

#### **OPENING HOURS**

Monday to Friday- 5pm to 11pm Saturday- 12 noon to 11pm Sunday- 12 noon to 9pm

#### **EVENTS AT THE CLUB:**

Happy New Year to all. Let's hope for a year of normality.

#### CLUB AGM- MONDAY 24TH JANUARY @ 8PM

The club AGM will be held on Monday 24th January 2022 at 8pm to report on a very interesting and challenging year.

At the AGM each year a new committee is elected. Please put your name forward and come and help influence the future direction of your club.

If you would be interested in joining the committee, please add your name to the list displayed on the notice board in the club lounge.

If you would rather discuss your nomination first, please email the club secretary with your phone number and we will get back to you.

#### THE LEGIONNAIRES77 ARE BACK -

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# A Happy New Year to all our readers.

I do hope that you had a good Christmas and were able to do all that you wanted. The effects of Covid are still with us and I am sure will be for some time to come. At least until something else comes along, which it is sure to do.

I am afraid I have a couple of confessions, both of which are linked, like a double-edged sword.

The sharp eyed of you will have noticed my repeat of an earlier error in leaving the previous month title above my editorial, so naming December's editorial as November. However, if you noticed that, you would have noticed the issue number 500.

Having missed the month title, I had also missed the fact that that was the 500th edition of our village magazine, The Cresset. What a landmark!

Assuming 11 editions per year this takes us back to 1976. I am sure there will have been some previous village communication, or church-based news sheet, but that was the start of the magazine we know today.

I have been editing it since 2006 so have edited more than 170 of those! Seems like yesterday!

Let's pause for a minute to reflect on the changes we have seen over those 45 Years. User friendly mobile phones had not been invented. House phones or phone, singular, as you only had one, was in the hall attached to the wall by a cord. To phone abroad, you had to book a time, and at times like Christmas and New Year, when the phones were busy, you were lucky to get through at all.

I had the distinct benefit of having a company car, but at a level where even a carpet was a 'GL' option unavailable to me. I delighted in having the rubber mats! Central locking was unknown and electric windows were an unavailable mystery!

On a more sobering note and getting back to our life now and its future, here's a serious statistic for you. In 1976 the world population was about 4 billion people and it had taken the planet some 300,000 years to get to that point. The population today is just short of 8 billion. That is a doubling in just 45 years!

It doesn't take a scientist to work out what is the core issue that is facing humanity. There are just too many of us for the earth to support as it is. Nature has over the years stepped in to try to manage the balance with things like plague, flu and famine. We can see what she is trying to do.

Meanwhile we spend all our energies in developing medicines and procedures to try to preserve life and extend it. The two actions to my mind are working in totally opposite directions.

Ask me if I want to live longer and for all off us to live long and healthy lives and of course I do, but there must come a reckoning one day.

As if all that wasn't bad enough. We really must face up to and resolve to address the issue of pollution and global warming.

It is, I think good that we see the problems clearly portrayed on the TV and we should be constantly reminded of the issue, not just when we happen to be the host country of a conference like Cop26.

(continued on page 2.)

#### (continued from page 1.)

It is unlikely that left to us on our own, the required actions would be achieved. Therefore, I believe it will need to be imposed on us, or at least kept in front of us. Millions of pounds are spent by companies on advertising and persuading us to buy things we just don't need, and it is at its worst before Christmas. I think every advertising slot on TV should carry a global health warning on the buying and dumping of items of plastic. That would be an easily managed start.

Unfortunately, most democracies have great difficulty taking a long-term view when they have to concentrate on being re-elected every 4 or 5 years. If you look at the alternative authoritarian countries like China and Russia, you are then looking at the biggest polluters on earth. Add in India and you have the countries who could make the decisions and the difference, but for economic reasons are unlikely to. Catch 22.

Having said all that, I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year and hope 2022 will see the end of the current pandemic and then we can all get back to our new normal.

