

April 2021

THE   
*Cresset*



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



## *Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club*

### **PROPOSED CLUB REOPENING**

Following the road map issued by the Government we are proposing to reopen following Government guidelines.

The following will be subject to the Government confirming these dates and guide-lines for opening.

#### **MONDAY 12th APRIL**

The club will be reopening for outside table service only.

**Monday to Friday - 5pm to 8pm**

**Saturday and Sunday - 12 noon to 8pm**

#### **MONDAY 17th MAY**

The club will reopen with inside table service subject to Government guidance.

Opening hours will be announced nearer the time.

#### **TAKEAWAY SERVICE AVAILABLE**

Please refer to the website. [www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk](http://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](mailto:bottishamcsasc@gmail.com) with your email address and you will be added to the *mailing list*.

#### **RE-OPENING WITH PRE-LOCKDOWN PRICES**

*The AGM in these exceptional circumstances will be postponed until the law permits us to hold it on the premises. Any queries regarding this please email the Secretary at [bottishamcsasc@gmail.com](mailto:bottishamcsasc@gmail.com)*

### **CAMRA CAMBRIDGE AND DISTRICT CLUB OF THE YEAR**

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## **APRIL, A MONTH OF HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY, (WITH CAUTION AND SENSE)**



With the spring and summer coming it is good to see the numbers coming down and with more and more of us getting our first and indeed second jabs, a sense of freedom is in the air. Let's hope we can enjoy the summer and catch up on all those things we have missed and see friends we have not been able to see for months.

But there has been so much talked up about coming out of lockdown, that I fear we may lose our sense of responsibility.

Protecting ourselves and more importantly our friends and neighbours requires us still to maintain the base rules by obeying the law, getting tested when needed; isolating when required, and following the 'hands, face, space' and 'letting fresh air in' guidance.

I think I will still be happy to wear a mask when going into shops and crowded spaces. It may well become the future norm.

In the magazine this month you will see details from lots of organisations, clubs and groups who will be getting ready to restart meetings and get together. Bowlers to bowl and gardeners to meet and decide on the planting for the season. Early days yet, but good to know they are getting ready.

The Government guidance giving the stepped timetable going forward is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

The cover this month reminds us of April showers and is a great shot of a double rainbow over Bell Rd. taken by David Reeman. These kinds of local pictures are great to feature in our village magazine so do feel free to contribute.

Last month's Photo collage prompted a nice letter from Sylvia & Keith Millard. Memories coming back of Sylvia being born in one of the 'Arch' cottages then moving into the cottage attached to Tudor house, which was owned by Mr. Ernest Webb who had the Swan Pub and also ran a haulage business. Keith in the meantime was born in Bell Rd. in one of the 'newly built' council houses in Bell Rd. It is pleasing that our first two 'lookback' cover pictures have prompted such clear memories.

Again, if these prompt memories for you then feel free to share them. I shall use some more pictures in the future. Perhaps pictures of the old police courthouse will jog a few memories and stories for some.

It came as a great relief to many if not all that the application for the care home being built in the land behind the High St was turned down. The application itself highlighting just how skewed and fraught with pitfalls they can be. Loopholes a-plenty to be identified and closed.

Different subject now.

*(continued on page 2.)*

*(continued from page 1.)*

I have edited *The Cresset* for about 15 years and have found it an enjoyable and involving task. I am sure there are some readers out there who would be interested in finding out what is involved and indeed to have a go at editing our village magazine. In the interest of continuity, it would be helpful to have somebody to take up the reigns when I finally hang up my boots. If you or somebody you know would be interested, then do please get in touch. The future of your village magazine depends on continuity of editorship.

It is not an onerous task and can be made very much easier when one can use a computer and type (we have a dedicated *Cresset* laptop). Compositing and printing are professionally done and distribution is like a well-oiled machine with a great team of dedicated volunteers.

If you would like to find out more, then email me at [Bottishamcresset@gmail.com](mailto:Bottishamcresset@gmail.com)

## *Services in the Anglesey Benefice*

Holy Trinity, Bottisham is now open for private prayer during the day. Do come in to say a prayer and see the beautiful new flooring in the North Aisle. There are key staple foods in plastic boxes in the church porch and it is hoped that anyone in need will help themselves from these. Please use the hand sanitiser provided.

Regular services of Holy Communion at 10.30 on Thursday mornings in St James' Church Lode have restarted. We hope there will be live services in the other Benefice churches by Easter. Keep an eye on the Benefice website, [www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](http://www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk), for up-to-date information about where and when these might be.

There continues to be an online service at 10.30 every Sunday morning, with a chance to socialise afterwards; and C by C, a contemplative service lasting about half an hour, is held online at 8 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. If you email [admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk), the Zoom link will be sent to you. The link can also be used to join Bible study groups, prayer groups, and a coffee morning to chat every Thursday morning.

These words from the Bible are always reassuring, and perhaps particularly so at the moment:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

*Sarah Maxwell*

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

*Please send material to the editor at [BottishamCresset@gmail.com](mailto:BottishamCresset@gmail.com)*

Have you thought of advertising your business in *The Cresset*?  
**Email the Editor for details: [BottishamCresset@gmail.com](mailto:BottishamCresset@gmail.com)**

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## *Bottisham Community Library Association*

### **EARLY WARNING OF GOOD NEWS ABOUT REOPENING.**

Our plans for opening the Community library have been agreed with the College for Tuesday 18th May but it is still dependent on Government backing and we also have to be sure we comply with all the necessary rulings in place then. When we open we shall keep to the following times.

