cresset*

January 2016

**2016**  
*Happy New Year*

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

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We would like to wish a Happy and prosperous New Year to all our readers.



I hope you had an enjoyable time over the Christmas break. We certainly did with family and friends. Every year we say we will cut back on all that stuff, but as usual we look forward to all the extras and trimmings that Christmas brings. We did our fair share of Christmas shopping and could probably stay away from the shops now for a month!

But let's not miss the point of celebrating Christmas. Beneath all the razzamatazz is the belief of the Christian world that a moment in history changed the way we should live. While many other religions have different beliefs, there are amazing similarities and links between them.

It is pleasing to see that a lot of the traditions that define what Christmas means to many are kept up and enjoyed by lots of people. If it is the only time that one goes to church it means that the seasonal services at our church are well attended, enjoyed by a wider audience than normal and that has to be a good thing.

Outside it has been a pretty wet and miserable month with lots of wind and rain. Unseasonal in that it has been quite mild and no real frost to speak of. But that is at the time of writing and is sure to change. The New Year has always brought the colder weather. Robert Burns was born on 25th January 1759 and an autobiographical line from him goes

*Our monarch's hindmost year but one  
Was five-and-twenty days begun,  
'Twas then a blast o' Janwar' wind  
Blew life in on Robin.*

Somehow the very words 'Janwar wind' sends a shiver through you.

The Cresset has recently been full of interesting articles and that has prompted several interesting items of correspondence.

We all have our own views on subjects and are entitled to express them but that sometimes includes criticising others for their views. Such has been the case of some recent and indeed current correspondence. Varying other views are expressed to me in conversation and I am sure provokes conversations between other readers.

One criticism expressed to me was about the anonymous nature of contributions and that if people have firm enough views they should be willing to put their name to it.

I tend to agree with that point and have decided that while people may not want their address printed, they should at least put their name to it. Address should however be supplied.

Sports nut, aka. Gerry Daish gives his excellent insight into the world of sport. His reference to 'Mrs Nut' last month made me laugh. It opens the possibility of lots of new nicknames, but I better not.

Tony Jolley defends and clarifies his views on the world we live in and again prompts some reaction and response.

It is good to get reports from the various organisations on their activities. Even if we are not directly involved, (not sure I would be allowed to join the WI!) it is interesting to read about what they do and the subjects that invited speakers bring. It definitely must attract new people to come along.

Finally I would welcome views on the content of the Cresset and also any suggestions or requests for missing content. I take no criticism as being satisfaction, but it is good to know.

*Peter Walker – Your Editor*

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

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## *The Rev. Sue Giles writes*

There has been much discussion in recent months on the place of faith and religion in public life. The report of the Commission for Religion and Public Belief in British Life chaired by Lady Butler-Sloss has just been published with a number of recommendations that need careful consideration. The Diocese of Ely has also been thinking about the role of the church, the future of organised religious worship and the parish system in our locality. We have been asked to think about how the church will be organised and how it will serve the community in the name of Christ over the coming years.

As a benefice we will be thinking and praying about our future over the coming months. How should we shape the worship that is offered in our villages so that it includes as many people as possible? How should we care for and use our buildings so that they play an active part in the life of the community in which they are set? What should the church be doing to care for people both here and more widely? What role should we be playing in the public life of our villages and in the schools and other organisations which serve them?

It would be very helpful to have the thoughts and ideas of others in our villages. You may be a Christian who worships somewhere else, or a member of another faith or someone of no faith, do you see a role and a place for the church in your village? Do you want Christians to be actively involved in public life? Is it important to you to be able to choose a Christian funeral in your local church or to be married there? Do you see Christian schools as a valuable contribution to the inclusive and moral fabric of our communities or not? These are the things we must reflect on as we look to the future of the local church and the future of our national life. What you think is an important part of the discussion. Please send your thoughts and views to: [angleseybenefice@gmail.com](mailto:angleseybenefice@gmail.com); or reply to: **The Vicarage 86 High Street, Bottisham CB25 9BA**

Many thanks.

*Sue*

## *Services in Holy Trinity Bottisham*

<b>Sunday 3rd</b>		
<b>Epiphany</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <i>Mike Procter</i>
<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	<b>8pm</b>	<b>Compline by Candlelight</b> <i>Led by Dr Sarah Maxwell</i>
<b>Sunday 10th</b>		<b>No service in Bottisham</b>
	9.30am	Benefice Communion in Swaffham Bulbeck
	11am	Benefice All-Age Service in Swaffham Prior
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</b> <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b> <i>Revd Elizabeth Caswell</i>
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Benefice All-Age Service</b> <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>
	11am	Benefice Communion in Swaffham Prior
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>

Please note the varying times of the services this month; Benefice Communion services will now start at 9.30 am and the family-friendly All-Age Benefice services at 11 am. Details of other services in the Anglesey Group of Churches (The Benefice) are on the notice board in the church.

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## Terry Bard

We would like to thank everybody for the cards, letter and gifts received, following the loss of Terry on 4th October 2015.

