

March 2018

THE 
Cresset



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

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March - "In like a Lion and out like a lamb"

Hopefully spring is round the corner and the weather is getting warmer. I never like to speak too soon as some recent years have seen March and April giving us some of the best weather of the year. False summers and spring barbecues being the order of the day.

I hear a harrowing story of a kitten being shot in the Arber Close, Jenyns Close area by someone with an airgun. This is all the more horrific when you know that the kitten was bought to cheer up a young lady whose mother is dealing with cancer.

Many people own air rifles for sport and dealing with vermin. To allow them to get into the hands of someone who then shoots a cat (this kind of shooting is not accidental) is irresponsible in the extreme. In Scotland now they licence airguns as they do shotguns and small bore rifles. It is instances like this that makes one think they should introduce airgun licences here as well. However we all know that introducing a licence does not guarantee that idiots won't still be idiots.

The kitten survives with the pellet lodged in its kidney. A costly x-ray and vet's bill showed that up, confirming that an even more costly operation on a small animal like this would be too risky. The longer term diagnosis is unsure, as the pellet, probably of lead may affect the kidneys function. One thinks the guilt should feel as painful to the perpetrator as the emotional pain feels to the cat's owners. But unfortunately it probably won't. But I'd love to be proved wrong.

OTHER THOUGHTS NOW.

The WI have asked for their notice about the village fete to be put in again. They have not had the response so far, that they had hoped for.

The WI are keen to use this day as an opportunity for clubs and organisations (and anybody else, come to that) to promote their own organisations and events. With a free reign, you could use the day as a shop window, be that from bowls to bicycles, from rambles to rowers. With no cost to take part all you need is a couple of enthusiasts and a bit of time.

With the expansion of Bottisham, there are many newer residents who would, I am sure, be keen to know what goes on in our village. I also know that most clubs and organisations suffer from a lack of members and support. Well here is a chance, with minimum effort to publicise and spread the word. An opportunity not to be missed.

Elsewhere JOW has prompted comment from a reader (and past editor) which is always welcome.

Gerry Daish has lots to tell us from the sports world. This month he has raised a topic that will be discussed/argued for a long time.

Once again the buses are set to change times and routes. As always, any change these days seem inevitably to mean a reduction in services. Paddy keeps us up to date with all things transport.

Your Parish Council report this month brings us news of the upcoming changes in council tax. Again it seems the same story, increases in rates but with reductions in services.

Then an important notice of information to all the members of the Royal British Legion Social Club here in Bottisham. Proposals are being put forward by the committee to run the Social Club more as a separate entity from the Bottisham & District Branch of the Legion. But that decision is one that all the members of the social club will need to take. So read it with interest.

Have an enjoyable month and Easter will soon be here. Not forgetting St David and St Patrick's days.

Your Editor Peter Walker

PS. Watch out for the 'Mad March' hares in the fields round about as they 'box' for their pecking order as captured on our cover this month.



Cambridge, Past, Present & Future

- A colourful month of activities



Healthy Walking, Wandlebury Country Park, A1307, CB22 3AE Every Thursday:

10am or 10.30am Join our sociable group every Thursday for a lovely spring walk around the park. Meet at the Stable Rooms at 10am, or 10.30am for a shorter stroll, finishing around 11am with tea/coffee. All welcome, free event. Please arrive 10 minutes early to register if it's your first session. Parking £3 per vehicle or free for members.

Spring Clean at Coton Reserve, CB23 7PZ. Sunday 4 March: 12.30pm to 3pm Join The Great British Spring Clean campaign to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and beaches - and at the same time enjoy getting outdoors, active and meeting new people. Get all the family lending a hand with a clean-up at the Coton Countryside Reserve and surrounding area. Meet outside The Plough pub on Grantchester Road in Coton. All equipment and tools provided, children must remain accompanied.

Spoon Carving and Whittling, Wandlebury Country Park, Saturday 17 March:

10am to 2pm Develop your dexterity and skills with this satisfying and relaxing woodland craft for adult beginners, while creating beautiful handmade, functional objects with traditional tools. Booking essential, £30 (members £25). All materials and tools provided. Parking £3 per vehicle, members free.

Cambridge Symphony Orchestra Concert, West Road Concert Hall, CB3 9DP

Saturday 24 March: 7.30pm to approximately 9.45pm An exciting opportunity to listen to the wonderful City of Cambridge Symphony Orchestra and support CambridgePPF at the same time - the charity will receive half of the proceeds from ticket sales using the special code CPPF. Performance includes the symphonic poem Tintagel by Arnold Bax, Penderecki's fascinating Horn Concerto and from the ballet Job: A Masque for Dancing by Vaughan Williams.

Booking: adults £18, concessions £16, students £8, under 14s £5. Please quote 'CPPF' when purchasing from ADC at the box office Park Street, Cambridge CB5 8AS; or telephone 01223 300085; or use the booking enquiry form at www.cambridgeppf.org/events/city-of-cambridge-symphony-orchestra-concert

Wandlebury Wildlife, Wandlebury Country Park Sunday 25 March: Anytime

between 11am to 3.30pm A day of discovery for all as part of the Cambridge University Science Festival. Investigate the amazing senses of bats, birds, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates and even plants whilst exploring the woods and grasslands on a sensory adventure. Children to be accompanied by an adult. Free event, no need to book. Parking is £3 per vehicle, members free.