**TUESDAYS 6.00 -8.00, THURSDAYS 3.00-5.00 and SATURDAYS 10.00 – 1200**

We assume we will be fully back in business by September. We hope too to have the community computers and photocopying machines back in use as soon as we can. I hope to have definite news in the next magazine issue.

Some volunteers are going into the Library during the Easter holidays to check our large supply of donated books and jigsaws and put them on the system ready for you to borrow.

Thank you to those who have contacted us about donating good quality books, we shall be pleased to have them soon. We have plans for another Triangle book sale in the early summer.

Life is slowly returning to "normal" and we look forward to seeing our existing borrowers and some new faces.

*Sylvia Overton*

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## *District Councillors' Report*

The impending retirement of Dr Liz Robin, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Director of Health. On behalf of the Members and Officers of the Council, the Chairman thanked Dr Robin for all her pandemic-related work and wished her well for her forthcoming retirement. We would like to add our thanks to Dr Robin for all the work she and her team have done over the years, and especially throughout the Covid pandemic.

Council approved the budget for 2021/22 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy through to 2024/25. The East Cambs element of the Council Tax is frozen for 2021/22 but will rise by over 3.5% in 2022/23 and by the maximum amount allowed in the subsequent years. Despite these Council Tax rises, the Council is forecasting a budget shortfall of over £4 million from 2023/24. We supported an unsuccessful amendment which would have given financial support to local businesses recovering from Covid and carried out a consultation on leisure and recreation provision across the district as well as raising Council Tax more gradually and reducing the budget shortfall below £4 million.

Although the District Council's share of the Council tax is frozen, your Council tax bills will rise because the bill sent by the District Council covers the County Council, Police and Fire services and your Parish Council – many of these other bodies have increased their Council tax charges. If you are finding it difficult to pay your Council tax, you may be eligible for reductions or exemptions. There is a list at [www.angliarevenues.gov.uk/services/counciltax/reductions/index.cfm](http://www.angliarevenues.gov.uk/services/counciltax/reductions/index.cfm). Or you can get advice from Citizens Advice or by contacting John [john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk) or Charlotte – [charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk)

There was cross-party support for a motion in support of the proposed Fens Biosphere. (Biosphere Reserve status is awarded by UNESCO to unique and valuable landscapes.) Biosphere status can bring people and organisations together to develop a shared vision for the future of the Fens. It will support better management of the natural capital of the Fens, create a sense of connectedness to the Fens, and contribute to a sense of place and better quality of life. Charlotte had to declare an interest in this and not vote or take part in the discussions because she works for the local Wildlife Trust, who are a partner in the project.

The administration passed a motion calling for the A1123 to be down graded to a B road. We did not support this motion because evidence from across the country shows that changing from an A road to a B road does not lead to any reduction in traffic or speeds, but it does lead to a reduction in road maintenance funding from central government. In this case, we would lose £250,000 a year putting yet more pressure on a budget which is already struggling to fund adequate road maintenance.

It was confirmed that the Council has a 7 year land supply and therefore our development envelopes in the Local Plan 2015 should be respected.

Our next Councillors' Surgery and meet your Councillors will be on Thursday 29 April at 6.30pm. This will be held by zoom - Meeting ID: 886 6745 4755, Passcode: 984508. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196.

*Charlotte Cane – 01638 741064    John Trapp – 01223 812120*



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## *Parish Council Notes*

I'll begin with the topic that has taken so much of our time and attention over the past few months, namely the application for the development of a retirement village to the rear of 163-187 High Street. The application was considered by the Planning Committee of East Cambridgeshire District Council on 3 March. The Committee members considered a substantial report from their Planning Consultant, which took account of all the documents submitted including a large number of submissions from local residents. In addition, I was able to summarise the key concerns identified by the Parish Council alongside Dr Emma MacGrath, who spelt out the potential impact on the Medical Practice and its existing patients if a such a major development for potentially higher medical need residents were approved.

The Planning Consultant contended that, although it had been asserted that there is a need for such accommodation, the applicant had not shown either that it was needed in this location or that the site pro-posed was the only one available. It was stated that the "exceptional circumstances" required to secure permission for development within the Green Belt had not been demonstrated.

Cllr Cane, who represents this Ward on the District Council, pointed out that there is a now a 7 year land supply for development in the Council area, well in excess of the 5 year minimum required. Thus there is no requirement to accept development outside of the sites earmarked within the Local Plan of 2015 (often described as the "development envelope"). This is a fundamental challenge to the "exceptional circumstances" argument put forward by the applicant.

When the matter was put to the vote, the decision was taken to refuse the application by 10 votes to 1. My thanks to everyone who took the time to submit their comments on this key issue.

Turning to smaller but still important matters, I am pleased to let you know that the renovation of the bus shelter has been completed, which we hope will provide a more pleasant environment while you are waiting for the bus.

Councillor Mathew Shuter, who has represented this Ward on the County Council for the past 16 years, announced that he is standing down at the election in May. We thanked him for all that he has done on our behalf over that time and wish him well for the future.

As I write, we have seen the first step to exiting of lockdown with schools returning and I want to thank everyone who has made the sacrifices necessary to get us to this point. The Prime Minister has made it clear that the progression through the next steps of easing is dependent on our progress in reducing Covid 19 infection levels. Residents have recently raised concern over the number of positive cases in this Ward, when compared with other other local areas. Whatever the reason, I would encourage everyone to maintain the precautions that have helped us progress this far. This will help ensure we are able to reach the next steps in the Government's timetable.