Thank you all who came to the thanksgiving service at the Church on 22nd October. The collection and donations of £284 have gone to both the Bottisham Medical Practice and TRBL Poppy fund.

Thank you goes to the Rev. Sue Giles for her help & support. Also, to Kate at The RBL, for the lovely food that she did for the reception.  
*Julie, Deborah and Andrew Bard*

## *A big thank you from 'The Legion'*

The Committee and Staff of The Royal British Legion Social Club would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all the people who supported the Poppy Appeal Meal on the 21st November. Also to extend grateful thanks to the organisations and individuals who kindly donated prizes for the Poppy Appeal Raffle. We raised £168.00 from this event.

In addition the Race Night raised £706.01. All of which goes to this year's Poppy appeal.

This year's Tacky Dangley Event on the 6th December, raised £240 for Local charity, Red2Green. We would like to thank everyone who supported this event. Thanks also go to the people gave up their time to put up the decorations on Saturday and Sunday including Mick, the Elves and Santa (Spider, Shaun and Mike Rothwell). Not forgetting Katie and Dave. Well done and Thank you for the 3rd successful Tacky Dangley Day. The Club looked well set for Christmas.

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.

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**811280**

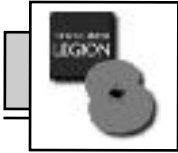
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# *The Royal British Legion Social Club*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 9th January**  
**Annual Childrens Party**  
4-8pm with AJ's Disco

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 16th January at 7.30pm**  
**The 4th Annual Burns Supper**  
Traditional Menu with Haggis starter and Steak Pie main.  
Entertainment from The Cambridge Footlights Quartet  
Tickets from the Club £20 per person.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday 18th January**  
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—  
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Happy 2016 to all! Following on from last month's meeting the County Council had said we have a sustainable transport contribution of £24,000 available to spend on bus stops in the High Street which must be spent by February 2016 otherwise it will be returned to the developer. We had discussed replacing the wooden bus shelter on the High Street opposite Beechwood Avenue with a more modern shelter which would not need any future maintenance. We have found a company who would remove the existing shelter and put the new one up and are currently pursuing this with the County Council.

A Working Party was recently formed to look at re-developing the current website. After problems contacting our current website providers we have decided to go to a new company and look forward to a new Parish Council website for 2016. The Working Party has been looking at different features including the history of Bottisham, old photos, details of walk and cycle paths. There will be links to organisations and clubs in Bottisham and also an events page which enables clubs etc. to advertise any upcoming event or fundraising they are doing. We will let you know nearer the time when this is up and running.

Councillor Jolley has been working hard liaising with Balfour Beatty and our contractor Swarco to enable the vehicle activated signs to be installed in Bell Road. This hasn't been an easy process but work should be complete by the time of reading.

This is the time of year when the County Council, District Council and ourselves look at how much funding we need to be able to operate in the next financial year and set their budgets. It had been recognised that we would have to raise our precept significantly this year to progress the purchase of the new cemetery. It has remained at £23,000 for the last 3 years and it was agreed that we would raise this by £10,000 to £33,000 for the financial year 2016/17. In terms of council tax payments for a Band D property this equates to a yearly payment of £39.53, a rise of £12.08 per year.

### **PLANNING NOTES**

• 15/01182/FUL, 24 Bell Road. Two storey side and rear extension and single storey front and rear extension to house. APPLICATION APPROVED

• 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. APPLICATION APPROVED

• 15/01105/FUL, Lakepress House, Newmarket Road. Two aluminium panels with printed vinyl logos. APPLICATION APPROVED

15/01112/FUL, Greenmount, 12 Tunbridge Lane. Detached single garage. APPLICATION APPROVED

• 15/01041/FUL, Land to rear of no. 69 High Street. Erection of 2 no. dwellings following demolition of existing outbuildings. APPLICATION APPROVED

---

### ***Bottisham Parish Council are producing a new website!***

Have you lived in Bottisham for many years? Do you have old photographs of the village from days gone by? Are you a keen walker who enjoys exploring Bottisham? If the answer is yes then we want to hear from you. We are looking for volunteers to contribute to the content of the new Bottisham Parish Council website.

So if you know about the history of the village from the Roman remains to the Bendyshe Monument or if you would like to help in general then please contact [clerk@bottishampc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bottishampc.org.uk).

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## *To the Editor*

*Dear Editor*

I was pleased to read the sane and sensible response from your correspondent in the December issue of *The Cresset*, making it clear why ascribing any or all of Addenbrookes problems to immigration is illogical, simplistic and certainly not conducive to community spirit. One may have hoped the matter would rest there, but it seems that another attack on immigration and its effects on our health service could not be resisted by Mr Jolley in the very same issue. Perhaps he would like to consider what would happen if he waved the wicked witch's wand (it is nearly panto time, after all!) and made all the immigrants - patients and staff alike - disappear in a puff of smoke from Addenbrookes? I suggest, and statistics would bear out, that the effects would be immediate and devastating from the patients' point of view. Having stayed there some days last month, my experience is of a mini rainbow nation of the kindest and most caring people you could find. Certainly it was a nurse of oriental extraction who noticed in time that I was in a dangerous condition, and the doctor who performed an emergency operation was likely Eastern European. Had Mr Jolley's wand been waved I may not be writing this! And sorry, but quoting a member of the government (or indeed opposition) does not constitute evidence for an argument.