**PS.** Our cover picture is of the mill lade at Anglesey Abbey. I must make an apology to the person who sent it in as I have wrongly deleted the email it came on. If they would like to drop me a line, I shall play catch-up next month.

# Services in the Anglesey Benefice

#### Everyone is very welcome at any of these services!

Sun 2nd Jan	9am	Online service on Zoom;	
		Village Worship, Quy Village Hall	
	10.30am	Holy Communion, Bottisham	
Wed 5th Jan	8pm	C by C (a short contemplative service), Online service on Zoom	
Sun 9th Jan	9am	Holy Communion, Quy	
	10.30am	Family Worship, Swaffham Prior – also on Zoom	
Sun 16th Jan	9am	Online service on Zoom;	
		Morning Prayer, Quy	
	10.30am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck;	
		Morning Prayer, Bottisham	
Sun 23rd Jan	9am	Online service on Zoom	
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Prior	
Sun 30th Jan	9am	Online service on Zoom	
	10.30am	Holy Communion, Lode	
<b>Each Thurs</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion, Lode	
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Dear friends, Happy New Year! I'm sorry it's been so long since my last article, a lot has happened, much has changed, but we are back, hoping to regularly contribute something that may make you think afresh about the intersection of life and faith.

At the end of each of my articles, I invite you to RENEW Church, stating that you are welcome and we'd love to see you. I want to use these articles to describe RENEW Church to you, and clarify what we mean by 'welcome'.

We spent the month of October in conversation together as a church family about our vision and core values and I'll unpack these in the coming months.

For now, there is one main thing I'd like to let you know. Recently, RENEW Church became affiliated with Inclusive Church, the vision and purpose of which is best described through their statement:

"We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We will challenge the church where it discriminates against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

We gather for worship on Sunday mornings, 10.30am at Lode Chapel and have some other opportunities to gather in person and virtually through the week. If you'd like to find out more, contact Alan Brand, details below. For more on Inclusive Church, see www.inclusive-church.org

Thank you for reading.

Revd. Alan 01223 812558/07896000796 - alanbrand77@icloud.com





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## District Councillors' Report

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope you had a good Christmas, despite the additional Covid restrictions.

On 26 November Councillors were informed by East Cambs Street Scene that they would be cancelling the green waste collection from Monday 13 December to Friday 28 January inclusive because they were short staffed. This announcement came just 11 days after the Operational Services Committee had met and no mention was made of reducing the service, although the problem of staff shortages was well known by then. Councillor Julia Huffer, as Chair of the Committee, decided that it was acceptable for the green waste to be cancelled for this period. To add insult to injury ECSS has described this as an 'efficiency saving' so the Council must continue paying ECSS as if they were providing a full service. The Council then issued a press release claiming that the reduction in service was to support the staff. We certainly agree that the waste staff deserve praise for keeping our collections going throughout Covid restrictions and we do not want them over-worked especially over the Christmas period. But we are concerned that stopping the green waste leaves residents with the problem of disposing of exactly the sort of waste which is most likely to attract rats and other pests and vermin. Suggesting that residents travel up to 44 miles round trip to Witchford to dispose of their green waste is impractical and unsustainable. We have asked Cllr Huffer to explain why she accepted this reduction in service, with no reduction in cost and why she decided green waste was the best collection to cancel. We understand that there is a marked reduction in green waste over the winter, but it is still important that it is kept separate and doesn't go into landfill. In her statement, Cllr Huffer noted "From our last waste analysis, we know that typically 30% of everything we throw away in black sacks is food waste..." It therefore seems very strange that she agreed to remove our option to have our green waste collected separately.

The grant to Citizen's Advice Bureau West Suffolk (CAWS) is to continue for another two years, which is good news for all our residents. We would like to thank those residents who contacted the Council to support CAWS.