**With best wishes for Easter.**

*Jon Ogborn - Chair, Bottisham Parish Council*



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#### OPENING TIMES

Monday and Wednesday

9am-3pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9am-12.30pm



## **NEW APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

CCC/21/014/VAR, Bottisham Primary School, The retention of a 7 bay (21m x 8.7m) mobile classroom for a temporary period until 31 August 2024 with the retention of two scooter pods

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED**

20/01763/FUL, The Glebe, 113 High Street, Demolition of existing rear single storey extension with flat roof. Replace with new single storey rear extension across full width of the original house footprint

21/00011/FUL, 4 Thomas Christian Way, Bottisham CB25 9DX

Replace double wooden garage doors with single aluminum door

## **PLANNING APPLICATION REFUSED**

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



## *Mothers' Union*

As a follow up to the Women's Aid Refuge Christmas Gift Appeal, to which members of the local community also donate, I felt it appropriate to pass on current news of how the Refuge is coping during the pandemic.

This past year has been a particularly difficult and busy one, due mainly to the pandemic and the restrictions imposed by the lockdowns. Putting measures in place to keep everyone at the Refuge safe from the virus has been a real challenge. There has been an increase in the demand for places as domestic violence has increased across the country, but the Refuge can only accommodate eight women and their children at any given time. As soon as one moves on to their own accommodation their place has been immediately filled

During lockdown they had to make the decision not to accept any donations of goods so would-be donors have had to keep the goods on hold.

As reported in the run up to Christmas, to comply with Covid restrictions, the Refuge could only accept Supermarket vouchers or money for their Christmas Appeal. The staff at the Refuge do not distribute all the vouchers to the women residing there over the Christmas period, but throughout the year as new residents arrive in need of financial support until they begin to receive their benefits.

The Lady Day Service on 25 March was held virtually on Zoom, and led by Revd. Michael Banyard, MU Diocesan Chaplain.

For the time being Mothers' Union meetings remain suspended, but as the lockdown eases we hope to plan for resuming our fellowship and social activities together.

**We wish all readers a blessed Easter.**

*Ann Langran*

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During April we are celebrating Autism Awareness Month. We are publishing many stories about autism on our social media channels, and are breaking down some of the myths. You can follow this at [www.facebook.com/red2greeninfo](http://www.facebook.com/red2greeninfo)

**COMMUNITY CAFÉ AND GARDEN** - Our Bottisham site has become a hive of activity, we have been recycling old pallet wood and making planters, ornaments, bird boxes galore! We are nurturing our summer plants and will have a wide variety for you ready soon!

We have been selling plants, veg, compost and our handmade goodies which even include dog biscuits of all sorts of flavours. There is an honesty table out in the entrance to the sensory garden and if you order through our website we can provide delivery to the surrounding villages.

We are continuing to keep the community café closed for the foreseeable future, as we need to keep our learners safe. This won't be forever, and we are looking forward to the day that we can safely reopen.

We will have many offers available for you in April, with the week beginning 5 April being Community Garden Week, and 27 April is National Gardening Week. Why not spruce up your garden ready for the summer with our homemade planters. Go to [www.red2green.org](http://www.red2green.org) to order online or visit us whilst out for a walk.

**COGS2COMPUTERS** - Cogs2Computers has been flowing along nicely despite the current lockdown and unfortunate situation we have found ourselves in with reduced numbers of clients and learners in.

Throughout January and February, we have focused on the Then and Now project which looked at the developments in technology from the year someone was born and a comparison to what is available now. Clients and learners (and staff) have really enjoyed this personal aspect of the project and journey. We have found out about developments in gaming history, the first laptop, IBM's Deep Blue computer beating a chess grand master and how animation from Pixar has brought us some of our favourite films along with many more. There has been some amazing work produced by clients participating at home. George, one of our learners, made an amazing YouTube video about Pixar.

Going forward We are now working on our International Women's month project in conjunction with the official day of the 8th March. This month will look at the amazing contributions women have made to the development of technology and celebrate their achievements. There are many activities planned, including watching the film Hidden Figures which focuses on the NASA space race in the 1960's, and the struggles of black women and their vital contribution to this. We also have quizzes, art and sensory projects. We have invited an influential woman from the local Cambridge technology community to speak to us and our project partner, Swaffham Bulbeck Primary school about their journey and where they are now.

Community Engagement: We are still looking for people who would be happy to spend 5

*Continued on page 13*

# M&P

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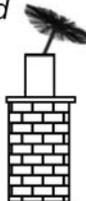
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minutes talking to one of our support workers for the project about their use of technology throughout the pandemic and how it has changed for them, any improvements in their skills and connecting them to the outside world. We are especially interested in talking to people over 50 years young and those who are new to keeping in touch via technology. This would be recorded and used in our project summary and social media. It's really nothing to worry about and we can help you with any concerns and setting you up. If this isn't for you but you know someone who would like to be involved please do contact us at [info@red2green.org](mailto:info@red2green.org)

**HARVEY'S AND GRANARY BARN AT PARK END** - At our barns in Swaffham Bulbeck we have continued to support those learners who really need us. We have been completing arts and crafts activities, going for walks, playing games, cooking and enjoying the Cogs2Computers activities. One Aspirations group is completing a health and fitness 12-week challenge with lots of walking and learning to cook healthy meals from scratch.

**WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT US** - Red2Green provides a vital service for those that we support and their families. The COVID-19 restrictions have made it tougher, and we are so grateful to everyone who supports us, however small.

- Buy your plants and gifts from us and tell your friends!
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## TAKE CARE IN THE KITCHEN

Most kitchen fires occur when people are distracted or leave things unattended. Make sure you stay safe when cooking, and follow our top tips:

- Don't leave pans unattended. Take them off the heat if you have to leave the room.
- Keep electrical leads, tea towels and cloths away from the cooker.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean. A build-up of fat and grease can easily catch fire.

And most importantly, make sure you have working smoke alarms in your home. They will alert you to a fire and give you precious minutes to escape to safety. Make sure you have one on every floor of your home, and test them regularly. You can buy them from most large supermarkets, DIY stores and online.



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## ***Bottisham Village College Adult Learning***

Thank you for your patience and support over the last few months where Covid-19 restrictions have made it difficult for us to provide some courses.

Now that we can see light at the end of the tunnel we are looking forward to welcoming you back.

To build up our programme we are recruiting new tutors, so if you have skills in the following areas and are passionate about your subject, do you have spare time to teach an Adult Learning course?

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Facebook: [BottishamAdultCommunityLearning](https://www.facebook.com/BottishamAdultCommunityLearning) or Twitter: [@CommunityEdBott](https://twitter.com/CommunityEdBott)

## ***Plea from the BVC***

Here at the college, we are always looking at ways to enhance the school environment to promote wellbeing and encourage wildlife.

At a recent meeting our wonderful Eco group said they wanted to plant bulbs at the entrances of the college and were wondering if anyone had any bulbs that they haven't planted or no longer want which they could plant when the times right.

We would also be grateful for any wildflower seeds if possible. Please drop off at reception or we are happy to pick-up any heavy items should we be lucky enough to get any.

You can communicate with me Steve Bennett via e-mail on [sbennett@bottishamvc.org](mailto:sbennett@bottishamvc.org)

*Thank you very much - Eco Group BVC*

## ***Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)***

Twenty-two people have been entertained, educated and challenged on a ten week Zoom course tutored by Marina Burrell. The course on 'The Soul of Russian Music with Great 19th Century Composers' has included works by Glinka, Borodin, Rimsky Korsakov, Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and more. We have learnt about the influence of folk music, fairy tales, and the seasons in opera and the inspiration of the Orient and Literature.

It has been a well organised and interactive course that has provided us with links to ballets, operas, symphonies and films to watch between sessions. I think we shall now listen to Russian music with a greater understanding.

*Helen Cole*



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## *Dear Editor*

Last month's 'Jolley Old World' gave a very one-sided view of a serious and complex issue. Racial discrimination ruins lives and blights society. It is not enough to not condone racism, we must confront it; reject it and offer support and understanding to its victims.

I cannot agree with the suggestion that people faced with racist abuse should close their social media accounts. That's what the racist bullies want – for the targets of their abuse to disappear from public view - their racist imagery has no place in it for successful black people making reasoned arguments; they want to silence black voices.

Any radical movement is made up of many people and has 'hangers-on', it's not difficult to find hot heads and extremists and get quotes from them that are 'threatening and menacing'. Black Lives Matter UK sums up its aims as –

"We stand together across the globe to change the world, we kneel together in peace and solidarity asserting Black people are treated as equals to White people."

Far from being 'threatening and menacing' they are simply asking for their human right to be treated as equals.

Many of our statues, street names and 'fine institutions' date from a time when Britain was benefiting from the spoils of Empire and the slave trade. They therefore present a skewed view of the best of British society and it is valuable to consider the wider view. To Richard Morrison it may appear that organisations are reviewing their roles in colonialisation and slavery 'without serious reflection or consultation', but he is wrong. He cites as an example the National Trust's report examining the links between its properties and colonialism and slavery. The Charity Commission reviewed that report and how it was commissioned, their Director of Regulatory Services, Helen Earner said:

"In this instance, the National Trust was able to provide us with a well-reasoned response, supported by clear evidence of how it had carefully considered how this interim report fitted with its charitable objects, and we are satisfied that there are no grounds for regulatory action against the Trust."

Greene King has acknowledged that its founder Benjamin Greene "own[ed] cane sugar plantations in the West Indies where he owned enslaved Africans and profited from their labour. He wrote columns in his own newspaper that were critical of those campaigning for the abolition of slavery and he was financially compensated when slavery was abolished."

We need to understand our nation's history – the good and the bad. It's not easy to accept that people we venerate for their good works were sometimes also involved in oppression and exploitation of people based on race. It's hard to think of some of our elegant stately homes being funded from income from the slave trade. It's jarring to think that the British army who fought so bravely and lost so many to defend freedom in Europe were violently suppressing freedom movements in Africa and India. But they are all part of our nation's history and it is important that we do face up to the full picture.

I feel we do need to reconsider who is honoured with statues and street names and how we present a full history of those so honoured. Imagine being a black child in Bristol, walking past the statue of Edward Colston, or down streets named after him, seeing his name on Bristol institutions, celebrating his generosity to the City and not understanding why there is no public acknowledgement of his role in the slave trade. This would cause offence, hurt and anguish and we should not allow that to continue. I don't like mob rule and do not support toppling statues, but we do need a proper discussion which leads to change so that we can create a public realm which makes all citizens feel a valued part of our society.

