

Bottisham Community Library

WE ARE FULLY OPEN AGAIN

TUES 3.00-5.00pm and 6.00-8.00pm. WED 10.00-11.30am THURS 3.00-5.00pm. FRI 6.00-8.00pm. SAT 10.00-11.30am.

If you have never visited our brilliant new bright and spacious library premises do come and see us - you will be amazed.

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- Story time for young members first Saturday of the month

If you are not already a Library member, we can quickly issue your card.

Please return any books you took out before the lockdown periods. We would not expect fines to be imposed. We need the books for others to borrow.

We will be holding our **Annual Quiz on Saturday 15th January**. Cost £8 per person to include refreshments. Book a table with Margaret Coles on 812199.

We shall be closed for the Christmas period from Friday 17th December and reopen on Tuesday 4th January.

Sylvia Overton

November Issue 500

December has arrived already and this last year just seems to have flown by. Or am I just getting older!

Covid has now been with us for almost two years and has changed most of our lives dramatically in many different ways. Two years ago, we were totally oblivious to what was coming round the corner and Christmas was, as it had been every year, an exciting time to look forward to and the main social event of the year. Plans being made for family and friends to get together. Some plans

of the year. Plans being made for family and friends to get together. Some planning to get away for a winter holiday, while others stocked up the freezer for the anticipated 'pig out'.

Then last Christmas was suddenly a time to be feared. By then we were getting used to isolating from each other, bumping elbows instead of hugs. Wearing masks wherever we went.

Boris finally told us that we could, for a couple of days, drop our guard and have the family round, albeit in controlled numbers, which varied, depending on which part of the country you lived in.

Such was our, by then, cautious outlook, that we all wondered just how cosy we could get. My immediate family decided it was not worth the risks of all getting together round the xmas table and so decided on something different.

Never before have I decorated the garage with fairy lights and a Christmas tree, but there we were, all nine of us, sitting round, spaced 2 metres apart, sipping prosecco with smoked salmon blinis and opening presents, before all going back to our own houses to have Christmas dinner. It was certainly different and, in a way, for that reason was jolly good fun.

Hopefully with the astounding progress that has been made to date, we should be able to have a more 'normal' Christmas this time round.

Looking back over this last year takes some thinking about. Think about the amazing work done in the health sector. Starting off with the staff at all our hospitals and clinics across the country who worked their socks off to cope with the massive workload that this pandemic had and still does put on the system. The incredible work done to develop the vaccines in such a short time. To the distribution systems which got the masks and vaccines to where they were needed.

Sure, we are British, so our media immediately concentrated on those outliers where there were problems and took the opportunity to raise the blame culture to sell a few more newspapers.

If you stand back and look at the whole event it is an amazing example of what can be done.

Personally, I must add my thanks and appreciation, that, in the midst of it all, there was time and space for me to be taken into the best two hospitals in the world, Addenbrooke's and Royal Papworth to have open heart surgery, and be looked after by a faultless group of people. A different year indeed.

Usually at this point I would say that I hope you had a good year and achieved what you wanted to, but all the above kind of rules that out. Let me say though, that I hope you stayed well, avoided the worst and didn't suffer too much if the worst did affect you.

I also at this time want to thank all those involved in producing The Cresset, from all the contributors, without whom there would be no magazine. To the advertisers, without whose support and financial contribution we couldn't pay the bills (we get no other funding). To that silent army of volunteers who put the magazine through your letterbox every month, rain, hail, or snow. To the committee who keep an eye on proceedings and to my long-suffering wife who keeps the books in order and pays those bills.

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

Finally, can I wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and a look forward to a much improved and fault free New Year.

Now where's that G&T!

Ps. Our seasonal cover picture is courtesy of John Overton

Pps. The sharp eyed amongst you will have noted the early deadline date for next month's magazine due to printer's holidays.

Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Wed. 1 Dec. 8 pm C by C (a short contemplative service)
Online service on Zoom

Sun. 5 Dec. SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9am Online service on Zoom

Village Worship, Village Hall, Quy 10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Sun. 12 Dec. THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9am Holy Communion, Quy

10.30am Christingle Family Worship, Swaffham Prior

- also on Zoom

Sun. 19 Dec Fourth Sunday in Advent

9am Online Service on Zoom

Morning Prayer, Quy

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Morning Prayer, Bottisham

3pm Carol Service, Quy

4.30pm Carol Service, Swaffham Prior

6pm Carol Service in churchyard, Swaffham Bulbeck

6.30pm Carol Service, Bottisham Thur. 23 Dec. 10.30am Carol Service. Lode

2.30pm Carols, Hilton Park

4.30pm Crib Service, Bottisham

Fri. 24 Dec. CHRISTMAS EVE

10am Crib Service with Toddler Group, Lode

3pm Crib Service, Swaffham Prior 4.30pm Crib Service, Swaffham Bulbeck

11.30pm Holy Communion, Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck

Sat. 25 Dec. CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Online Service on Zoom

10am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior, also on Zoom tbc

Sun. 26 Dec SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10am Holy Communion, Lode

Each Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

All subject to Covid restrictions

Please check www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7378/benefice for current information; or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk, which is also the address to request the Zoom link.

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District Councillors' Report

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has launched two public consultations on proposals for transport links in and around Cambridge. Some of these proposals have significant implications for our routes into Cambridge, especially along the Newmarket Road.

The Making Connections consultation closes on 20 December and more information can be found at www.greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021

The Cambridge Eastern Access consultation closes on 22 December and more information can be found at www.greatercambridge.org.uk/NewmarketRd2021

They will be hosting events online throughout the consultation period, and these will be advertised on the consultation links above.

As you may be aware, there is a local group, the AtoB 1102, who are looking at the implications of these proposals for our area. To find out more about them, register your views and see their campaigns, please see their website at https://atob1102.org/. The proposed changes are significant for our area. For some reason, East Cambs is not part of the GCP – so we need to make our voices heard by responding directly to the GCP consultations and working with the AtoB 1102 group.