For more information on any of these events:

email bookings@cambridgeppf.org,

call 01223 243830 extension 207 or

visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on

Twitter: @CambridgePPF or Facebook: facebook Cambridge Past Present & Future

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Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday 24th March 2-4pm

At Bottisham Primary School

Come along and enjoy a fun filled afternoon with word hunts, quizzes, arts & crafts + refreshments & cakes. [Of course, there will be Easter eggs too]

Fundraising for the outside play area at Saplings Preschool Playgroup

£3.00 per hunt

Services in Holy Trinity Bottisham in March

Sunday 4th	11am	Holy Communion <i>Rev'd Sue Giles</i>
Wednesday 7th	8pm	Compline by Candlelight <i>led by Dr Sarah Maxwell</i>
Sunday 11th		No service in Bottisham
	10am	Benefice Communion in Swaffham Prior
Sunday 18th	8am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) <i>Rev'd Sue Giles</i>
	11am	Morning Prayer <i>Rev'd Gina Radford</i>
Sunday 25th		No service in Bottisham
Palm Sunday	8am	Holy Communion in Swaffham Prior
	9.30am	Children's Church in Lode
	10am	Benefice Communion in Quy
Thursday 29th		Maundy Thursday
	7.30pm	Holy Communion in Lode
Friday 30th	7.30pm	Service of Reflection <i>Rev'd Sue Giles</i>
Good Friday		

Benefice services are services shared by the five churches in the Anglesey Group (Bottisham, Lode, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior). Details of these services can also be found on the Bottisham pages of the Anglesey website (angleseygroupparishes.co.uk). Any late changes in times or places of services will be given there, along with a notice of any funerals or weddings in Holy Trinity.

Mothers' Union Report

At our January meeting Rev'd Roy Knifton led our New Year Communion Service in the absence of Rev'd Sue Giles. Diocesan President, Susan Baker joined us for the service, and after tea visited indoor member Joyce Rank who was celebrating her 70 years membership of Mothers' Union. Susan presented Joyce with a certificate, and branch members congratulated her with a card and flowers.

On March 15th we will be holding our Spring Social with Bring and Buy Stall. All are welcome to come and join us in Lode Chapel at 2.30pm.

Ann Langran



There is a story told of a business man who had enjoyed significant success and become very wealthy. Despite his wealth, he did not feel fulfilled and strongly suspected that something was lacking, something needed to change, but he was unclear as to what. The businessman travelled to find the person he felt had the most clarity in their life, the person he felt would be able to help him be more clear about what he was to do.

He sought out Mother Teresa in Calcutta and asked her if she would pray for him. “What would you like me to pray for?” she replied. “Clarity” said the businessman, “I need clarity”. “No you don’t” Mother Teresa asserted, “I will not pray for clarity, your desire for clarity is the thing you need to let go of. What you need is faith, the gift of being able to trust Jesus, that is what I will pray for you”.

This is a poignant message for me as I seek clarity in areas of my life for all sorts of reasons. I hear Jesus saying, “Trust me”. As scripture says, those who follow Jesus, “live by faith, not by sight”. We can’t always see the way ahead, but we keep walking, one step at a time, as he reveals the way. Things become clearer as we walk the path of life, in faith.

The Alpha Course is designed to enable people who have questions in life, who desire clarity, to consider Jesus, to trust Him, and find in Him the fulfilment and purpose they have longed for.

Come along to Lode Chapel on Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm for a hearty meal, followed by an excellent video presentation of an aspect of life and faith leading into an opportunity to discuss the themes that are introduced. This is the Launch night. There is no pressure. no charge. no follow-up. You can come along to the launch and feel free not to continue through Alpha, or you can join us for the 12 weeks and take the time to thoroughly reflect on the claims of Jesus Christ and what it means to be a Christian. I know many people who have decided that Christianity is boring, untrue or irrelevant, without really taking the time to check it out deeply. Please don’t be one of those people. There is too much at stake. Contact Alan to book your place on Alpha or follow www.renewchurch.org.uk/alpha

Rev. Alan Brand

For more information about any of the activities of RENEW Church please contact:
Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk
Or visit our website at www.renewchurch.org.uk

ROSEMARY BARKER

Terry and Graham would like to thank all those who sent kind words and who helped in any way following the sad loss of their mother, Rosemary Alice Barker, who passed away, aged 89 years, on January 24th. The funeral service took place at Cam Valley Crematorium on February 9th.

Thank you to everyone who donated
to East Anglian Children's Hospices in her memory.



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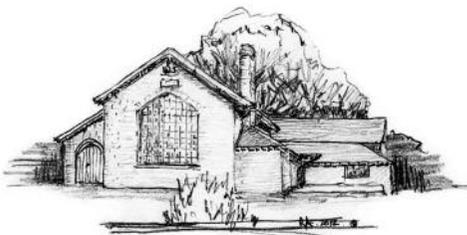
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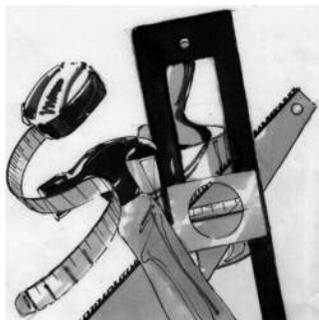
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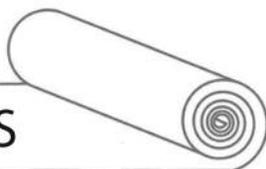


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The anticipated work on the A1303 which was reported in the January edition of the Cresset has been delayed we have been informed. Money had been provided by central government to make major improvements to the A1303 on the proviso that the work was completed by the end of the financial year. The County Council have worked hard in a very short time frame from receiving the news but quotations came in way over what was expected. With a view to receiving 'best value for money' the County Council have gone back to central government and have subsequently been given an extension to get the work done by July and are now looking at further quotations which are coming in at a more competitive price. Work will now commence in March.