*Jenny Kartupelis*

*Dear Editor*

I welcome the fact that wider issues are addressed in Jolley Old World and elsewhere in *The Cresset* but as this is a village magazine perhaps we should start with the situation we find in Bottisham. Most of the High Street businesses are run by those who appear not to be British born. All provide admirable service and two, the shop and *Il Piccolo Mondo*, we can surely agree are outstanding.

I have been well looked after by both doctors and dentists from overseas (the latter exclusively so). I have no personal experience of Hilton Park but many of their overseas staff have been a pleasure to serve in the Library.

I have avoided the term immigrant in the above not through any zealous adherence to political correctness but because many of those mentioned are probably as British as myself. (I am the grandchild of immigrants and still adhere to the religion of their country - some of whose citizens waged a prolonged bombing campaign in Britain.)

I am not surprised but am deeply shamed that the author of the excellent response to Tony Jolley's October article felt unable to publish their name. Perhaps this month Mr Jolley could desist from further repetition of his limited views and say something in celebration of the wholly positive contribution "immigrants" are making to Bottisham life.

*Clare Enright*

*Dear Editor*

When the sad news of George's death reached me the memories came flooding back and I admit to having a few tears.

George was the most generous man I have ever met, always the first to pay for a round and also a very loyal and good friend to a newcomer to the village.

We met through football, first playing, then travelling to see games, and did we travel. From Wembley to Dundee and our annual trip to Anfield. George enjoyed them all and his enthusiasm was electric.

However the main talent George had was his friendship and loyalty. I will miss his voice on the phone updating me on Bottisham and its happenings.

*John Allen. Alnwick*

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## Friday 1 January

New Year's Day Guided walk at Coton Reserve. CB23 7PZ. 11am to 1.30pm. Free of charge – donations welcome. Walk booking essential. To book lunch in *The Plough*, ring 01954 210489.

## Saturday 9 January

Litterpicking at Coton village and Reserve. Meet at *The Plough*, Coton. 2pm, no need to book.

## Every Thursday

Healthy Walking at Wandlebury CB222 3AE. 10am or 10.30am to 11am. Free of charge, all welcome, suitable for all abilities.

No need to book, but please arrive 10 minutes early to register if it's your first time. Donations towards the upkeep of the park are always welcome.

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# *Bottisham & District Gardening Club*

Andrew Sankey gave a most entertaining talk called “funny garden features” as he showed hand drawn cartoons to illustrate features from Roman to Victorian times. The discovery of Fishbourne Mosaic Pavement in the 1960’s led to the discovery of a garden (twice the size of Buckingham Palace Garden) where herb seeds, evidence of a pergola with vines, cypress trees and box hedges were found. Topiary is believed to have started with the Romans – hedge shears have been found and owners of large properties had their names cut into the hedges bordering their estates by slaves – the first slave was called Toparius!

Henry VIII obtained Hampton Court from Cardinal Wolsey and established ponds, a new private garden, maze and knot gardens. The best view of such gardens is from an upper storey of a house but as the gardens were enlarged a mound was built with a circular path to the top with the inevitable folly or even a banqueting hall. Mounds disappeared as the landscape gardeners took over but one still exists at New College Oxford. He mentioned trick water features (Chatsworth), ha-ha’s (Wimpole Hall), grottos, crinkle- crinkle walls which had precious fruit trees in the bays and gnomes in rockeries.

He finally asked if we agreed that “flower beds” came to be called that because when four- poster beds came to be replaced they were stripped down, taken to the gardens, had castors fitted to their legs, plants set on the base and moved around the garden. It’s true!!!

**Mike Petty** will speak on “**James Withers- the remarkable life of the Fordham Gardener-poet**” on **Tuesday 26th January at 7.30pm** in the Poppy Room at the Royal British Legion.

*Sylvia Overton*

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## WHAT'S ON FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

### Stay and Play (£2 per family)

Fun session for families and children under 5.  
Bottisham Children's Centre: Mondays 8.30-11.30am  
Soham Children's Centre: Tuesdays 9.15-11.15am  
Barwell Sports Centre: Thursdays 9.30-11.30am

### Little Movers (Free)

Chill and play session for families and children (ages 0-2)  
Bottisham Children's Centre: Wednesdays 12.30-2pm

### Sun Dads (£2 per family)

Play and chill session for dads and their under-5s.  
Ross Peers, Soham: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 10-12am.

### 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 01355 727136 or email  
[sohamchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:sohamchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

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## ***Bottisham Community Library Association***

The Library will **re-open on Tuesday 5th January.**

We held a stall at the College Christmas Fair selling good quality books, puzzles and DVD's and added to our funds by £84. Not a lot but every little helps. We are so grateful for the excellent donations we were given. We received a large supply of excellent quality paperback books too late for this event but these will soon be checked, sorted and some could be on the shelves for you to borrow.