The Combined Authority is also seeking views on transport and connectivity. You can give them your views at https://yourltcp.co.uk/

An electric bicycle ride took place in October to mark the works currently ongoing to install the flagship heat network in Swaffham Prior to get the community off oil and onto renewable energy. The event included a tour of the site where the energy centre is being built for the project. The media took interviews which reached as far as Japan.

Last month the Chair of the County Council's Environment and Green Investment Committee was taken on a tour round part of the area proposed by Sunnica for their colossal (and controversial) commercial solar farm and battery storage stretching for miles across the East Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk countryside east of Burwell. Cambridgeshire County Council has already expressed its concern to the Secretary of State about the scale of what is proposed.

The tour began at The Ark Church in Isleham, then took in Freckenham, Red Lodge, Kennett, La Hogue, and Chippenham - and that was just part of this massive proposal. They saw some of the fantastic views, working farms, stud farms and other parts of this wonderful area which will be hugely affected if the Planning Inspectorate approves the plans.

Council officers are expecting that Sunnica will submit their planning application to the Secretary of State on Friday 12 November. The application will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate, not by the District or County Council. You can follow the progress of the application and register your interest at - https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sunnica-energy-farm/

Meanwhile, applications for more solar farms continue to come forward in our area and yet there is still no strategic overview for alternative energy sites in East Cambs – each application is considered in isolation with no thought for the cumulative impact or the necessary infrastructure. We will continue to call for this strategic overview so that we get the right balance between green electricity generation, farming and open space.

We do hope that you will get a good break this Christmas and the chance to meet with family and friends.

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Parish Council Report

As you will be aware, the Parish Council, alongside many local residents, has taken a close interest in the planning application for a Retirement Village with affordable housing to the rear of 163-187 High Street. Those who are closely affected will have received notification from the District Council that the applicant has lodged an appeal against the refusal of permission by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Any new comments were required to be sent to Planning Inspectorate by 22 November 2021. The Inquiry hearing is scheduled to take place on 25 January 2022.

Both ECDC and the Parish Council are maintaining their position in strongly opposing this development on the Green Belt.

I am sorry to report that we have suffered a further instance of criminal damage to the brick bus shelter in the High Street. By the time you read this, I hope that the repair will have been completed – it has been delayed due to the difficulty in obtaining a secure junction box to replace the one that has been damaged. We have discussed this issue with our Community Police Sergeant who advises that, if any member of the public witnesses a crime being committed, it is appropriate to report it on the 999 number so that the Police can decide whether to attend urgently.

Lockdown exposed to many of us the limitations on broadband supply within the village. A particular challenge for those working from home, or households with multiple users all wanting to use the limited supply at the same time. With the way the world is developing, the demand for broadband capacity is only going to increase. You may be aware that there has been significant recent activity in Cambridge bringing full fibre to the city. I believe there will be an article in this month's Cresset by a supplier involved in the works in Cambridge, highlighting the opportunity for Bottisham residents to now take up a government voucher to have fibre installed to the home FOC by the company.

It is not the place of Parish Council to promote a specific commercial supplier and residents must make their own mind up as to whether to take up this offer. However, improving the broadband infrastructure within the village is properly our concern, as it will enhance the village as a place to live and do business. So we have taken an interest in understanding the offer and would like to answer one of the questions that has been raised - which is a concern about being "locked in" to the initial supplier. A condition of the government voucher is that the infrastructure that is installed is "open source". So, although there will be an initial contract period with the installing company (with the cost varying according to supply), once this is ended you will be free to purchase from other providers - or even return to your old supply down the existing copper telephone wires.

Last month, I drew attention to the vacancies on the Parish Council. I am pleased to say that we are beginning to get some enquiries. However, I would encourage you all to consider whether you have the time and energy to serve our community by being co-opted onto the Council. There is a basic commitment to attending one Council meeting per month. There are other opportunities as well to get involved with the ongoing work of maintaining and enhancing our environment, including two major projects of developing a play area and new cemetery. We are looking for residents to join the Council who are willing to "roll up their sleeves" and enjoy the reward of making a difference to the life of our village. For more information, please contact the Clerk (Jonathan Giles) at: clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk or myself at: jon.ogborn@bottisham-pc.gov.uk



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OPENING TIMES

Monday and Wednesday 9am-3pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-12.30pm



Planning Notes

New Applications

21/01498/TCON, 17 Stocks Close, To comply with Condition 3) of Decision Notice 86/01020/RMA

Planning Applications Approved by ECDC

21/01345/TRE, 109 High Street, T1 Walnut - fell to 2.5m from ground level

17/00297/DISA, 52 High Street, To comply with condition 3 of original application

Notice of appeal

20/00296/OUM, Land to rear of 163-187 High Street, Development of retirement care village and affordable housing

Cambridgeshire County Council Update

Since my last report, both Children & Young People Committee and Highways & Transport Committee have met. The Children & Young People Committee meeting centred around the budget projections for next year. The settlement, as in previous years is tight and there will be more detailed discussions at the next meeting in December.

Highways & Transport Committee met and approved some permanent closures of residential roads in Central Cambridge, which had been in place since the active travel temporary arrangements had been put in place during the early part of the lockdown last year, thus permanently stopping unnecessary traffic through those roads.

I have participated in 2 webinars in the last two weeks organised by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) about the consultation that began on 3rd November on the Easter Access into Cambridge and specifically, for this consultation, the access along Newmarket Road.

The proposals include several different options for the Barnwell Road roundabout as well as the Elizabeth Way roundabout, in addition to moving the Park & Ride site close to the A14 roundabout on Green Belt land. There would be more bus lanes along Newmarket Road and narrower lanes for vehicles.

The change in access along Newmarket Road would be in conjunction with vastly increased bus services both in number and running much later into the evening and at weekends. The increase in those services would be needed to persuade people to get out of their cars, which is a valid objective, but needs to be properly considered.