The County Council have a new machine, the dragon patcher for repairing potholes and it was in Bottisham recently repairing the road surface in Bell Road. Pot holes are a major problem on many roads in the winter and our County Councillor explained the difficulty in repairing these in the cold weather. The new machine heats the road surface before repairs are made meaning the two surfaces bond easier together, hopefully lasting longer. It was good to see that many residents had gone onto the online system (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) to report pot holes. Although the system is very easy to use we have commented to our County Councillor that there is no provision on the system to report faults that need to be repaired within 24 hours. We felt that there should be a way for Parish Clerks to communicate with Highways regarding problems that needed more urgent attention. As it is all faults are recorded the same way. He is speaking to Highways about how the system can be improved. County Councillor Shuter also reported that the combined authority are studying 3 junctions on the A14 including the Quy junction and the one further towards Newmarket where the A11 starts to see if improvements could be made. The study is costing £150K. They have a council meeting next week to approve the council tax, the recommendation being a 4.99% rise

Our District Councillor Alan Sharp reported that the comments on the local plan are all now on the website for people to view. The Plan will be sent later this month for an Inspector to be appointed. The District Council also have a full council meeting in the next couple of weeks to agree council tax. They are recommending a 0% increase in the precept for the third year running. D/Cllr Sharp also made mention that the Police and Crime Commissioner had asked residents through a survey if they were in favour of a £12 a year raise in their council tax to fund police services and 78% had said they were.

Concerning the proposed site for the new cemetery Councillor Ogborn reported that water levels have been rising and were becoming quite concerning. This winter had been very wet compared with last years. The levels are above that which are safe at the moment. We have to wait until March and then see what the Environment Agency recommend.

We have found recently that with all the projects currently being undertaken by Parish Council that there are just not enough councillors to go round. Bearing this in mind we have enquired with Electoral Services at the District Council to see if we would be able to increase our size by 1 more councillor taking us to 12. Councillors proposed we go ahead with this although approval would not be granted until next year. We hope this will then provide us with the support needed. Some residents came along to the February meeting to have a listen to what is going on and we hope that others do the same over the following months. Anyone is welcome; the next meeting is Monday March 5th in the Poppy Room at the Royal British Legion, 7.30pm.

Claire Fullwood, Parish Clerk

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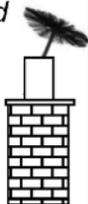
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Planning Notes

- 18/00025/FUL 79 Ox Meadow, Single storey extension to side of house, NEW APPLICATION
- 18/00022/FUL Robert Cowell Racing, Bottisham Heath Stud, Six Mile Bottom, Retrospective application for groom accommodation on land at Bottisham Heath Stud, NEW APPLICATION
- 17/02224/PDR, 139 High Street, Install kitchen, new window and replacement doors in garage
NEW APPLICATION
- 18/00065/FUL, 8 Maple Close, Proposed single storey rear extension and first floor side extension NEW APPLICATION
- 17/02032/FUL, 41 Beechwood Avenue, Single storey side and rear extension, APPROVED BY DISTRICT COUNCIL
- 17/02048/FUL, 3 Mulberry Close, First floor extension plus alterations to internal layout. New detached garage, APPROVED BY DISTRICT COUNCIL
- 17/02101/FUL, 19 Tunbridge Close, Single storey rear and front extensions, part single/part two storey side, Extension and mono-pitched roof on porch, APPROVED BY DISTRICT COUNCIL
- 17/02082/FUL, 28 Lode Road, Single storey front extension and two storey rear extension, APPROVED BY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dear Editor

At last our regular contributor's 'Jolley old world' has given us something of substance to chew upon.

Of course, his topic last month is flavour of the moment; one wonders where all this soul-searching will lead! Things, clearly, will never be the same! But, then, I am all in favour of the likes of Mr Weinstein being 'outed'; he is a blot on the moral landscape! Having said that, it has put-paid to all my 'double-entendres' at rugby club dinners!

But the more they keep turning over the stones the worse it becomes; take the abhorrent behaviour of some working for Oxfam in Haiti (and, probably, elsewhere!).

But it's not just about sexual harassment. It applies to issues of gender, race, equality, and the likes and when it comes to all these issues, the world and mankind has an awful lot to answer for!

But being a bit (my daughter avers 'more than a bit'!) of a pessimist, I feel we are in self-destruct mode. Despite all those fine people, all over the world doing wonderful work, often to their own detriment, we are still confronted with repression, slavery, famine, greed, envy, and extremism. I take the view that, despite all this 'goodness', things will never change! Yes, we might go to other planets in the universe, cure the incurable, and discover (amongst other things) foods and medicines, which will give us 150/200 years of life, but we shall never conquer or control the innate weaknesses of mankind. The 'die was cast', as Charles Darwin taught us, and life is, as the philosopher Schopenhauer opined, an 'artificial evolutionary phenomenon.' 'Nough said!

Nick Martin

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Public Transport Matters

Well, I did receive a box of the new timetables for the 10/11/12 and hope you have a copy. They are in Bottisham Post Office and all notices at bus stops have been changed. It is useful also to have the details in the timetables of the various bus tickets available. However, I then read in the Cambridge News that villagers were being cut off as bus services were to be halted. On contacting Stagecoach to check I was told that, yes, the 11/12 were affected and another box of timetables would be delivered. The changes date from the 18th February. The changes are on the Stagecoach website and also Suffolkonboard. It will affect those of us with access to the A1303 bus stop by Bottisham High St. as the no. 11 bus will not be going to and from Cambridge from Newmarket between 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. There will be minor changes to the 12 so that there can be some connection to Cambridge and therefore our local stop. I don't yet have full details.

From March 4th the no.17 will also not connect Cambridge and Newmarket but the Citi 3 will be extended to cover route 17 between Cherry Hinton and Stetchworth. Stagecoach say this is due to declining passenger numbers and the ever increasing congestion within Cambridge which hampers the progress of the buses – surely, these cuts will just increase congestion! As I repeatedly say, use it or lose it. These services are all essential for non-car drivers young and old.

Citi 1, 2 and 3 are also changed. Teversham and Fulbourn have lost half their buses but these are large settlements. Bottisham has increased in size but from my observations, bus use has fallen. As I have previously commented, I do learn things on the bus and local chat with committed bus and train users. Apparently the assisted travel service offered by Greater Anglia trains is excellent - 08000 28 28 78 or assistedtravel@greateranglia.co.uk. They are open daily 0800-2200 hrs.