Yours sincerely,  
Charlotte Cane

# K.J.P.

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## *News from Tim...a Vinophile*

It's beginning to get a bit warmer, the days are getting longer and even the lockdown appears to be easing. We may not be able to have the Easter break we are hoping for but we can certainly treat ourselves to some delicious wine to accompany our special meal.

Traditionally roast lamb is the order of the day and often this is paired with the Spanish wine Rioja.

Rioja is region in the Basque province in the north of Spain. Although produced as a white and rose wine it is the red version that most of us will have tried. The principle grape is tempranillo and this type of wine can be traced back to the 9th century.

Red Rioja is classified into three types based on ageing; Crianza, Reserva and Gran Reserva. The wine is aged in a 225 litre barrel and then in the bottle. As a general rule the longer the ageing the smoother the wine.

**Crianza:** The period of aging in oak barrels and bottles must be a minimum of two calendar years from 1 October of the year of the harvest in question, followed and complemented by aging in the bottle. The minimum time that must remain in the barrel is one year.

**Reserva:** The period of aging in oak barrels and bottles must be a minimum of thirty-six months, with a minimum time of twelve months in oak barrels.

**Gran Reserva:** The wine must have a minimum of time in barrel of twenty-four months, followed and supplemented with an aging in bottle of at least thirty-six months.

Like most wines you don't always have to pay top dollar to get a tasty tippie. Look out for Valdepeñas. It's the same grape as Rioja but nowhere near the same price.

If you prefer white to red avoid anything too acidic why not try an oak aged Chardonnay or a Gewurztraminer with your roast lamb?

Next month we'll be embracing spring and looking at what wines can be drunk outdoors as we emerge from Lockdown 3.0. I'd love to hear what you enjoy drinking al fresco. Drop me an email [vinophile7@gmail.com](mailto:vinophile7@gmail.com)

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Anciano Gran Clasico Valdepeñas - £9 Co-op**

Tempranillo grapes hand-picked from 30 year-old vines in late August/early September. Valdepeñas means "valley of stones". A red-berry flavoured oak aged wine perfect for Spanish wine lovers. Great with Sunday Roasts

#### **Rioja Crianza 2017, Dehesa de Lantana - £7.99 Majestic Wines**

Just a short period in oak means this Crianza's all about the fruit. Aromas of raspberry, blueberry and oak meet mild hints of spice and toast. It's an elegant, full-bodied red with a luxuriously long finish.

#### **Paul Blanck Gewurztraminer - £14.99 Waitrose**

Accomplished and fine Gewürztraminer with white flower and violet aromas followed by an exotic palate of fresh lychee, fruit, subtle ginger spice and a backnote of sweet Turkish delight. Poised and elegant throughout.

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# 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.

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Hoping to meet you all again before too long.

Take care of yourselves.

Helen

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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# Hello neighbour

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It's what we do

Sorry to say that there are no plans at the moment to meet up. The Committee are in discussion with each other, and Bottisham Sports and Community Club and Queens Court re meeting venues, and are waiting on further Government advice.

Subscriptions are due on 1st April and the subscription this year will not be the nationally recommended £44 but cost only £30. This reflects the reduced expenses we incurred last year.

We shall miss our Annual meeting for the second year running (the Committee will continue) but I thought you would like to see the Annual Report written by our Secretary Jenn White.

My report for 2020  
Is really not that long  
Ideas we had aplenty  
And then it all went wrong.

No speakers, cakes or cups of tea  
Our meetings are "on hold"  
No trips, or walks – we all agree  
We must do as we're told.

The monthly newssheet brings us cheer  
Goodie bags and raffle too  
We've tried to show you through the year  
We have not forgotten you.

On behalf of your committee  
I say – members do not fret  
Better times will come – you'll see  
WI ain't finished yet!

A minor point, but walks have continued outside lockdown periods but from the Triangle not using cars and limited to groups of 6.

We start our 103rd year in March and were the first Institute to be formed in Cambridge so we are not giving in any time soon

*Sylvia Overton*

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# Cambridge Cancer Help Centre

Did you know if you're affected by Cancer as a patient, family member or carer, you can access support at local charity Cambridge Cancer Help Centre (CCHC), based in Great Shelford.

How many times have you passed The Centre, based in the David Rayner Building (at Scotsdales Garden

Centre) and wondered what goes on inside? In more normal times, CCHC provides a welcoming community hub with a range of activities to enhance physical, mental and emotional wellbeing from Mondays to Wednesdays.

Since the Centre temporarily closed its doors in March last year, due to Covid restrictions, staff and dedicated volunteers have continued to provide much needed support virtually.

Ted Sage, Chair of Board of Trustees said "It's vitally important that those affected by cancer feel supported during and after their cancer diagnosis. Often, once there is a break in treatment, people are left not knowing where to turn for help adjusting to their situation and with the physical and mental scars left behind."

CCHC has a range of free online support sessions available, including relaxation, mindfulness and fatigue management as well as Macmillan Hope courses. Telephone emotional support sessions, bereavement support and Bach Flower remedy consultations provide additional comfort and self-help reflexology videos give people a resource to help themselves. The new weekly "Talking Together" online social sessions are proving popular and are a great place to start, providing a safe place to chat to others who understand.