However, this comes at a cost, with the GCP stating is £40m per year, and will be paid for by congestion charges, increased parking charges and a levy on parking spaces at businesses in Cambridge. I have no detail on the calculations behind those charges and the assumptions made to arrive at that figure, as if we get more bus passenger fare income goes up, but equally that means lower vehicle charges.

I have asked the question about what work has been done on the effect on Cherry Hinton Road and Mill Road, if private cars are squeezed out of Newmarket Road. I feel that there are currently more questions than answers.

The consultation runs until 12 noon on 22nd December, so please read the consultation document and contribute any suggestions. If you wish to comment direct to me in respect of the proposals, my contact details are at the bottom of this report.

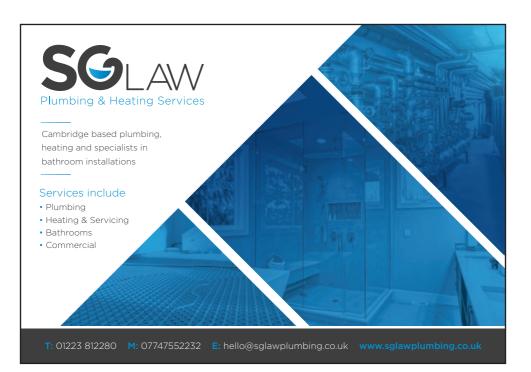
If you aware of an issue that concerns you, please let me know. If I am not aware of it, I cannot fix it.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and that you and you friends and relatives stay safe as we move through the COVID issues.

I look forward to updating residents further next month and continue to work on your behalf.

Alan Sharp Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Woodditton Division

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Bottisham Community Events



Welcome to Bottisham

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Every Wednesday 10:30 Meeting Point in the Poppy Room, Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club

Every Wednesday 19:15 Carpet Bowls at Bottisham Village College

Every (first) Wednesday of the month 19:30 Bottisham Book Club at The Bell

Every (last) Friday of the month 09:30 Bottisham Men's Walking Group

Every (first) Saturday of the month 10:30 Storytelling Bottisham Community Library

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 4th December 2021 Litter Pick; Gather from 10:30am, meeting point BVC car park (Sports Centre end), please register in advance if you can, or where possible bring your own equipment, for more information email bottishamcommunityevents@gmail.com

Saturday 4th December 2021 Live Music; From 20:45 at The Bell Pub, Free Fall perform rock and pop, for further details call 01223 811483

Sunday 5th December 2021 Christmas Fair; Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club are hosting a Christmas Fair for all to enjoy, for further details email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com

Friday 10th December 2021 Pam Daish; Singing your favourite songs from the decade, from 7:30pm at Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club, for further details email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th December Winter Lights Weekend; Raising funds for Red2Green, donate to add your festive home decorations to the village map and create a wonderful winter walk for all. Saturday only (4:30pm-6:30pm), refreshments served on the Bottisham Village College site and Storytelling session, for further information email bottishamcommunityevents@gmail.com

Monday 13th December 2021 Newmarket Town Band; At the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club, for further details email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com

RECENTLY ENJOYED

Bottisham Book Club; A lively evening at The Bell function room, was enjoyed by many, for more information on the next meeting, contact helenlslone@gmail.com

Story Telling; A great turn out for the first session back at the village Library, for more information on the future sessions contact olindaliddiard@hotmail.co.uk

Continued on page 13

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THINGS IN THE MAKING

Community Meal – if you're interested in supporting this fabulous idea sometime in the new year, please email bottishamcommunityevents@gmail.com

Bottisham Village College – are looking for volunteers to provide a cafe facility to support village events, if interested email enquiries@bottishamvc.org

Play Reading – for those who fancy meeting up for some script reading fun, in a cosy corner, on a regular basis, email rosemary@anthonyjolley.com

COMMUNITY HERB BED PROJECT UPDATE by Sarah Brown

Jan, Bernadette and I have made a start on maintaining the flower beds by our village sign and war memorial, with kind permission from the Parish Council.

The intention is to create herb beds for the community, which we will work on developing further in Spring. We hope that residents will take a 'snip for dinner' when they wish to, once the beds are established.

There will also be some winter and spring flowers to go in, bringing some added colour to the beds. Any donations of unwanted seeds or cuttings are gratefully received. If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact brownsjc46@gmail.com help with the following is appreciated:

- Donations of unwanted herb seeds, plants, or wintering bedding plants
- Designing a community herb bed sign
- Planting

HERB OF THE MONTH by Sarah Brown - 'Sage'

Sage has been used in Europe for well over 2000 years. The Romans often used it and its generic name is derived from Salvere, meaning 'to be well'. There is so much written about this herb and it's uses, both medicinal and culinary. The use in sage and onion stuffing is well known, but here is a simple recipe for sage butter. It goes well with Pasta or a risotto; it can also be served with grilled fish or poured over roasted vegetables or mashed potato.

RECIPE

Taken from https://www.riverford.co.uk/ a handful of sage leaves 2 tbsp butter

METHOD

Melt butter in a shallow pan, adding a handful of sage leaves.

Cook over a moderate heat until the sage and butter brown slightly.

When the sage is crisp, but not burned, remove from the heat, remove the leaves and serve.

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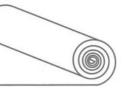


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News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

WINTER WILDLIFE AND WALKS

There's plenty of wildlife to look out for on your winter walks as overwintering birds return to the Fen. From whooper swans and wigeon enjoying the open water, to hen and marsh harriers finding places to roost amongst the reeds, the diverse habitats on the reserve attract a variety of winter visitors.

If you have your own visitors over the festive period, there are plenty of routes to take to get some fresh air and stretch your



Morning light at Wicken Fen by Glynis Pierson

legs, whether you want to pop in for an hour or make your visit more of a family get together. Our friendly Visitor Centre team will be happy to suggest a suitable walk. Don't forget to pop into the Docky Hut Café for a warming hot drink and a festive treat afterwards.