We have a Christmas Quiz for sale at £1. Closing date 10th January.

Hope you can come to our **quiz on Saturday 30th January** at the Royal British Legion. See the advert within the magazine.

Remember to make a resolution to use the Library.

**Saturday Art Club.** At the time of writing sadly no response for additional help. Liz Cook is unable on her own to continue running this great club which will be sorely missed. We are grateful to her for her valuable contribution to village life. Please look at village notice boards in the hope the class will run next term.

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

*Sylvia Overton*

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 January.

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

**BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

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# *1st Bottisham Scout Group*

As we move into 2016, its time to get ready for a new year of Scouting. This year will see Scouting celebrate 100 years of 'Cub' Scouting. Cub Scouts, known 100 years ago as Wolf Cubs, were founded in response to many younger brothers of those already in the scout movement wanting to take part in similar activities to their older brothers. We look forward to telling you about some of the '100 year of cubs' events over the coming months. The Scouts also have several exciting events and camps planned and we will also be chatting to our young beavers over the next few months to find out what they enjoy most about their Scouting. So much to look forward too.

At the end of this year I would like to say a huge thank you to all those adults in the group who give up their time to provide Scouting for the 75+ children and young adults in Bottisham. From the leaders who turn out week after week, and often at weekends, to the occasional helpers who help out when needed. To the parents who turn out to help with a hike or camp and the Executive committee who sit in the back ground making sure the Scout Hut remains a fit place to enjoy scouting and who help to raise the money to keep the group going. We always have room for more adults to be involved – either with the children and young adults or behind the scenes, you only have to contact myself or one of the leaders.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

*Linda (Jones) Chair  
Bottisham Exec Committee*

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 January.

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

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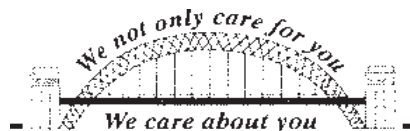
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### ***An Attitude of Gratitude***

As my family embarked on 2015 we had no idea what we would journey through, but we were certain of one thing, we were not alone; we had each other and we had God as a constant presence with us. We have had times of joy, times of sorrow, and everything in-between. Events of last year included accepting the invitation to be the Pastor of RE:NEW; the serious illness of our youngest daughter who was poorly for four full months and spent the whole of April in hospital; my Ordination as a Christian Minister; our family mission leading other families to build homes for homeless Mexican families; moving from the Tees Valley to Cambridgeshire...

We have a family 'Gratitude Jar' in which we put notes of things we're thankful for throughout the year (or reminders of significant times like 'tickets' or 'photographs') - it reminds us to be thankful at all times. I've just had a sneaky peek through some of the notes and was especially moved to see some things my children have put in throughout the year. It appears that the most painful times reminded us of what we had to be most thankful for.

Every New Year's Eve, after our family meal, we open the Gratitude Jar and read the notes out to remind us of how blessed we have been, then we start with an empty jar on January 1st. This is a helpful family tradition that stops us forgetting the things we've been thankful for. I encourage you to start a 'Gratitude Jar' there are lots of creative suggestions online (Google, Pinterest). This year RE:NEW will have one, and I look forward to seeing what it contains at the end of 2016.

We would love you to join us on the journey, as several people have over the past few months, and be part of our thanksgiving. You are welcome to any of our services and activities.

*Alan*

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*10th January. 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)*

*10th January. 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)*

*17th January. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)*

*24th January. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)*

*24th January. 6.20 pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)*

*31st January. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)*

*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)*

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## *Anglesey Group Mothers' Union*

Our vicar Rev'd Sue Giles was our speaker in November. Her talk was entitled Outdoor Artwork. Several of the examples of work were by the contemporary sculpture Sir Antony Gormley. The first is possibly his most wellknown sculpture, it is definitely the largest in Britain, The Angel of the North.



The angel is made of steel and measures 20 metres tall with wings 54 metres across.

It stands on the top of the site of a former coal mine near Gateshead in Tyne and Wear. It is visible from the A1. It was completed in 1998.

The sculpture for Derry Walls was completed in 1987. It consists of 2 identical figures as seen in the picture. Each sculpture is 2 identical cast iron figures joined back to back, one faces into the walled city and the other outside the city. The sculptures represent Derry's two dominant religious communities turning away from each other but joined as one body.

The eyes are hollow so that you can see through.



Another Place completed in 1997. In the picture you see one of 100 men that stand on Crosby Beach in Lancashire looking out to sea. This was meant to be a temporary installation but the local people campaigned for them to remain. This installation is always changing with the tides and the weather. Some of the iron men are covered at high tide. The action of the waves and the sea is over time changing the shape of the iron men.

Sue then reminded us of a very recent installation. The Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London last year, created by Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, marked 100 years since the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. 888.246 ceramic poppies were placed around the Tower. Each poppy represented a British military fatality during the war. The scale of the installation was intended to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary and create a powerful visual commemoration.