Full contact details, support information and how to book sessions can be found on the CCHC website: <https://www.cambridgecancerhelp.org/> Updates are also posted regularly on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeCancerHelpCentre> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/CamCancerHelp>

If you are affected yourself, or have witnessed a family member or friend go through cancer, and are struggling, don't be alone. CCHC is here for you. All you need do is phone 07909118432 or email [contact@cambridgecancerhelp.org](mailto:contact@cambridgecancerhelp.org)



**Cambridge Cancer Help Centre**, 120 Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5JT  
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## *News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group*

**COVID VACCINATIONS:** These are proceeding as planned. When you are due for a 2nd jab you will be invited by the practice so please do not call them in advance.

**DISPENSARY:** The prescription delivery service is in operation and leaflets are being distributed for those who wish to take up this option.

**ACUTE PRESCRIPTIONS:** Please wait **3 hours** after a prescription that has been generated via a phone or video consultation before collecting it. This will ensure that the prescription has been received in dispensary and dispensed. If you cannot pick up your medication, please let the GP know so they can put arrangements in place to get your medication to you.

**REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS:** Please do not to attend the practice until **5 working days** after ordering these. Social distancing is still a challenge in the dispensary and there are fewer staff working in the actual dispensary because of this, which is why they are continuing to work to a five day turnaround time. This also means that if a certain drug has to be ordered it provides time to get drug supplies in. Please do not ring or attend the practice to see if the prescription is ready before the 5 days is up.

**NEXT MEETING:** To be arranged and will be held virtually via Zoom. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting please email our chairman at [s.j.gilson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com) who will send you a meeting invite. AGM meeting due at the end of April.

*Bottisham Patient's Participation Group.*

## *Bottisham and District Gardening Club*

I have been asked (with many others) to report on what is happening with our associations. I am sorry but I have nothing to report. We are all lying low and busy looking after our gardens.

Be assured that meetings will resume at The Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club when Government restrictions are lifted, the Club has reopened and larger groups will be able to come together.

We are looking forward to seeing all our members and possibly some new faces.

We will let you know when we can resume. I expect the Village grapevine will make you aware

We are further forward to “normality” but still in the great unknown so “We’ll meet again, I know where but not when”

Please take care and look after yourselves.

*Sylvia Overton*

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## *Public Transport Matters*

Now that things are slightly opening up there are a few more passengers on the buses at certain times of the day. School buses are back.

There are ongoing works at various railway stations at weekends and buses are available to provide connection services. Stagecoach is hoping to extend its 300 million pounds loan from the Bank of England for a further year as it is not sure when and whether people will go back to work. Might they prefer to continue working from home - WFH.?

A joint venture between Stagecoach East and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to improve air quality in the city has involved the introduction 12 months ago of electric zero emission buses. They have driven 50,000 miles. They use state of the art batteries that use regenerative braking to recharge every time the bus slows down. A full charge takes 8 hours overnight.

Rail firms could be profiting from the 170% rise in replacement buses. Some changes have been made to rail timetables with priority being given to key workers. However there is expected to be increased use at the weekends as we gradually come out of lockdown.

Daniel Zeichner MP is making enquiries about the finance for the Cambridge South station. Work is now going well on building the new Soham railway station. There are now replacement buses between Ipswich and Peterborough via Ely until August 30th. The new stop in Soham is in Station Road.

People in Newmarket are fighting to keep the Wetherby railway crossing open. There are plans to upgrade several level crossings as they are viewed as a risk. There is an interface between road users and the railways. The signalling system first installed in the 1980s is reaching the end of its expected operational life.

Cuts are being made to the plans for the HS2 Euston station. Protesters against HS2 have been in tunnels dug under the station. There is to be an integrated rail plan for the North of England and the Midlands. Flexible season tickets could be introduced to help people who only need to go into work 2 or 3 days a week.

Hitachi has committed to building more of the rolling stock in the UK. Competition hots up for the contract to build the high powered HS2 trains to go between London, Birmingham and beyond.

If you are planning a holiday, we are told of the trains in Scotland travelling through beautiful countryside and scenery.

Rail info. 08457 48 49 50 Traveline. 08712 00 22 33

*Happy travelling. - take care and keep safe and well - Paddy James*

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*Please send material to the editor at [BottishamCresset@gmail.com](mailto:BottishamCresset@gmail.com)*

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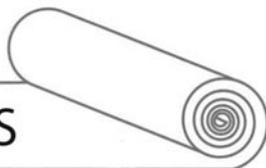


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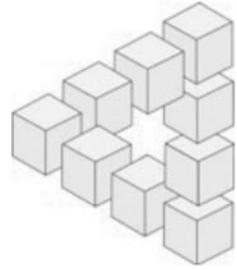
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## *Thoughts of a Sports Nut*

Well, the remainder of the Test Series in India completed a predictably uncomfortable episode in English cricket. The anticipated Indian backlash from the visitors' stunning victory in the first Test was as embarrassing as it was clinical, resulting in a 3-1 home win. There are plenty of precedents for home teams exploiting conditions and wickets that play to their strengths, but the Indians took this to the extreme of preparing wickets that rendered their superior spin attack all but unplayable. Even Joe Root, nothing more than a part-time bowler, returned figures of 5 wickets for 8 runs in the Third Test as the Indian batsmen temporarily toiled on a surface that made a mockery of Test cricket. Whilst it was wonderful to have proper cricket back on terrestrial television, courtesy of Channel 4, one can't help thinking that India has perpetrated immeasurable damage to this, the ultimate format of the game, through their determination to make themselves unbeatable at home.