Do you love capturing images of fen wildlife while you are walking on the reserve? If so we'd love to hear from you as we're looking for local photographers who would be willing to share their photographs for our website and social media channels. Please contact Isabel by email: isabel.sedgwick@nationaltrust.org.uk

PERCY THE PARK KEEPER'S WINTER WANDER TRAIL

Join us for a world of adventures and fun this winter. Percy and his animal friends will be giving nature a helping hand. Follow the trail round our Boardwalk and Woodland Walk to see how you can help too! There's no need to book to enjoy this activity which will run from Saturday 4 December to Monday 3 January between 10am and 3pm. The trail costs £2 and admission charges apply for non-members.

FESTIVE SEASON OPENING

The Visitor Centre, Docky Hut Café and Sedge Fen will be open every day except Christmas Day. Routes into the wider reserve (Burwell, Baker's, Adventurers' Fens and beyond) are all open every day as usual. For further details of opening times and facilities, please check our website.

'FOOTPRINTS' COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT: WALK LEADERS

With school outreach visits, archaeology and tree planting activities all underway, we're now planning for next year and starting to recruit volunteers for the next phase of our National Lottery Heritage Fund project: Footprints. We're looking for walk leaders to join the team and lead walks in the communities on the edge of the Vision area. With the support of our local partner Healthy You (East Cambridgeshire District Council), full training and support will be given. To find out more and apply, go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer click on 'Find an opportunity now' and search for Wicken Fen. For the latest information please visit our website and keep an eye on our social media feeds www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen



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Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

We welcomed Wendy Bowen as our guest speak in October. She gave us the most entertaining afternoon talking to us about her experience as 'The Tanzanian Pastor's Wife'. Wendy presented her talk in true Tanzanian style sitting amongst us rather than standing up in front of us. She began with a brief explanation of Tanzania's location within South Africa, and that it covers the Serengeti and Kilimanjaro National Parks. Then moving on to speak about how she and Roger met whilst studying and their early married life in Cambridge. In 1966 they found themselves leaving England for Tanzania for Roger to take up the position of pastor with the Anglican Church of Tanzania. Their sea voyage took them through the Suez Canal down to Africa. (No luxury of air transport for clergy in those days!)

The first things noticeable on their arrival was the high temperature and everyone spoke in Swahili. Fortunately, Swahili being an easy language to learn, Wendy, Roger and their family of four children soon managed to communicate with the local community.

Wendy then told us of how her main objectives in life has been to dedicate her time to raising her family and commitment to family life, and how this is an integral part of the Mothers' Union ethos. When settled into the Tanzanian way of life, it was very noticeable that the Tanzanian Mothers' Union was very active, and had a very forward-thinking approach, which continues to be so today. It is their tradition to choose a material and make a simple garment to wear, so that all members have the same attire to wear over their normal clothing making everyone equal. Although many members have little riches, their dedication to bring changes within their communities is very rich.

Tanzania has one of the largest memberships within MU and has a very holistic approach to their work. Each generation dedicating time to nurture and support the younger female generation in caring for themselves and family life. Currently Tanzania MU is the main lead in organising Covid vaccination centres throughout the country. Wendy then opened up the session for questions, which raised discussion and gave us food for thought on having more contact with our benefice linked diocese of Mara in north Tanzania. Wendy and her family lived in Tanzania for 15 years, and still have strong ties with the country, especially as her son and family live there. Wendy concluded by showing us a most colourful piece of Tanzanian material and circulated information on Mothers' Union Tanzania embarking on an exciting transformation partnership with Tearfund Tanzania. 'Transformation – Now! being our theme for next year, again the Tanzanian ladies have already forged ahead and achieved some of this already.

Our next meeting takes place on Thursday 9th December, when we will hold an afternoon of, Christmas carols and readings, followed by tea and mince pies. You are most welcome to join us at 2.30pm in Lode Church. We take this opportunity to wish all readers a Blessed Christmas

Ann Langran

Copy deadline for the next issue is 10 December.

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





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Tim the Vinophile Writes

MAKE BOXING DAY YOUR CHRISTMAS WINE DAY

December 2021 has finally arrived and if you hadn't noticed, the season of goodwill is upon us. Generally, we all eat and drink too much and, after last year's washout, who can blame us?

In an ideal world the Christmas Day of a wine lover might include a glass of Champagne in the morning, a crisp chilled Chablis with Salmon blinis around mid-day, a fabulous Bordeaux with the turkey followed by a sticky pudding wine and Port with cheese and biscuits. We all know that the reality is nothing like that. You probably get woken at 5am and get presented with a glass of warm Prosecco (no room in the fridge for wine) which you pretend to enjoy. A couple of beers (or pinot grigio) while preparing the lunch and wolfing down chocolates you don't really need (but it is Christmas) means that when you get out that claret you've been saving for a special occasion you really don't fancy it, what's more all those relatives want some and you're left with half a glass. Then someone gets the Baileys out and the next thing you know you're asleep in front of some strange television progamme.

This is why you should make Boxing Day your Christmas wine day!

Beaujolais and Pinot Noir make great drinking companions when tucking into the cold turkey. Fruity and easy to drink they present quite a contrast to the onslaught 24 hours earlier. If you're a traditionalist and like to have a spiced ham for the festive season, why not wash it down with a Gewurztraminer from the Alsace?

If you are going to treat yourself this Christmas, then do the smart thing and enjoy your wine when you're not half cut and stuffed full of food. That's the plan anyway...