The proposed metro and underground services for Cambridge and the local district continue to be a hot topic with the Greater Cambridge Partnership. Lots of differing views on how to deliver it – the time scale, cost and what form it should take. Some suggest that the money would be better spent on improving the present rail and bus travel so that fewer people needed to drive into Cambridge cutting congestion on the A14 and other routes and then in the city itself.

Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport and the S.E. Cambridgeshire M.P. have met at Ely railway station and it has been agreed that a rail upgrade outside Ely is of national importance and also that the road network does not suffer from more rail activity. They went to view the three level crossings at Queen Adelaide that shut when the rail traffic comes through and affect local residents. Lucy Frazer, the M.P. also pressed for the line to be doubled between Ely and Soham and for there to be a train station in Soham. Chris Grayling also stated that he is working with James Palmer about the metro but it is also a question of the roads – the A10 and the A14.

There has also been much discussion about the problem of the East Coast mainline and the financial problems. Virgin Trains East Coast might be replaced by civil servants based at the Dept. for Transport. The reaction to the suggestion by Boris Johnson that there could be a bridge over the Channel has been critical. There is the tunnel and Eurostar are to commence a direct service to Amsterdam from April 4th. Trains will run twice a day, taking 3 hours and

continued on page 19



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continued from page 17

with one-way fares from £35. The money spent on the bridge could instead be spent on a Crossrail of the North connecting Hull and Liverpool via Manchester and Leeds, a new Midlands hub and a Crossrail 2 north-south rail line through London and possibly a Lower Thames crossing to relieve the highly congested Dartford Crossing. A new tube map has been launched to mark one year until the Elizabeth Line is launched from December 2018.

Train travel is expensive and finding the best deal is not simple. Use a railcard, avoid peak hours if possible and buy in advance – cheap tickets are released about 12 weeks in advance. Splitting your journey into different tickets can cut the cost and 2 single tickets might be cheaper than a return. Try Tickety Split a tool on the Moneysavingexpert.com. Newmarket library on the ground floor always has useful travel leaflets - PLUSBUS, National Rail Guide to Tickets, Stagecoach smartcard.

Nenta traintours - 01692 406152. Rail discoveries holidays - 01904 734612.

Rail info: 03457 48 49 50 Traveline: 0871 200 22 33

Happy travelling! Paddy James

WEA News

Members are having an enjoyable time listening to Marina Burrell's explanation about the collapse of communism and subsequent results. Even with the dissolution of the USSR, Russia is still the largest country in the world, and though now separated from Russia, the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and those of the Caucasus like Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, still have border and political differences to resolve.

Nevertheless, life in Russia, and for past members of the Soviet republic would appear to be much better than it was. Though neighbouring Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country, its strategic location means that it has already been visited by Donald Trump. I wonder which country he will be visiting next? Perhaps it will be Georgia to sample some Khvanchkara which was Stalin's favourite wine!

Our thanks to Marina for a well presented series of lectures accompanied by excellent slide images, doable homework and rhythmic Russian music.

Members past and present please note that the AGM will be taking place following our last session with Marina at 12.15pm on the 22nd March. Additional members are needed for our local committee in Bottisham, so if you are interested in our activities, please don't hesitate to join us.

With the approach of spring and some warmer weather we will be welcoming Andrew Sankey on the 12th April for a series of lectures entitled "Arts and Craft Gardens" in which he will be looking at the revolutionary Arts & Crafts Movement and how this was extended into the garden, to create a unity of house and garden; and in doing so giving us some of Britain's greatest gardens. For more information on local and the future activities of the Workers Educational Association please take a look at www.wea.org.uk/eastern

Gerry Cowley

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 March.

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





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BOTTISHAM WI CENTENARY FETE 2018

**BOTTISHAM WI WILL BE
100 YEARS OLD IN 2018**

To celebrate this auspicious occasion, we are planning to host a

Community Fete
Saturday, 9th June 2018,
on the Primary School Field.

We would like to invite all organisations in the village to take part. This is intended to be a fund raising/ profiling event for the benefit of your own organisation. There will be no pitch fee and your organisation will keep any funds which you raise.

If you would like a stall or pitch, or share your ideas, then please would you e-mail Theclarks.45tl@btinternet.com or Jenn White at MR&JW@btinternet.com

SPRING JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 17th March 2018
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CFRS is committed to supporting the safety and well-being of all residents within our community, particularly the most vulnerable. These visits will provide sufficient information and, with your permission, allow referrals to selected partner agencies who will be able to provide further support. Visits will last no longer than 60 minutes, are completely free of charge, and will assess seven key areas, namely:

1. Fire Safety in the home - including cooking, general safety and escape plans.
2. Fall Prevention - such as securing loose carpets and care when replacing light bulbs.
3. Staying Well and Warm - home heating, provision of food and access to all available services.
4. Crime Prevention - advice on home security and the avoidance of fraud and scams.
5. Smoking - if you need assistance to quit, our partners can help.
6. Alcohol use - Hospital admissions are steadily increasing. CFRS can provide information to help.
7. Hoarding - advice on safety and health aspects is available.

More information on Safe and Well Visits is available on the CFRS website under 'home safety'. If you feel that a visit might help you with any aspect of the above please call CFRS on 01480 444500 or email firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk There is no obligation to provide information that you would prefer to withhold - confidentiality is assured

If you have time and are interested in supporting CFRS in their valuable work, as a Community Champion, please get in touch with Emma Prestidge at Groundwork on 01480 587140 or email emma.prestidge@groundwork.org.uk

One last note - please regularly test your smoke alarms - Fire Kills !

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook.

Dear Editor

I have just been to our excellent village shop and looked at how people put their bins out, it being bin day.

Until my partner bought a house in a development north of Texas I always put mine out with the wheels towards the curb. Where my partner is you have to do the opposite, and if not that way round - i.e wheels away from the curb, will get a note left on the bin to turn it round next time!