Finally Sue showed us pictures of the pompom installation that took place in Swaffham Bulbeck church. It was the vision of Mary Jane House. People for the 5 villages of the Anglesey Benefice were encouraged to use their oddments of wool to make pompoms of any size which were hung from wires in the church. The result was amazing. Photos can be seen on the home page of the Anglesey Benefice website. (The website is being upgraded so apologies for the out of date material).

Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month in Lode Chapel at 2.30. At our January meeting Sue Giles will take a service of Holy Communion. Julie Sayle.

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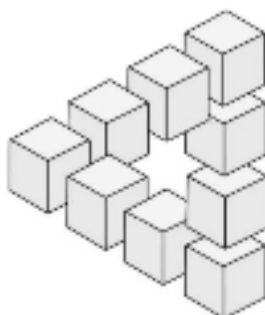
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## WEA News


Having enjoyed Marina Burrell's story of "Russia in the USSR", members are looking forward to "**A Brave New World?**" presented by **Wendy Barnes**. Perhaps we will find out whether or not the migrants at that time, to what is now the United States, had the same sort of problems that we have today in Europe? Did local inhabitants welcome them with open arms, or did they tell them to go back to where they came from? What were the reasons for them leaving their home country anyway?

This series of lectures commences at 10am at the British Legion, Bottisham on Thursday 7th January 2016. We will be finding out what life was like for 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 current subject, 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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## Thoughts of a Sports Nut

Seasonal greetings to all Cresset readers, regardless of whether my sporting miscellany floats your boat. May I wish everybody in this wonderful village a healthy and happy New Year.

Let's kick off 2016 with a new British world champion! "One of the most unusual people ever to have competed for the championship". So said the commentator after Tyson Fury had pilfered the Heavyweight World Championship from poor old Wladimir Klitschko who found himself in one fight too many after 9 years as undisputed champion. The bizarrely named Fury is rather an unlikely athlete and I think his oddness was partly what flummoxed Klitschko when it came to the crunch. Full of trash talk and serenades before the fight, Fury, 6'9" with a thick waist, long levers and an athleticism that belies his looks, so mesmerised the former champion with movement and awkwardness that Klitschko hardly laid a glove on him for 12 rounds and eventually surrendered his titles meekly. At 39, I wouldn't be surprised if the Ukrainian has second thoughts about a rematch, but you never can tell with ageing fighters, eh?

There are few expressions of disgust that I haven't already employed in chronicling the ongoing misadventures of FIFA and I'm reluctant to waste precious column inches repeating myself. So please simply indulge me in borrowing a phrase from George III (taking on radical John Wilkes in 1763) to say that Blatter's (and FIFA's) "*expulsion is highly expedient and must be effected*"! Enough said. On to other scandals...

Sebastian Coe finally exited his term of denial over the extent of illegal drugs in athletics and came down to earth with a bump in his new role as President of the IAAF. Now that the World Anti Doping Agency's "game-changing" commission report has lifted the lid on the industrialization of performance enhancing drug-taking in Russia, one hopes that Lord Coe's forces of enlightenment can lift the gloom from what sports minister Tracey Crouch called "an extraordinarily dark day for athletics". Paula Radcliffe described the depth of the cheating as "surprising". I do not share that view, do you?

Your heart goes out to athletes like Alison Curbishley and Jo Pavey who trained all their lives only to miss out on medals at the hands of doped opponents, but if anyone thinks that prosecuting Coe's predecessor for cover ups and suspending Russia is going to solve the problem, then they're sadly deluded. Which nation is going to be exposed next, I wonder?

It all leaves something of a question mark against Sebastian Coe, too, doesn't it? Now I love Coe as much as any Brit, for the contribution he's made to athletics both on and off the track, BUT... what was he doing for the last eight years as Lamine Diack's right hand man whilst the boss was lining his pockets with Roubles so that the Russians could Hoover up gold medals in London 2012?

Did you notice that another of my favourite hobby horses trotted into the news recently when Championship teams Huddersfield Town and Queens Park Rangers sacked their managers on the same day? What could these two occurrences possibly have in common, other than both teams playing in blue & white? Could it be that both managers were named Chris? Or that they are relatively inexperienced at this level and had no track record of success? Or that both teams were in the bottom half of the league with a negative goal difference? No, approximately five nanoseconds after the news hit the airwaves, we heard Troy Townsend (Kick IT Out campaigner and father of England goal-getter Andros) suggest that the positions of Messrs Powell and Ramsey were undermined by their brown skin! He spoke of a 'strong message to those aspiring to get on this journey' and banged on again about statistics not 'stacking up'. Sad.

Frank Sinclair, the ex-Chelsea defender was so indignant about this 'chip on the shoulder' attitude that he responded immediately with total disagreement, describing Townsend's comments as 'damaging', in the sense that such claims could even put off club Chairmen from

*(Sports Nut continued on page 47.)*

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**(Sports Nut continued.)**

appointing BME managers, fearing that the race card would be played against them in the event things not working out.