I'd love to hear what you enjoy drinking. Drop me an email vinophile7@gmail.com

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR BOXING DAY TREAT

- 2019 Chiroubles Cru du Beaujolais Co-op, £10 The hillside vines of Chiroubles are planted at a fairly high altitude of 250-400m, imparting its wines with a light character and enticing freshness. Great value for money, this example from Domaine de la Chapelle Bizot is quintessentially juicy gamay, with a silky-smooth charm.
- **Yering Station, The Elms Pinot Noir Waitrose, £9.99** The 2016 Pinot Noir has aromas of black cherry and a perfumed, spicy lift. The palate is rich and soft with a long, lingering finish.
- De Bortoli Willowglen Gewurztraminer-Riesling Cambridge Wine Merchants, £8.99 A generous and balanced palate of sweet rosewater and Turkish delight complemented by the crisp acid Riesling component adding a zesty finish.

AND FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

2018 Château Les Trois Manoirs, Bordeaux, France, 13 per cent Aldi, £8.49 - Punching above its weight, this fruit-forward beefy cabernet sauvignon-dominant 2018 is a gem.

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EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

We have enjoyed a very pleasant evening in The Club listening to Pam Daish singing some of our fa-vourite songs from the decades. Some people even managed a dance or two. If you have missed her two sessions so far don't worry, you have another chance on Friday 10th December from 8pm. Mem-bers and children free entry. £2 non-members.

We have recently had successful evenings with the Legionaires 77 (who will be returning in the new year) and a Children's Halloween disco which was well attended.

DON'T FORGET OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR ON SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER. OPEN FROM 12.00 TO 4PM.

ON MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER WE WELCOME NEWMARKET TOWN BAND

to The Club for what has become their annual visit. Entry is free to everyone so please come along and enjoy some Christmas carols. The evening commences at 7.30pm and the Christmas draw will take place at the midpoint. Tickets for the draw, priced at 50p are now available and there is a top prize of £250. Pop up to The Club and buy your tickets.

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE WE HAVE GRAHAM (OZZY) ALDRED returning with his disco, which was thoroughly enjoyed by members back in August. Members free entry, £5 non-members.

Don't forget we have BT Sport available throughout the year. Saturday morning premiership games and most European games being shown.

Please refer to the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk for the latest information. If you wish to be kept up to date with the latest news, please email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com with your email ad-dress and you will be added to the mailing list.

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Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

The interesting and interactive geology course on 'How the British Isles were formed' continues. Having studied the principles of rock formation we are now 'visiting' areas of the British Isles, especially North Wales and the Lake District where many examples can be found.

Plans for next term are in place with two five – week courses. Starting on 13th January at 10.00 Julian Sedgwick will present a course entitled 'Beyond the Cliche' – an introduction to the Culture and History of Japan. He will introduce key themes in Japanese history, geography, culture, language and literature and visual arts.

After February half term there will be a five - week course on Medieval East Anglia presented by Kate Jewell.

Both courses will be held at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club in Downing Close. More details will be found in the January magazines or email bottishambala@btinternet.com

New members are always welcome.

Helen Cole

Are you interested in doing a lifesize window advent calendar?

your artistic license and let's count down the days to Christmas ... so who wants to do a bewitching snowscape, illuminate your window with stars or maybe show Rudolph dashing through the sky ... whatever your creation I am sure if we really put our minds to it we could perhaps, not give Oxford Street a run for its money, but hold a gaze and bring smiles to onlookers around Bottisham. It brought a sense of community last year so why not again!

All we need is 24 interested people with a window you can see from the street obviously.

ARE YOU IN?

Message Nadene Cundell either on Bottisham Community Facebook or nadene.cundell@bottisham.pc.gov.uk and you will be allocated a date.

Letter

Would anyone who knew the late John Sarll of Bell Road, Bottisham, please contact me. I am particularly interested in hearing from any of his living siblings.

Thank you - Henry Fitch - 01223 811397



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Bottisham & District Gardening Club

The meeting held on 26 October 2021 was our 44th Annual General Meeting. After an overwhelmingly positive response to our meeting in July to discuss the future of the club, it was good to see such a good turnout to our first proper meeting of the year. Welcome back everybody.

The AGM started with the introduction of Derek Latchford as the new President of the gardening club following the sad loss of Ken York in 2020. As a longstanding member and past Chairman, he knows the ways of the club well. Following his introduction, Derek took over the formal business of the AGM. Apologies, minutes of the last meeting (in 2019), and the financial report were approved, and there were no matters arising. The Chairman, Valerie Leake, then gave her report. We had a full programme of speakers and events planned for 2020 but then lockdown struck. Work on the programme for 2022 is well in hand and will be issued at the Christmas meeting on 14th December. Members of the committee all agreed to stand for another year, with Julia Green continuing as minutes secretary, Janet Summers has joined us as speakers' secretary and Margret Coles, who unfortunately was unable to be present at the meeting, will continue as Treasurer. Where the club needs help is with the technical expertise needed to put our profile on social media such as Facebook. Offers of help with this would be very welcome.

With the formal part of the evening concluded, Sylvia and John Overton took the floor to present their talk originally planned for 2020 - "2019: Another Good Year". We were treated to a quick journey through a variety of their days out/holidays, including Liverpool with lots of Beatles statues and the two cathedrals, the gardening club visit to Hyde Hall, Kew Gardens on a sculpture day, and Sicily, with shots of Mount Etna, several temples and (ancient) bikini clad girls shown in the wonderful Roman mosaics. I should clarify: the mosaics were ancient, not the bikini-clad girls! We also saw photos of last year's beautiful wildlife verges on the A1303, full of poppies and wildflowers, which the Council sadly cut down before they had set seed for next year. Sylvia and John's talks are always good value, with plenty of humour and unexpected photographs.

Our November meeting was a talk by Poppy and Steve Temple entitled "Lancelot Brown: Just how capable was he". And on 14th December we will have our Christmas Social with mulled wine and mince pies, followed by a quiz. We will also be holding the members' competition for the best table decoration, winner to be awarded the RHS Grenfell Medal. So plenty to look forward to. New members are always welcome, subscriptions remain at £15 p.a. and include refreshments following the talk.

It's good to be back!

Tricia McLaughlin (standing in for Sylvia)



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It was a real pleasure to attend the October meeting of the WI. It was a different venue and a different night of the week, but it was lovely to meet up with friends after such a long break.