I now therefore do the same here and notice that that enables the bin men to just wheel the bin to the back of the truck, the lift then engages with the bin to lift it up and empty it, the lid opening automatically.

I've never seen any recommendation here as to which way round is best for the bin men, hence this email and a suggestion for other readers.

Richard Moseley



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Bottisham & District Gardening Club

Nigel Start from Great Wilbraham was an enthusiastic and amusing speaker telling us about his experience in being completely self sufficient from his garden. As a child he preferred the local woods and countryside - to be confined to the back garden was punishment!

In the early 70's on moving to a terraced house with a long garden he was given an unusual present - a broody hen with 6 fertile eggs. He has never looked back. The hens gradually cleared the garden and he was able to grow fruit, vegetables, salad items and herbs. He told us a little background history, in medieval times everybody grew their own crops, limited though they were, and there was plenty of communal land. With the coming of the Industrial Revolution workers moved to the cities where there were no gardens, the Enclosure Act came into being and farms became much larger. The Cadbury and Fry Quaker families built houses with gardens for their workers and the Leisure and Gardens Act in 1908 set up allotments in all areas (a 30ft by 100ft plot of land nowadays split in half or quarters) which could produce enough food for a family. The wartime Dig for Victory Campaign made good use of the allotments and other local land.

So why grow your own - assured of the quality, flavoursome, convenient, pesticide free, and healthy exercise. He has continued to keep chickens, has in his time had several beehives, makes his own compost, has a hazel tree to provide his sticks and produces sufficient food for a family of 5. Sounds an excellent idea especially when he told us that supermarket potatoes are sprayed every 7 days for 3 months to stop the sprouting.

I expect you have heard on the village grapevine that we allowed the urn to boil for too long which set off the smoke alarm and eventually the fire alarm so that all users that night had to assemble outside. This was just as Nigel had finished his talk so it was not all bad news.

Our next meeting on **27th March** is at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room at the Royal British Legion. **Claire Matthews** will be telling us about “**A History of Easton Lodge - the Countess and her Gardens.**”

Grand Opening of the Lode to Quy Cycle Path

10.30 SUNDAY MARCH 11th

We will gather at the Quy Park Business park at the beginning of the cycle path at 10.30 There is room for some car parking if you need it

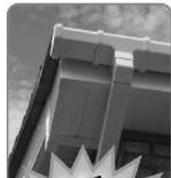
After a short speech, the ribbon will be cut and off we go to St. James' Church in Lode where we will gather for a buffet lunch and drinks. We do hope you will join us for this long awaited celebration and make sure you decorate your bike, pram, wheelchair or yourselves to make it even more lively. There will be a competition to design a logo for the path and Meleena Walsh will be organising this in the local schools. The winners of the different age groups will be able to cut the ribbon! Please come and join us but do make sure that all children are accompanied by an adult.

Lode Parish Council

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Bottisham Community Library Association

I think that all who attended agreed that the Quiz Night we held in early February was our best one yet.

The questions were set once again by Ian and Carole Faulkner with the music round compiled by Jeff Kempster. Ali Jones with help from Pat and Angela provided an excellent ploughman's and George Buchanan and Alan Folland did the scoring for it. Our co-ordinators, Valerie Leake and Helen Cole were in the winning team (named the Bookworms) and most of the teams knew more than they thought. We are once again grateful to Bill Sunner from Bottisham Post Office who provided the winners with wine and 2 of the raffle prizes (the expensive ones). Thank you to all who came on the night and all the helpers. And did I say we raised £440 for our funds – a welcome boost.

March 1st is World Book Day. It actually lasts the whole month and Waitrose magazine suggest you enroll or visit the library. Our library has free WI FI and by using your library card you can access a vast array of internet magazines and publications to read at home on your tablet. My daughter is discontinuing her subscription for a daily newspaper to read on line.

Why not borrow a book from a different genre sci-fi if you normally love romance, biography if you usually go for thrillers or borrow one of the classic novels. We have a good range in all these categories.

Sylvia Overton

Bottisham WI

We nearly filled the Main Hall at Queens Court with current members, 3 new members and 3 visitors who came to hear Helen Green speak about the history of washing.

We realised how lucky we are with our labour-saving devices, even until the early fifties Monday would be a full day spent boiling, scrubbing, mangling and attempting to dry clothes. Automation came earlier to the American housewife as they had no servants or people who took in washing for a living. Clothes in the Middle Ages were made either of wool and not washed (greasy stains were removed with Fullers Earth or chicken feathers), or linen items which were soaked in a solution of wood ash and water- namely lye. The clothes were banged against stones by a river and then laid out in fields over hedges to dry. By the time of the Industrial Revolution and much dirtier clothes carbolic soap was used and laundry schools were set up to train girls. Prison laundries often had steam driven machines that moved the clothes around, an improvement on dolly tubs, copper boilers, posers and washboards. There were pictures too of various types of irons. It brought back quite a few memories.

Our WI is presently involved with helping Bottisham Community Primary School pupils each week in making a wall hanging a project to celebrate our Centenary. You may be aware that it was the WI that stitched the Millennium quilt which hangs in the Local Surgery and there is an earlier one in one of the corridors in Queens Court.

Don't forget to contact Jenn White on 01223 811600 if your Club or Group would like to take part in the Special Community WI Centenary event we have planned for 6th June at Bottisham Primary School. Please support this community event.

Come to our next meeting at **Queens Court at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th March when Andrea Chupacova the Fund Raising Manager for Cambridge Maggie's Centre.** Maggie's provides free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer and their family and friends. **It is also our Annual Meeting**

Sylvia Overton

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at Bottisham library

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for more details

I am privileged to see reports of many missions attended by the Trauma Doctors and Clinical Care Paramedics of EAAA. Requests arrive at the Emergency Desk in Chelmsford at an ever increasing rate, from all points of our compass. There is no hiding place ! I make no apology for appealing to Cresset readers for ongoing support, be it donations, direct debits, EAAA Lottery membership or bequests. We will need c.£12.2m to cover operational costs this year.