Having said all that, I do feel for both Ramsey and Powell, carrying the burden of flying the flag for the racial minorities as well as trying to focus on their own careers. I can imagine that flag becomes pretty heavy at times regardless of whether they are willing or unwilling bearers. The reality is that the role of a football club manager is a parlous one at the best of times. The average tenure of a league manager is 15 months and, at the time of writing the total managerial casualties among the 92 league clubs numbered 25, including six in the Championship. Still, 66 (all white) managers lost their jobs last year so there's plenty of drama to come yet this season.

Finally, I hope it didn't escape your notice that Jolley Old Tony and the Sports Nut were entrenched on opposite sides of the fence in December's Cresset over Rugby referee Craig Joubert. I was somewhat taken aback by TJ's outrageous slur on a world class official at the height of his career. Words like 'bias' and 'disgrace' are laden with the very kind of attitude that football is so desperate to eradicate from its own following. There is a trap that says "*The referee must get every decision right (i.e. right in my eyes) in order to earn respect*" and I'm afraid my friend has leapt headlong into it. We match officials get this venom spat at us regularly from players, coaches and spectators alike and it's pretty galling, I can assure you. The (missed) point being that this is SPORT – an imperfect and inexact science in which the unpredictable elements of inspiration, luck and error are the essential ingredients that render it so compelling.

TTFN

Gerry Daish

**Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 January.**

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## January Bulletin

**HAPPY New Year!** And why not make a New Year's resolution to help keep you and your family fire safe this year.

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Mike White

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### *Happy and Prosperous 2016 to all!*

So; Sports Nut and I seemingly differ in the December issue over the standard of refereeing displayed by Craig Jourbert during the Rugby Union World Cup. Anyway we have since ‘mulled’ this over, to use a seasonal verb, and continue to disagree on the merits or otherwise of Jourbert’s performance. ‘He who hesitates is lost’ – in other words; a person who spends too much time deliberating about what to do loses the chance to act impartially altogether. And so what happened; the most noxious decision possible was made...

And my November article has certainly stirred at least one reader to put digits to keyboard. I will admit however, to being somewhat perplexed and disappointed at the tenor of their response. Having now read the article again I feel that the witticism of the reply is actually distorting what was in fact written. That being said I doubt anyone would disagree that many wonderful things happen in the NHS and that it engages countless professional, dedicated and caring people for which we should all be very thankful.

Maybe I could add that if I thought everyone was going to agree with certain observations I make or a particular line of reasoning I use to stimulate reflection I certainly wouldn’t be writing these articles. It is important I believe to look beyond our insular surroundings occasionally to challenge tolerant thinking by suggesting there might just be an alternative perspective. If we don’t then the end result is surely enforced ignorance resulting from ideas not debated or debunked.

Perhaps we might also remind ourselves that awhile ago the broad sheets and the tabloids devoted many column inches a propos concerns that were covered up because people were afraid to speak their mind lest they cause offence. And so it is that Germaine Greer is in the headlines and is being attacked by the very people she has avidly supported for decades. She has been denounced as a ‘misogynist’ by a group of ‘student feminists’ because, in their opinion, she ‘continually misgenders trans women’. They want to have Greer barred from public speaking because she has an opinion they don’t like. Pundits in this line of journalism seem to be unanimous that Germaine Greer has dedicated her life to fighting for women’s voices to be heard. Columnist Ruth Dudley-Edwards suggests; “Greer’s alleged comment is at its worst a minute infraction of intersectional correctness.”

But there appears to be a consensus in the world of journalism that for today’s hyper-sensitive freedom of speech is threatening; nothing must ever be said that might cause ‘emotional’ harm or upset the ‘socio-political balance of correctness’. So what do the hyper-sensitive do; they attempt to intimidate using clever yet facile rhetoric.

I read that a chap in Bristol wants to have his appearance resemble his pet parrot, so what has he done? He has had his face and neck tattooed in shades of red, green, blue and yellow and is about to have his ears removed. “It’s the best thing that’s happened to me. I’m so happy, it’s unreal, I can’t stop looking at myself in the mirror” he ‘tweeted’. But how will he keep his shades on? Well, he’s thought about that too – two bolts are to be attached to the side of his head. But be warned; you must not gaze or comment on his appearance just in case you provoke the ‘thought’ police into action! It must be true I read it in the tabloids...

Now, when you think of downhill skiing then probably, like me, you think of the Alps and Scandinavia. So it’s logical therefore to assume that ski racing was invented by skiers indigenous to those areas. If so, then again like me, you’d be wrong! Ski racing was the brain child of two Englishmen; Sir Arnold Lunn and Sir Antony Bulwer-Lytton, both

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

*(Jolley Old World continued.)*

knights of the realm operating very much out of their home territory. Before Sir Arnold Lunn arrived on the scene skiing was a horizontal rather than vertical sport because the Nordic countries considered downhill to be for people too feeble to do cross-country and too cowardly to jump. It was Arnold Lunn who changed their minds. He established the Public Schools Alpine Sports Club in 1919 and the PSASC led to the establishment of alpine hotels which, by combining hotels with ski facilities, became the precursor to the ski travel business, Lunn Poly. That was by no means the end of Lunn's innovating. In 1922 he conceived the idea of placing gates on the slope which you had to ski around and thereby created the event which he called the slalom. He, along with Lytton, was also a passionate advocate of skiing downhill. Thanks to both Lunn's and Lytton's efforts slalom and downhill were both included in the Olympic schedule for the first time in 1936. I bet not many of you knew that!