As a result of the Annual Meeting in September Susan Mersh is now Treasurer and Jean Turney our speaker secretary.

A member, Margaret Harrop told us about her visit to Armenia. It stretches from the Black Sea eastwards to the Caucasus and was the first empire to adopt Christianity in the 3rd Century so there are some wonderful churches and monasteries. In 1918 it became part of Russia and all the dirty industries were set up in Armenia. After the break up of the Soviet Union in 1991 Armenia became independent, the President moved away taking all the countries wealth so the country is very poor and the poverty is unbelievable. On the plus side the food is excellent as it is organic and home grown, she remembered excellent profiteroles and fresh apricots and great apricot brandy, and the people are friendly. Whilst they suffered electrical shortages, a cable car breakdown in mid journey and very wet weather, the beautiful landscapes, the excellent frescos they saw, visits to Mount Ararat (think Noah's Ark), the capital Yerevan and a trip to Tata – the end of the Silk Road – more than made up for it. Sorry but I have to say it won't be on my bucket list!

We had a display of some craft items members produced during lockdown and had a chance during refreshments to look through scrapbooks of the last year compiled so beautifully by Jean Turney

We are restarting our Darts meeting every Monday at 7.30 at the Bottisham CSASC.

Our next meeting 15th December will be our Christmas meeting - no speaker but refreshments

Gifts as listed in last months magazine will be welcomed for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Hope to see you there. - Sylvia Overton





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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Funds: We have contributed to the purchase of the new ECG machine. Thank you to all who have donated.

Better Health and Self Care: With winter on the way it is important to keep as fit as possible with a healthy diet, exercising and not smoking. Most winter ailments, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, 'flu are viruses for which antibiotics are not effective. Remedies can be obtained from pharmacists. It is useful to buy these before you become unwell so you have them to hand. Examples of useful medications to have at home would be paracetamol, ibuprofen, gaviscon, dioralyte or similar rehydration solution salts. Lemsip and other cold and flu remedies are also useful. Self-care for common conditions can help free up GP time making it easier to get an appointment for a more serious condition. 111 is now available online as well as via phone: https://111.nhs.uk/ 111 online will review your health condition and advise on the best appropriate service.

Minor Eve Conditions Service: This is available free on NHS with several optometry practices. These include acute red eyes, irritated or inflamed eyes, sticky discharge, ingrowing evelashes, or foreign bodies. If found to be urgent requiring prompt treatment these will be redirected to A & E. See website www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/yourhealth-and-services/other-local-services/minor-eye-conditions-service/.

Next meeting: If you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. Next regular meeting January 26th 2022 at 2pm.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

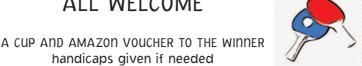
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Public Transport Matters

Now that people are out and about there is a lot more information in the local and main papers on public transport. Locally there are plans for more buses under the Making connections - have your say on greener travel in Greater Cambridge. It is online and available until December 20th if you are able to read this before then. Bus franchising could be introduced to improve things and there are plans for zero transmission buses. The possible National Express takeover of Stagecoach has been delayed as there was another possible buyer in the offing. National Express report a rise in the number of passengers. There could be a bus link between the new Soham station and local villages to help school pupils and other travellers. It is due to open on December 13th.

The Making Connections plans include buses from 6 am to midnight and better connections to our area east of Cambridge.

Many new houses are being built on the Marshalls site. People are raising objections to the route of the proposed East West rail link as the raised banks are so close to homes. The arguments continue- passenger levels, power and carbon, freight, connections to east of Cambridge perhaps as far as Great Yarmouth and Felixstowe and the use of new technologies. Could it also be linked to Cardiff and Bristol.

Ten days of engineering works are planned over the Christmas period causing cancellations and delays. So check before travelling.

The HS2 route is still under review. The eastern leg linking Birmingham and Leeds is no longer expected to be laid in full but Leeds could get its own tram network in consolation. There is a suggestion that public transport may always need to be subsidized. Northern cities are said to be the worst for rail speeds with Bradford named as Britain's worst connected city. Rail fares should be reduced as trains are the key to getting net zero on track. However people say you can't have a lot of luggage and bicycles with you and luggage vans should be brought back.

The port of Calais has almost doubled in size after 6 years of construction. There are new facilities. The opening featured jugglers, stilt walkers and an orchestra. The Spanish state owned train company is considering operating on the route so Eurostar would have a rival.

There are overnight trains from London Paddington to Penzance in Cornwall. You can get a 3 day Adventurer bus pass with unlimited rides on Coaster services to all parts of the Cornish shores.

Rail info - 08457 48 49 50 Traveline - 0871 200 22 33

Happy travelling! Keep safe and well.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 10 December.

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Cambridge, Past, Present & Future

- A colourful month of activities



400 TREES PLANTED FOR JUBILEE

Over 400 trees have been planted at Coton Countryside Reserve to help the planet and celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Twenty volunteers had fun planting the trees on Saturday 13 November, which took them two hours.

The new woodland is being created by local independent charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future and was led by James Allsop, Senior Warden "The area where we have planted the trees was once farmland. When the trees grow up, they will create a new area of woodland that will provide wildlife habitat, reduce air pollution and store carbon. The trees will also form part of the Queen's Green Canopy Project to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. We are really grateful to the volunteers who did a fantastic job."

Cambridge Past, Present & Future will be planting a further 4,000 trees this winter as part of its effort to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. Volunteers are needed to help plant the trees and tree planting events are being organised throughout the winter at Coton Countryside Reserve and Wandlebury Country Park. Tools, instructions and trees are provided. The next tree planting is on Sat 11 Dec near Coton village, details can be found https://www.cambridgeppf.org/Event/plant-a-tree-for-free





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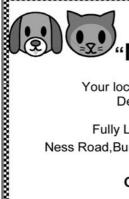
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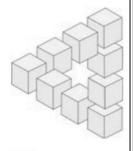
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

I spend quite a few hours each month, scouring the world of sport for stories that might interest, inspire, even uplift Cresset readers and nurture their affinity for sport (if any)! I must just take a moment to recognise that this material is not for everybody... I won't name names but a local lady (who I respect and admire very much) delighted me recently by declaring, publicly, to my face, "I do try: I read the first few lines but usually just glaze over after that!"