Can you imagine Channel 4, or anyone else for that matter, bidding top dollar for future Test series when the matches last only half the allotted duration? The last three India-England matches were completed in under three days, under two days and under three days, respectively. That's a total of less than eight days' play out of a scheduled 15 days, which represents pretty disappointing bang for the TV buck, doesn't it? If we want shortened matches with quick runs or clattering wickets, we have ODIs and T20 formats. Let us remember that Test cricket is supposed to be 'Bridge' to their 'Snap'!

It was not without some misgivings that I read about the Brazilian FA's decision to rename the famous Estádio do Maracanã as the "Estádio Rei Pele" (King Pele Stadium). Now don't get me wrong: not only do I believe that Pele was the greatest footballer who ever lived, he was a hero and an inspiration to virtually all sportspeople of a certain vintage, and there is no accolade too high for this wonderfully dignified man. (By the way, if you haven't seen the riveting new Netflix documentary on Pele's life and times yet, I strongly recommend it!) However, growing up surrounded by my Dad's books, I marvelled over stories and images of the enormous, exotic crowds of the Maracanã Stadium, an icon of international football, the very name fermenting a lifelong desire in a kid's heart to one day be a part of that incredible scene.

Well, some of you will know that the dream came true in 2013 when the Bottisham boys travelled to Rio for the 2-2 match which marked the opening of the refurbished stadium in preparation for the World Cup the following year. I had never shed a tear over a national anthem before – particularly someone else's - but, well... you just had to be there! Anyway, much as I love the great Edson Arantes do Nascimento, it'll always be the Maracanã to me!

Another decision that raised my Nutty eyebrows in March was the proposal by UEFA to expand the "Champions League" (sic – I find the absent apostrophe unfeasibly annoying!) YET AGAIN! If ever there was a misnomer, this is surely it. Call it what it is: the 'European Super League', or the 'Making-Rich-Clubs-Richer League' but stop pretending it's about champions when teams finishing as low as fourth in a national league can qualify for entry. UEFA's plan is to increase the number of teams from 32 to 36 and add four extra dates before

*(Sports Nut continued on page 43)*

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*(Sports Nut continued.)*

Christmas to accommodate the fixtures, a move which would squeeze the already jammed domestic programme until the pips squeak. The majority of English clubs have not yet pinned their colours to any particular mast but most, I'm sure, will worry greatly about the further downgrading of domestic competitions, which would knock-on throughout the leagues. I can foresee a reduction of the number of teams in the Premier League, the further sidelining of the FA Cup, and the abolition of the vital revenue-generating League Cup, if UEFA's plans go through. The Crystal Palace chairman, for one, has already described the effect of this on English football as "devastating".

I do so wish UEFA would consult the Sports Nut on such matters. Here is a much more sensible and equitable alternative: restore the European Cup as a tournament for national League Champions; restrict the Europa League to teams finishing second and third in national leagues, plus respective League Cup winners; and reintroduce the European Cup-Winners' Cup for national knock-out cup winners. This would not only resolve the ridiculous present fixture congestion, but also increase the importance of both FA Cup and League Cup and give the so-called smaller teams more of a chance of European competition. This would certainly widen the circle of the money-go-round. I also believe it could result in a more even distribution of top players because there would be opportunities to play in Europe without necessarily having to wear the colours of a 'top four' side (where they might spend frustrating hours on the bench, anyway). Any other ideas out there...?!

For the second month running, I beg your indulgence for me to vent some further cycling-related concerns, generated during long, lonely, lockdown hours on the road, fighting the ageing process to maintain a modicum of bodily fitness! Potholes are becoming such a frequent and serious hazard, now, that one wonders how long it will be before a more serious injury befalls one of our intrepid CB25ers. (Between us, we already have a number of non-life-threatening, but painful, mishaps in our antecedents!) A recent study by Cycling UK quoted 448 deaths or serious injuries linked to poor British road surfaces in the period between 2007 and 2018. This is against a backdrop of more than half of all local authorities suffering cuts in road maintenance budgets, and 90% of councils failing to repair all their potholes within the recommended timeframes.

One of the problems, of course, is the definition of a 'serious' pothole! Normally, repairs to 'non-serious' potholes are supposed to be effected within three months, whilst 'serious' ones are required to be dealt with inside 24 hours. But – I kid you not – we road cyclists encounter holes (even in Bottisham High Street!) that would pitch us off and have us munching tarmac every single time we ride! The trouble is that, whilst a pothole, say – a square foot in area and three inches in depth – would cause only an inconsequential thump under a motorist's wheels, it could easily be fatal to the cyclist. Obviously, we remain ever-vigilant and communicative when out riding together, but taking evasive action can bring its own difficulties, such as brushes with overtaking cars or, at least, incurring the ire of impatient drivers! I implore all road-users to understand the risks caused by dangerous road surfaces and I urge our local authorities to start spending their new £500 million fund on repairing the nation's 10 million potholes, soonest!

*TTFN - Gerry Daish*



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## **REFUSED...**

I make no apologies for the euphoric sounds emanating from our household at around 5pm on Wednesday 3rd March when the Chair of the East Cambs Planning Committee announced that the application for a Retirement Village had been REFUSED...