Whilst sitting in a waiting room recently, a lady asked me what I had been speaking to St. Neots WI about. When I said EAAA she responded "I've left my money to them" – WOW. I would appeal to like-minded readers to consider following this lead – in whole or in part.

To further describe the effect that EAA has, not only upon patients but also on those 'at the cutting edge', when he left the charity last year, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, otherwise known as William Wales, is quoted as saying. "Thank you to my colleagues, team mates and the people of East Anglia whom I have been so proud to serve. As part of the team, I have been invited into people's homes to share moments of extreme emotion, from relief that we have given someone a fighting chance, to profound grief. I have watched as incredibly skilled doctors and paramedics have saved lives. These experiences have instilled in me a profound respect for the men and women who serve in our emergency services, which I hope to continue to champion."

Michael White

Sales, Wants and Swaps



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

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TEL
Flymo Easi Glide 300, Electric Hover Mower.	£25	811437
Panasonic SC-PM46DB CD Stereo System. (boxed)	£40	811437
Suitcase 28", soft top, wheeled, dark blue. (as new)	£20	811437

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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

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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Dispensary: This will now open from 8.30am as from 5 February.

Appointments: There will be an extra 23 appointments per week in February and March to cater for winter pressures.

Self Help Groups: We would like to find out patients' interest in setting up groups of patients, who have similar conditions, e.g. diabetes, for mutual support. Please leave your name at reception if you are interested.

Doctors: Dr Higham has semi-retired and will do less clinics. Dr Keith will cover and become a partner in the Practice.

Mental Health: There is to be a triage session at the surgery on Wednesdays with a member of staff from the Mental Health Services (PRISM) attending for assessment and directing on for appropriate treatment. There is a new self-referral service for young people up to the age of 25 called CHUMS details on their website. The self-referral service (IAPT) for brief psychological intervention continues.

Stop or Switch: The Clinical Commissioning Group is looking into reducing the cost of prescribing drugs so your GP will discuss this with you if you are affected.

Bottisham 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 website for further information www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/ppg.aspx?p=D81055 and see what your Patients' Group has achieved. We would welcome help with running the group.

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 9 and 21 March, 6 April, 11 and 23 May 2018. Do join Steve for a walk he would be delighted to see you. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be Thursday 22 March 2018 at 6.30pm at the surgery. The AGM will be held on Thursday 26 April at 7pm at the surgery.

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB

JUABLE SALE

Saturday 10th February 2018 at The Royal British Legion Social Club

Doors open 12.00 Noon - entry 50p

Items for sale may be brought to Legion from 10.00am - (no shoes please)

Further details from Cindy King on 811220

**Thank you for your
support,
we raised £255**

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AT THE LEGION SOCIAL CLUB

OPENING TIMES Mon-Thurs 5-11pm : Fri 5-12pm : Sat-11.45-12pm : Sun 12.-11pm

31st March 4pm till 7pm - Children's Party

Mrs Bubbles Children's Fancy dress Easter party with magic show and Easter egg hunt. Children £1 Adults members £2 non members £3. Small prize and egg included.

A VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

Following a motion presented to the members present at the AGM, the majority voted by over 95% for the Social Club to begin the process of disaffiliation from The Royal British Legion (TRBL). A process which is controlled by the rules of TRBL. The committee's reasons for this decision are financial and are vital for the future of the Club:-

1. Two years ago The RBL stopped collecting the social club fees and this together with the loss of St James's Branch members for the same reason, resulted in our annual subscriptions reducing from over £8,500 to less than £500 last year.
2. Many people believe part, if not all, of their £17 annual subscription to TRBL comes back to the social club. In fact the Social club does not receive any of it. On top of this, last year the club paid The RBL £392 just to be affiliated.
3. In the last financial year the social club made a loss of £4,700 and we need to take action now.
4. The Clear financial benefit of setting Social Club subscriptions which come to the club.
5. The opportunity and flexibility for members independently to continue or not as TRBL members.
6. The opportunity for the Social Club to update its image to relate more to the Bottisham Community as a whole.

The reformed Community Social Club will still be happy to support TRBL by hosting Branch meetings at the club, organising the poppy appeal from the club and by supporting any fund raising activities.

In April all fully paid up Social Club members will receive a ballot paper together with a letter fully explaining the situation and it is vital that each member completes and returns it. In order to disaffiliate, 75% of the total membership must vote in favour and any ballot papers not returned will count as a vote against. Your vote does count.

Dates for the ballot and SGM will be in next month's Cresset.



The Royal British Legion Bottisham & District Branch

You will see elsewhere in The Cresset, the outline proposal to disaffiliate the Social Club here in Bottisham from The Royal British Legion.(TRBL)

All members of the Social Club currently need to be members of TRBL. A very limited number of members actually attend the branch meetings which are held every other month in the Poppy lounge.

The officers of the Branch fully understand the reasoning behind the Social Club Committee's proposal.

For their part, the Social Club committee have stated that it is their intention that if they disaffiliated from TRBL, they would continue to support the branch in its activities, provide meeting space and facilitate the management of the Poppy appeal and support fundraising in the club.

The Branch Officers would like to say that this should not in any way stop people who want to continue to be members of TRBL and the Bottisham Branch. Given the support, the Branch will continue, but would be a separate entity to the Social Club. To this end we would encourage TRBL members to maintain their Legion membership and even to come along to the bi monthly meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of alternative months.

The Royal British Legion, Bottisham & District Branch,

31 Downing Close, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DD

Tel. 01223 812063 www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham

Dear Editor

I am saddened and angry to report that a few Sunday's ago our little kitten was shot with an air gun.