Anyway, despite my valiant attempts to find positive stories for the season of good cheer, I am sad to find an abundance of corruption, controversy and conflict in the mainstream sporting landscape. Many times I hear people ask, rhetorically, "What is the world coming to?" Here's my snapshot of what sport HAS come to as we approach the festive season of 2021...

First there was the embarrassment of the Metropolitan Police getting beaten and kicked out of the Hungary crowd when trying to arrest someone at Wembley for racist abuse towards a steward during the 1-1 draw in October. Of course, the Met played it down by calling it a 'minor disorder' and subsequently launched an enquiry; but what's the betting we never hear another thing about it? Can you imagine the Police in any other country, anywhere in the world, suffering such public humiliation? I can tell you from personal experience that ALL other police forces are tooled-up in riot gear for football crowd control and are not slow in exercising their power when, and sometimes before, the need arises! In the meantime, the English FA has been fined 100,000 Euros and ordered to play their next UEFA match behind closed doors as a punishment for the disturbances at the Euro final in June (which caused your scribe to 'retire' completely from supporting England in person). We're yet to find out which match this will be. The recent World Cup qualifying matches were not affected because they were part of a FIFA competition... bonkers. eh?

Next, Swiss prosecutors announced that Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini had been charged with fraudulently appropriating FIFA funds during their tenure at the helm of world football administration. Blatter apparently unlawfully transferred the equivalent of £1.6 million to Platini, a 'gift' which could potentially earn each of them incarcerations of several years... we can only hope!

Then we find that David Beckham has agreed to become the 'face' of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar in exchange for a big bag of money. Beckham is an exemplary sportsman in many ways, not least by making the most of his limited talents both on and off the field of play. But it is extremely disappointing that he should lend his highly polished image to the Qataris in order to sanitise this competition which has been steeped in corruption from the outset. Let us remind ourselves that Qatar is a country with a reputation for human rights abuses which any civilized people would find totally unacceptable. Frankly, I don't think anyone, including the participating teams, should be supporting this World Cup... How, in heaven's name, can footballers from all over Europe, who have been taking the knee for the last 18 months in support of 'equality', go and play football in a country where 6,500 migrant workers have died building the stadiums for the tournament, where terrorists including the Taliban can find a safe haven, where women are second-class citizens, and where flogging and stoning are instruments of the judicial system and the death penalty is the punishment for apostasy and homosexuality?

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(Sports Nut continued.)

Now the English football establishment turns a blind eye to the recent purchase of Newcastle United effectively by the Saudi Arabian government, another regime where human rights are judged on an entirely different scale from what most fair-minded people would consider 'civilised'. It's all very well for former Bottisham girl Amanda Staveley to present herself as the poster girl for the takeover, but – make no mistake – 80% of the £305 million investment in Newcastle is under the control of none other than Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman! How do you suppose he passed the FA's Owners' and Directors' Test? Well as it happens, I have a copy of this document (which is in the public domain) and it mostly concerns criminal convictions and financial propriety... no mention at all of civil rights abuses, censorship, or links with terrorism! And, when the Crystal Palace supporters, displayed an uncomplimentary banner at a match with Newcastle the weekend after the deal was announced, Croydon police opened an investigation into a possible racial abuse offence!

And now, Cricket – Yorkshire County in particular – is exposed as a cesspool of racial hatred and bullying... allegedly! However, I remain to be convinced that the first and main complainant - a slightly-known player named Azeem Rafiq - has 100% altruistic intentions in this matter, though. Briefly, the back-story is that Rafiq was once 'best friends' with team mate Gary Ballance with whom he often exchanged 'banter'. The trouble is that Ballance's contributions were littered with words widely considered to be racial slurs. This apparently harassed, offended and depressed Rafiq, but when he reported it, the Yorkshire CC board stupidly dismissed it as 'friendly banter' and refused to publish their detailed findings until forced to do so by the DCMS. Then, all hell broke loose! The club's chairman and CEO both resigned; Michael Vaughan was also implicated by Rafiq over an alleged comment made 10 years ago and, despite his vehement denial, was immediately stood down from his work for the BBC; and now Rafiq has questioned Joe Root's integrity because Root has said that he has not witnessed any racism in his time at Yorkshire! Rafiq is out of order here... Joe Root, as current captain of England, is entitled to a little more respect than that. It's all very odd: Rafiq's close friendship with Ballance, together with the fact that Rafig actually captained Yorkshire in limited overs cricket, tends to speak against the club being riddled with institutional racism! However, Yorkshire has suffered the indignity of having Headingly removed from Test Match status until they can "meet the standards expected of an international venue", a move which could scupper a 15-year, £100 million deal with their hospitality partner, Sodexo. And the commercial damage continues... Emerald publishing group, Yorkshire Tea, Tetley's, Harrogate Spring Water and Arla Food (Anchor Butter) have all pulled their sponsorship too! Incoming Chairman, Lord Kamlesh Patel of Bradford, has a gargantuan job on his hands if Yorkshire CCC is ever to recover from this debacle.

And the fallout from Yorkshire has already travelled 200 miles... Essex County Cricket Club has lost its chairman, John Faragher, who was forced to resign despite strongly denying an allegation of using racist language at a board meeting in 2017. Looking into the lack of a timely investigation, CEO John Stephenson announced, "There is no place for discrimination of any kind at Essex CCC." That goes almost without saying, of course, but whatever happened to the presumption of innocence?