TJ

*"With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come."*

– WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE – *THE MERCHANT OF VENICE*

**Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 January.**

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

*Wishing you all a Happy and Very Healthy 2016.*

**A & E Department:** As the name says this is for Accident and Emergency cases, there are other options for lesser problems such as the 111 Service, out of hours doctor, and pharmacists. During surgery open hours urgent cases will be fitted in.

**Medicine Cabinet:** It is useful to keep this stocked particularly over the winter months with painkillers such as paracetamol and ibuprofen, dehydration remedies, indigestion remedies, and soothing items for sore throats and coughs. Your pharmacist can advise and the Practice website has items under Family Health to aid you with this.

**Lighting:** New LED lighting should make the surgery car park brighter.

**Antibiotic Guardian:** A campaign led by Public Health England (PHE) details available at <https://antibioticguardian.com> urges members of the public and healthcare professionals to take action in helping slow antibiotic resistance and ensure antibiotics work now and in the future. Choose one from a list of pledges about how you can personally prevent infections and make better use of antibiotics and help protect these vital medicines. Raising awareness of antibiotic resistance is closely linked to this year's Stay Well This Winter campaign, which gives advice on how to look after yourself and family during the winter period.

**NHS England new patient and public participation policy:** On 20th November, the Board of NHS England approved a new patient and public participation policy and statement of arrangements. It also committed to further action to seek out, listen and respond to people's views on the NHS. Details are set out in Item 4 in the list of Board papers for the meeting which is available at [www.england.nhs.uk/2015/11/16/board-meeting-20-nov15/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/2015/11/16/board-meeting-20-nov15/)

**Update on Uniting Care Partnership:** As you may have read in the press the contract for Uniting Care Partnership has been terminated, due to the current arrangements not being financially sustainable. This means that the contract for older people and adult community services transfers to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. The CCG says "We would like to reassure patients and carers that services will continue and will not be disrupted. Frontline staff have been doing a great job delivering the new model of care. They are crucial to the provision of good quality care for our patients and are very much part of future arrangements"

**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 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 **19** January 2016 6.30pm at the surgery. Come along to learn more about the Patient Group or if you would like to join us.

***Bottisham Patients' Group***

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Classes also available in Burwell on Thursdays





## *Bottisham Players*

Our wonderful Pantomime this year, is *'Rumpelstiltskin'*, an unusual story for Pantomime (written by Joshua Dixon) which will be performed in the Main Hall of Bottisham Village College on Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th January 2016. Tickets are £7.50 with concessions at £5.50 and we offer a 10% discount to parties of 10 or more.

**Box Office: Tina's of Burwell: 01638 742785;**  
**Bottisham Village Stores: 01223 811281;**  
**Sue Tennant: 07449306832** (answerphone available);

We are always happy for new members to join us, either on stage or backstage, so if you think you might be interested, don't be shy, have a look at our website: [www.bottishamplayers.org.uk](http://www.bottishamplayers.org.uk)

### **The Story of Rumpelstiltskin**

Once there was a Miller who was poor, but who had a beautiful daughter, Marigold. The King and Queen made a Royal Announcement that the Prince was to choose a bride but the Queen was very greedy and wanted her precious son to marry someone rich. The Miller wanted his daughter to marry the Prince and become the new Princess, so he told the King that his daughter could spin straw into gold. But this was a lie!! The evil Witch knew about this and saw an opportunity to gain riches for herself, so she called upon Rumpelstiltskin, her goblin friend. She cast a magic spell on him, to do the spinning but at what cost to Marigold? The Fairy will try to protect Marigold but who will triumph, the Witch or the Fairy???

There are funny bits, messy bits and scary bits with good versus evil, but, as is the tradition of Pantomime, we guarantee lots of dancing and singing for you join in with and to get your toes tapping. So grab your tickets, come along and share the fun!! I hope you all enjoy the Show.

*Sue Tennant*



## **Bottisham Early Morning Swimming Club**



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I don't know why the WI is so unlucky with the weather when they arrange coach trips. Our shopping trip to Norwich was marred by rain but fortunately there were plenty of coffee shops, eateries and shops to provide shelter. We definitely added to the local economy that day.

Steve Price explained the "Bobby Scheme", a Cambridgeshire charity providing a service for older, vulnerable people who have been burgled giving a most interesting and informative talk. The scheme also provides security advice and reassurance. The Bobbies fit door chains, window alarms and other security devices making people feel safer in their own homes. There is a small charge for this. They can be contacted on 01480 413311 or at [www.thebobbyscheme.org](http://www.thebobbyscheme.org) to find out more or to help support this worthwhile charity.

He emphasised that we should leave lights on when we are out at night and even a radio playing and that door chains should be fitted and **USED**. Side gates should be locked as should garden sheds so that would be burglars have no access to tools to break into properties. We should also be aware of cyber crime – banks never phone to ask for personal information and any e-mails you receive from an unknown source should be deleted immediately.