I live in Arber Close and he wanders behind us into Jenyns Close.

While it was not fatal he now has to live with the pellet lodged in his kidney, as it's too difficult to remove. With no way of knowing if the pellet is lead or not we have to watch for signs of poisoning and signs of the pellet moving further into his kidney.

I find it difficult to stomach that somebody could be so cruel.

Twitten is very much loved and has been helping my daughter focus on something whilst we are dealing with health issues I am having.

I suspect that whoever did this won't be brave enough to own up or come knocking on my door and apologise, which in my books would go a long way.

Twitten is getting on well at home, teasing the dog and is itching to get back outside, but what do we do?

Katy Rowe

ALICE MARY COOK

Many thanks to all who attended the funeral on 13th February of my mother Mary Cook. Also thanks to Rev. Sue Giles for the service. Apologies to any who were held up in the High St. by the horse drawn hearse and procession.

On behalf of Charles Cook and family



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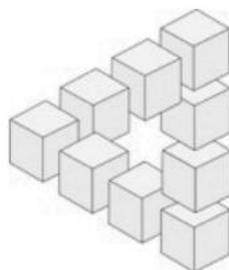
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

With the Six Nations Rugby and the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang still in full swing at the time of writing, I find a window of opportunity to vent some spleen on one of my current pet topics... the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) in the once beautiful game of Association Football.

So 16th January was the historic day it arrived... I guess it had to come. John Moss disallowed a goal for Leicester City v. Fleetwood Town in the 3rd Round FA Cup replay, and called for the VAR to confirm. But the video showed that a defender's outstretched heel had played Kelechi Iheanacho onside, even though there was clear daylight between their upper bodies, and the decision was duly overturned. Everybody happy, right? ("We must make sure every decision is correct because fortunes can be won and lost on the basis of referees' decisions.") Wrong... not me! I don't care whether the outcome was technically correct or not; my eyes are on the bigger picture, that this is another step towards a future in which the soul of the game is torn apart by the demands of the faceless money men.

Then the very next night, Chelsea's Willian was tripped in the penalty area v. Norwich in extra time of their FA Cup tie, and the referee cautions him for diving because, in the VAR's view, it was not a clear and obvious error. WHAT?!! It could hardly have been more obvious! "Shambles" say Shearer and the studio pundits. I agree, it looked a mess, but all it was: was an opinion! And sooner or later, people have to accept somebody's opinion and stop making everything all about referees... it's not: it's about who plays more effectively on the day and who sticks the ball in the onion bag more often!

It seems to me that there is a basic misconception of what VAR will mean to the interested parties. They all think it's going to work in their favour. It's not. Some time ago, I made the point that, for every perceived miscarriage of justice suffered by a team, there are an equal number of beneficiaries of those supposed mistakes. But you only hear them complaining when something works against them. So - you see - the managers and fans are kidding themselves... they don't want to see more decisions correct; they want to see more decisions in their favour.

Take Watford v Southampton later in January. Watford's equaliser was the product of a clear handball, missed by the referee. The Southampton supporters were up in arms, screaming for VAR (which was not present on the day). But the Watford fans were saying "Ok, but VAR would have given us two penalties earlier...".

See what I mean? VAR cannot, and will not, work in everyone's favour. Only the clear and obvious refereeing mistakes will be overturned; but one person's mistake is another's matter of opinion. There will never be consensus and the 'problem' will not be cured. Furthermore, there will need to be changes in the laws of the game to cover the situation where a game is brought back to an earlier position after the advice of the VAR... What happens if someone is sent off in the meantime? What happens if there's a serious injury? And trickiest of all: what happens when the referee stops play erroneously? Restart anybody?

I wonder how long will it be before the officials refer every close decision to the VAR and we see a dozen referrals per game?! I have a suggestion to use the technology in a slightly different way instead, which would not only take the pressure off the referee, but would satisfy the clamour to have the video replays made public so the poor paying customer is not left wondering what's happening. What we should do is to issue an electronic voting device to every spectator in the ground and when the referee blows his whistle, the incident is replayed on the big screen and the decision is referred to the crowd to determine whether - by simple majority - they support his decision or not! What fun eh?!

(Sports Nut continued on page 49)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

The ridiculous, forensic dissection of every refereeing decision by the TV pundits these days is actually a powerful argument against the use of the video referee, in my humble opinion. The myopic notion that ‘the game has changed, so we need to utilise technology to change with it’ deflects attention from the shortcomings of the players who are incapable of adapting their craft accordingly, and detracts from spectators’ enjoyment by constantly debating the negatives. The Premier League managers need to shut up and start supporting the referees instead of blaming them for players’ errors (or cheating). Who will fill their pockets with cash if we all get fed up and watch something else instead...?

Perhaps we will switch our allegiance to Rugby Union where the Television Match Official (TMO) system works so perfectly - well, as long as you don’t mind waiting for a few minutes to obtain a decision. But at least it’s guaranteed correct, eh? Er, well... consider this quote from Wales manager Warren Gatland after their recent defeat by England in which his team were denied a try. "Everyone I've spoken to who's seen it says it was a clear try... It's such a pivotal moment in the game. The TMO has one big decision to make and unfortunately he's made a terrible mistake." Oh dear - not only might the TMO not be the beacon of correctness that it’s purported to be, but perhaps Rugby’s famous respect for authority is beginning to fray too!

I’ll leave you with a final thought from Mauricio Pochettino, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, who offered me a glimmer of hope recently with his call for fellow managers to stop damaging football with their selfishness: “The problem - and not only here in England - is the hypocrisy, because at times, we understand football only in the way we want. Sometimes we are positive or negative according to whether it benefits us or not.” Hurrah! But I bet he soon forgets it the next time Harry Kane or Deli Al dives in the box to ‘win’ a penalty!