May I take this opportunity to wish all Cresset readers, regardless of their approval or disapproval of my diatribes, a happy and peaceful Christmas holiday. My New Year's resolution will be to try and find more cheerful and encouraging content for your entertainment!

TTFN - Gerry Daish



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'MISCELLANY...'

I read in Paddy James' 'Public Transport Matters' column that the new Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mayor is to cancel the Cambridge Metro project that would have been powered by green energy and run overland to the outskirts of Cambridge and then under the city itself. Instead the new proposals are to operate more (Green) buses and to have more frequent city buses supported by the introduction of a congestion charge for other vehicles. This we are told by Councillors would encourage people out of their cars and onto public transport. But herein lays the crux of the problem say those on the other side of the argument. We've heard all this before and they accuse our elected representatives of living in the past - only wanting to implement schemes they feel comfortable with and that can be achieved within their term of office. Paradoxically it's the authorities themselves who are a significant cause of the traffic problems in and around Cambridge with poorly designed bus lanes, ill-conceived cycleways, ineffectual Dutch roundabouts and discriminatory low traffic neighbourhoods that collectively only serve to push up congestion on already busy roads. Research suggests constant breaking and slow moving traffic is the major cause of pollution. What is then most needed is swift action to get the traffic moving rather than kettling it onto fewer roads. Perhaps a snappier policy for those in the job of planning our strategic transport infrastructure is to deliberate beyond their term of office - to have 'Vision', to 'Think Smarter' and forgo vanity.

Do you sometimes feel that too much of what's happening in America manages to destabilise the status quo here in the UK? Coincidentally that's also the thinking of Trevor Philips the once chair of the Commission for Race Equality. Philips suggested a while ago that today's activists don't understand nor want to contextualise history and are therefore placing their own interpretation on events to validate their 'woke truth'. American thinking is now considering and documenting everyday words that might have racial connotations. The 'Thought Police' in Britain, so as not to be outdone, are now emulating this and are looking at words such as Articulate, Uppity and Spooks lest their use could traumatise others. Please, let's not allow tenuous outside influences debase the English language further - what happens in America stays in America...

I wonder how many watched The Minister of State for Health and his advisers on Friday 22nd October. The message was loud and clear – the Government, the NHS and we, the general public (as responsible people), all have a part to play in keeping Covid infections down. Our part is to wear masks in enclosed and busy spaces, have the 'jabs' when offered, isolate when told to and maintain regular hand sanitising. And so Matthew Paris in The Times is spot on with his comment "We should be shamed into wearing masks". So why, when it comes to correct behaviour during a pandemic, does this acceptance of voluntary responsibility not seem to be growing? Paris comments; "There are choices that are entirely for an individual to make without much reference to a wider society. And there are choices in which the individual should have no say at all. But in between these two lies a middle kingdom - though left to the individual - is subject also to our

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Continued from page 45

collective sense of social obligation". Freedom doesn't work without social responsibility. And social responsibility doesn't work without social shaming. "Say it loud" says Paris "because our freedoms depend on it".

And finally I'm sorry that JW feels I was being unkind in the October JOW article and I hope I'm not being unkind when I say I don't recognise the claim of an inaccurate narrative. Thus I stand by the underlying principle of the storyline and its purpose to question the wisdom of Cheshire Constabulary, and other forces for that matter, in following a direction that suggests a risk of perceived bias. Police Officers and Police Vehicles must remain neutral and not be used to 'tick boxes' as a gimmick to demonstrate support for a particular section of society. The broader issue, as the narrative suggests, is that the moment you see a police car or a police officer positively discriminating on behalf of a particular 'movement' (preferentiality based on a specific characteristic) you no longer see a police car or a police officer there to support everyone regardless of colour, creed or politics without fear or favour. After all we don't see the Police with special logos or mottos encouraging the reporting of misogyny or racism. Whether you're gay or straight, white or black, 'Hate Crimes' represent a much broader threat to the freedoms of all folk and are not unique to just one small section of society as rainbow painted police cars would seem to imply. For as has become clear in recent years, the Hate Crimes the police are so doggedly pursuing often just amount to 'offensive comments' such as criticising in forthright terms a movement and its beliefs. If you invoke the law at all the right to criticise must be defended even when it gives offence. It's the very loud minority supported by Stonewall that would appear to be causing out-and-out harm to the broader and more rational Trans message by wanting to impose their own curious creed on institutions and society without discussion and without public consensus. I understand that many in the Trans rights movement believe "trans people should live in society not impose upon it". The danger as many see it is that once mainstream society recoils from the messengers, the message is dead on arrival.

JOW

Happy Christmas and Season's Greetings to everyone but above all stay safe

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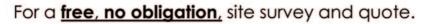






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1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies: Kay Pearce	811055	
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Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club: Nora Watson	812121	
Bottisham Community Primary School:	811235	
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Bottisham Scout Group: Group Contact: Linda Jones	813040	
Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club: Secretary Graham Darling,		
Bottisham Village College, School:	812063	
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Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information	811372	
Bottisham W.I.: Secretary - Jenn White • mrandjw@btinternet.com	811600	
Bottisham Youth Football Club: Jim Tideswell		
Cambridgeshire County Councillor: Alan Sharp	85/07794292941	
Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk		
East Cambridgeshire District Offices:	01353 665555	
East Cambridgeshire District Councillors: Charlotte Cane 34 Swaffham Road, Reach.	07976 607512	
John Trapp 104 Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	01223 812120	
Girlguiding Bottisham District: Cambs East County office • www.cambseastguides.org.uk	01223 813917	
Parish Council Chairman: Jon Ogborn	07486 372780	
Parish Council Clerk: Jonathan Giles	- 07789 012761	
Queen's Court Day Centre:	811905	
MP for Cambs South East Constituency:		
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E. lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk W. www	.lucyfrazer.org.uk	
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Milton Road Tip: Apr to Sept - Weekdays 9.00am-8.00pm: Weekends 9.00am-6.00pm Oct to Mar - 9.00am-4.00pm	860674	
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