Jude Simpson, comedian and singer entertained us at our Christmas meeting. She performed humorous songs that she had written extolling the virtues of John Lewis and also the Dyson Hand Drier. Also of the nightmare she had suffered just before the birth of her first child and her view of the response the Angel Gabriel would have been given if he had appeared before a modern "yummy mummy" and not Mary. Mince pies and carols completed the evening

Our next meeting is Tuesday 17th January with Carol Colton speaking on "The Arctophile Travels-Teddy Bears" at 7.30pm in the Lecture Room at Bottisham Village College.

*Sylvia Overton*

## *Public Transport Matters*

I hope your Christmas travel plans were problem free. We are enjoying the smoother ride with the green Stagecoach bio-buses recycled to us out in the sticks from the guided busway. I have discovered that some seats are higher than others which makes a difference to the comfort of us shorter-legged individuals! People are also complaining that the seats are slippery and you slide forwards at stops! I hope that they are also available on the Lode route and can manage the reversing there. We visited Bury for their Christmas market and left it rather too late to join the rather long queue for the 11 bus home. As we stood there contemplating standing all the way to Newmarket, the 312 arrived at the next bay proclaiming Newmarket on its display. Well, it is a long way round but yes he was going eventually to Newmarket, said the driver. As we had reading matter and crosswords with us, we abandoned the other passengers to their fate and set off in comfort for a pleasant ride through Barrow and Moulton before catching the next 11 home to Bottisham from Newmarket. When in the past there has been a non-arrival of the 11, we have used the 16 from Bury to Newmarket, which covers the northern villages, Red Lodge, Mildenhall, so this was an interesting route. National Express still do not display their timetables for their various services at the High St, Newmarket stop but I haven't given up prompting. The Cambridge News often carries information about what is to happen under the City Deal – more buses but which routes. Letters make **(Public Transport Matters continued on page 58.)**

***(Public Transport Matters continued.)***

suggestions. There are worries about congestion in Cambridge's narrow streets in the centre and also problems with Drummer St. and Parkside. There is too the question of tourist coaches. It is suggested that a city centre coach and bus management scheme is considered for phase 2 of this project. One councillor says that the buses in the centre cause buildings to shake and pedestrians are scared on the narrow pavements but Andy Campbell of Stagecoach mentions the large delivery lorries, which have to be accommodated too. There is to be a trial bus to Addenbrooke's hospital from the Newmarket Rd. Park and Ride site funded by £80,000. The City Deal is a partnership of 3 councils – Cambridge City, Cambridgeshire County and S. Cambs. together with the Local Enterprise Partnership and Cambridge University. Routes suggested to the west of the city and Cambourne are upsetting the Wildlife Trust as they say it will put woodland and wildlife at risk, including Hayley Wood and Madingley Wood. Railfuture East Anglia also has proposals – how about a Greater Cambridge metro system? A congestion charge for the city centre could raise £30 million a year for the city, which could go towards funding it. Projects in European cities were mentioned. The population is due to grow with satellite places like North West Cambridge, Darwin Green, etc.

Railway matters are also under discussion. There is to be a delay of up to nine years for the £35 million Ely North rail junction upgrade. It was due to begin in 2017. It has lines linking Cambridge, Norwich, Peterborough and King's Lynn to London. It is said that doubling the junction could generate economic benefits to the wider area of about £100 million and also increase freight traffic on the line to Felixstowe. The MP for South West Norfolk is on the case. Abellio Greater Anglia is to invest £100,000 to improve the seating on its fleet of Class 170 trains – the upholstery is to be replaced on more than 2,000 seats. Despite spiralling costs Network Rail say that no ongoing major infrastructure projects like the Cambridge North station are to be cancelled. The Oxford – Bedford – Cambridge link could be scheduled for 2019-2024. It is also seen as a catalyst for economic growth.

The National Audit Office says that the taxpayer lost £2.2bn from what is perceived as a rushed sale of Eurostar. Railway arches, disused depots and station retail units could be sold to fund delayed rail projects, says Sir Peter Hendy the new chairman of Network Rail. They have a £37.8 billion debt. Sir Peter is the former London Transport Commissioner and it is hoped he can improve the situation. The HS2 project continues and the Birmingham to Crewe HS2 will open 6 years early. There is to be a new Transport of the North group. There could be an HS3 – Liverpool/Manchester/Leeds/Hull. Residents of Bucks. are upset that having sold their homes to HS2 Ltd at what are perceived lower prices the routes have now been changed and they would have been safe. More than 300 houses were bought by the company for £225m of taxpayers' money.

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

*Happy travelling! Paddy James*

**Copy deadline for next issue is 14 January.**

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<b>Treasurer, Advertising rates and payment:</b> Rhona Walker, 94 High Street, Bottisham.....	811402
<b>Distribution:</b> Ian & Helen Cole.....	812573
<b>Design/Artwork:</b> ONG (Old Newton Graphics) • codge.com • info@codge.com.....	01449 675548

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