TTFN Gerry Daish

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Crisis - *what crisis!*

Over the Christmas period our youngest granddaughter was referred to A&E at Addenbrookes to investigate a very high temperature and a mysterious rash. The 'out of hours' procedure was followed; firstly a call to 111 which instigated a very useful help line conversation which in turn led to a return call from a Doctor. The decision was then made - take the child to Addenbrookes where A&E would be expecting her. The system worked brilliantly - the child was seen promptly and discharged within two hours and at a time when the media was going on and on about either this target or that target not being met. Clearly our experience has not been so for everyone as all we seem to hear about are the bad experiences apparently due to overstretched resources, and then linked to this the all too frequent newflashes - 'Crisis point in the NHS'. The NHS has and will always be challenged when demand is so unpredictable, but 'in crisis'!! Then against this incessant backdrop promulgated by the doom mongers there are the many, many first-rate patient experiences that go completely unwritten and unmeasured.

Perhaps at this juncture I could just make a very simple and possibly naïve point; if you build and resource a hospital for 100 patients with matching staffing levels, plus a bit say for spare capacity, and then 200 turn up you are going to be challenged no matter how much money or extra nursing you throw at it. And you can't just stick up another building that meets all the required standards in a matter of days or even months. The cost of maintaining and resourcing overcapacity does not make any economic sense whatever. But what does make sense in such situations is to clear the A&E departments of those who treat them as drop in centres and the 'binge drinking' nincompoops who put the lives of others at risk.

This wide spread preoccupation in both government and the media with meeting targets started me thinking that the actual journey an individual patient experiences seems to have sadly become a secondary consideration. Instead, performance is determined against crude indicators rather than by the expectations and experience of those using the service. What is therefore important either isn't being measured or it isn't measurable. Good medicine surely is built on a foundation of values —on kindness, caring, good communication, honesty, and, above all, trust. So is it of any real surprise then that when clinicians are required to respond to numbers then such values are left in a perilous state. I have read that the first principle of clinical medicine is to relieve human suffering. If so then this code is clearly being undermined by the 'jobsworths' whose *raison d'être* seems to be the depersonalisation of an individual's suffering.

I then started to think about the targets themselves; when they came into being, how much they cost to manage and by whom and whether there has been any real benefit from having them. The delivery of targets was a significant part of the public service reform agenda under the 1997-2010 Labour government. But what was different about Labour's approach to targets in the NHS - and across the public sector more generally - was the volume of targets and the vigour with which they were performance-managed from the centre. But managed by whom? Well, I found it surprisingly difficult to find out who precisely sets NHS targets so the best I can offer is that Government sets targets under guidance from spurious national bodies - once

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called 'Quangos'. According to The Guardian newspaper the costs of gathering the data in 2016 is estimated to be £250m. Coupled to this are the fines imposed on the Hospitals for missed targets in the region of £600m, and the compensation pay outs which totalled some £1.6bn. Could this cumulative £2.4bn be better spent I wonder!

But has this ethos been worth it and since the introduction of targets has there been any real measurable benefit to the customer - the patient? There is much divided opinion on this but there is no clear evidence, which satisfies me anyway, that targets have significantly improved the timeliness or the quality of care provided by NHS establishments. The belief amongst those that monitor and analyse performance seems to be that optimum accomplishment can only be achieved through targets requiring 'buttons to be pressed and levers to be pulled'. Conversely many NHS Trust chief executives view targets as short sighted and counterproductive that adversely hit patients' expectations and pushes hospitals deeper into debt. They also consider the culture of fines and compensation claims as depriving their hospitals of the financial and human resources needed to stay one step ahead.

Of course like many I'm no expert and so we can only listen to a range of opinion and make our own judgment. But whether the NHS 'crisis' we are repeatedly told about is real or self-inflicted by the 'centre'; the national bodies involved must urgently come to a collective understanding as to whether the philosophy adopted so far has improved the timeliness and the quality of care provided by the NHS. If not then to persist with such crude heartless indicators will only continue to demoralise and undermine what the NHS, and those that work in it, does best. Perhaps then seventy years on there is a compelling argument to re-personalise the NHS and to rethink or even possibly return to grass roots?

JOW

*"When the debate is lost,
slander becomes the tool of the loser." - SOCRATES.*

Letter to the Editor

"What is freedom? Freedom is the right to choose: the right to create for oneself the alternatives of choice" - Archibald MacLeish

As a resident of Bottisham (Ox Meadow) for a number of years now I am frustrated that I moved from a house that was 90 years old to one that is 5 years old and lost a real choice of broadband providers. I say "real choice" of course since whomever I choose as a front end provider it'll still be BT Wholesale providing the broadband "under the hood".

Hence my reason for contacting the Cresset. It would be great if you could encourage your readers to express an interest with Virgin Media via the postcode checker link on their site... www.virginmedia.com/postcode-checker/

Registering for updates does not mean you are committed to taking their services but if enough people in Bottisham do this then just maybe they'll think about laying some fibre and bringing some real choice of broadband providers to our village. Possibly some of the residents in the north of the village already have the option of using VM? Regardless I know VM is available in the neighbouring villages of Lode and Bulbeck.

Cheers - Mr Richard Nixon



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Holy Trinity Church: Revd Sue Giles	812726
Roman Catholic Priest: Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard	01223 211235
RE:NEW/Lode Chapel: Rev. Alan Brand	01223 812558
Bottisham Surgery:	
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Out of Hours only - Urgentcare Cambridge	111
Bottisham Library:	812354
Library hours: Monday Closed; Tuesday 3-5pm and 6-8pm; Wednesday 10-11.30am Thursday 3-5pm; Friday 6-8pm; Saturday 10am-12noon	
Cambridgeshire Police HQ:	01480 456111
Cambridgeshire Police:	(NON-URGENT MATTERS) ring 101 - In EMERGENCIES ring 999
Police community support officer Ian Hawkins PCSO 7274 at Ely Police Station..Contact through 101	
1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies: Kay Pearce	811055
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