Despite contrived claims by the applicant, the Planning Committee was not satisfied that the development demonstrated the 'very special circumstances' needed to build on Green Belt land outside of the Village Development Area and partially in the village Conservation Area. Having read the Planning Officer's guidance to the Planning Committee I noted that the application was essentially covered in three sections; Location, Need and Policy where Location was the primary consideration. It was therefore incumbent upon the applicant to prove that the benefit outweighed the potential damage to the openness of the Green Belt. In order to do this the applicant had to show that there was a recognised local need for residential care and affordable dwellings and that the application conformed to both national and local planning policy. This they were unable to do but they still have the option nevertheless to appeal the decision so the fat lady hasn't sung just yet...

On the face of it so far so good but what did strike me as disturbing is why a relatively well-off local landowner would be so callous as to want to deprive this village of an area officially protected and recognised as pleasant open countryside and of high landscape value if not solely out of rapaciousness. But then on reflexion and perhaps of even more concern were statements made in some of the submissions presented by official Consultees. Consultees are principally people and or public bodies who supply/oversee community services in a specialised capacity as contrasted to members of the public. This includes utility companies, environmental organisations and of course local government establishments.

Firstly, Anglian Water commented that the Bottisham foul water/sewerage system had sufficient capacity to accommodate additional flows from new development including the Retirement Village. Yet despite members of the public questioning this assertion the AWA claim was taken at face value and not challenged by the Planning Authority. This was made even more bizarre by the fact that the AWA statement was shown to be at odds with the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan where the Plan makes specific mention of the "works" operating at near to full permitted capacity and that only modest development could currently be accommodated without an upgrade." Furthermore the inadequacy of the sewage works was first brought to light by the 'East Cambridgeshire and Fenland - Outline Water Cycle Study, April 2011' where the entry for Bottisham reads: "The sewage treatment works is at capacity and improvement works are required to accommodate growth."

Secondly was the Cambridgeshire Highways Authority who could see no threat to road safety from a new junction and pedestrian crossing intersecting the High Street within 25m of a sweeping bend? This potential hazard was mentioned in many submissions from the

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public who also recognised the added dangers at this point of ‘on street’ parking and children crossing at school peak periods. The Highways site visit was but a single moment in time outside of peak hours and during a lockdown period. But this visit formed the foundation of their recommendation offering ‘no objection’. To support the local view, automatically recorded vehicle volume and speed data from the VAS units was provided from 2019 showing that just over 30% of traffic coming into the village past that spot exceeded 30mph and that traffic volume was considerably higher than both Highways and the applicant were suggesting. Again, the Highways Authority assessment, along with that of the applicant, was accepted at face value whereas the plethora of village submissions to the effect that road safety/pedestrian safety would be adversely compromised were seemingly ignored.

Thirdly, the input from the Wildlife Trust supported a modelled scenario used by the applicant to calculate the impact on biodiversity. Yet it is well understood in environmental circles that habitat loss and degradation has been, and still is, the greatest factor affecting biodiversity in Britain. Moreover, calculative models of this complexity are invariably imprecise and are dependent upon input which at best is subjective and at worst skewed to produce a desired result. You would not then be surprised to learn that the applicant’s model predicted a biodiversity net gain whereas it is acknowledged by the Wildlife Trust that even if habitats are not wholly destroyed by development, they may nonetheless be fragmented into smaller areas which may be too small for their plant and animal communities to remain viable.

And finally it was beyond belief that the Conservation Officer offered no objection to a service and access road, with its entire street furnishing paraphernalia, cutting through a substantial and prominent part of the Bottisham Conservation Area. The conservation ethos is to ‘protect and enhance the features and character of the area that make it unique’, and this applies equally to landscape, walls, hedgerows and open spaces as it does to buildings. Many neighbourhood responses recognised the importance of outlook the Conservation Area gave and the potential loss the development would pose. But remarkably this was not considered to be equally important as listed buildings.

At the very least, where factual evidence is provided and reference is made to policy conflict, the Planning Authority should challenge the Consultee to substantiate their submission. Furthermore, none of these Consultees has the knowledge or understanding of how our community works and what we, as residents value and find important. In the case of Anglian Water, they should have been required to provide confirmation that upgrade work to the sewerage works had indeed been carried out in accordance with policy.

So emotion apart all this begs the question: who knows the locality best, those who sit at desks behind computers and GIS models who see but a single moment in time or those that breathe the enduring daily life of the village?

*JOW*

**“A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.” - Mark Twain**

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## NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE.

There have been lots of changes to how our crews work on the front line and to keeping our patients and crews safe,

At the end of February our Deputy Medical Director, Doctor Pam, finished her last shift with EAAA and hung up her flying suit. Whilst she will remain with the Charity helping with the operation, our crews on board the helicopters will miss her deeply. Pam is loved by many in the community for her dedication to clinical excellence and for her compassion to patients. *Thank you, Pam.*

*Together – we save lives - Michael White*

## Dear Editor

I write regarding the often mentioned dog fouling in our village. Viz. Jon Ogborn's comments last month.

I walk my two dogs every day around the village for about 3 miles. I very very rarely see any dog mess. What I do see and pick up is an extraordinary amount of litter. Plastic bottles, food wrapping, cans and recently - single discarded gloves! Plus a sign of the times numerous face masks.

Perhaps give the dog owners a break and concentrate on the litter louts and speeding motorists who are the real threat?

All the best - Stuart Bennett

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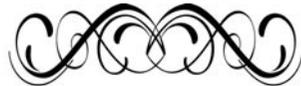
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[Charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:Charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk)

JOHN TRAPP 104 Commercial End, Swaffham 812120

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