The Council was late in publishing its annual accounts, even missing its own revised deadline of 'on or about' 30 November. As we write this article, they have still not been published. When they were presented to the Audit Committee, the auditors gave a verbal update to the Committee as they had not completed their review when the papers were sent out. They reported that the accounts were largely free from material error apart from a £2million error due to incorrect consolidation of the trading companies. We asked for a further meeting so that members could review a corrected set of accounts before approving them, but the Conservative majority decided that it would be sufficient for the Committee Chair to review them. At one point they were ready just to approve the accounts as they were, subject to non-material amendments, until we pointed out that that would prevent them from correcting the £2m error. They tried to deny this, saying £2m was not material but the external auditor confirmed that £2m was indeed material.

We will be holding our virtual surgery via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30PM on Wednesday 19 January 2022. Please contact Charlotte at charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk to book your timeslot.

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# Parish Council Report

I must start the New Year with an update on the latest news regarding the Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against the refusal of planning permission for a Retirement Village to the rear of 163-187 High Street by East Cambs District Council (ECDC). As I indicated last month, the hearing has been set for 25 January. Although not yet confirmed, we believe this will be conducted online.

In deciding how the Parish Council should contribute to the Inquiry, we have liaised closely with the Planning Team at ECDC and concluded that our views as a Council are completely aligned with theirs. In summary, this is that it has not been demonstrated that there are very special circumstances justifying such a development on Green belt. There is already substantial provision for the elderly and planned provision of affordable homes elsewhere in the village. Further, Bottisham Medical Practice services two large care homes in the village, plus a high dependency unit, placing a heavy demand on local GP resources. This development would place a significant and unacceptable extra further strain on medical resources, to the detriment of other residents.

The District Council and the Bottisham Medical Practice will be involved in the Inquiry under "Rule 6". This means that they can be legally represented and will have the power to cross examine witnesses appearing for the appellant. ECDC are engaging an experienced barrister on their behalf - this is not a cheap process!!

Given our alignment with ECDC and the Medical Practice, all have agreed there is nothing to be gained by Parish Council incurring the significant legal costs involved in also appearing under "Rule 6". However Cllr John Wilson and I have both registered our wish to address the Inquiry on behalf of the Council. We believe that the case for rejecting the appeal is strong, but will take nothing for granted in representing the strong opposition registered by so many residents to this development.

I have been involved with the project to secure a new cemetery for the village since we commenced our first discussions in 2012. So I am pleased to report that we have now passed an important milestone on this long journey! Following reaching agreement with the National Trust on a design which we shared with residents at the Open Meeting in October, the Eastern Regional Board of the National Trust has now recommended that the Trust should not oppose compulsory purchase of the land. This recommendation will be considered by their Central Investment Board in January, when we hope to finally get the "go ahead". Albeit the very final "sign-off" by the Trust's Director-General is likely to be subject to our obtaining planning consent. In preparation for the January meeting a surveyor has been engaged to provide an independent valuation of the land, plus we are in the process of engaging a planning consultant to make the planning application to ECDC. Once we obtain planning consent and sign-off by the Director-General, ECDC can finally commence the process of a compulsory purchase. While there are still several stages to go, we believe that the support by the Eastern Region is very important and I am optimistic we may finally be able to commence construction sometime in 2023. Although, as I have discovered many times with this project, suggesting a date is always very speculative - so please don't hold me to it!

As I write, the Government has just introduced the measures required under Plan "B". I sincerely hope that these will be effective in keeping everyone safe.

The Council joins me in sending our best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!



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#### OPENING TIMES

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



## **Planning Notes**

#### **New Applications**

- 21/01393/CLP- 25 Willow Way, CB25 9BS, Change roof of single storey rear addition from flat to mono pitched roof with tiled finish to match existing main house.
- 21/01657/FUL 4 Bradfords Close, CB25 9DW, Proposed demolition of existing garage, single storey front, rear and side extensions, window replacement and external rendering/cladding.
- 21/01679/FUL 2 Arber Close, CB25 9DR New front porch and single storey rear extension.
- 21/01703/FUL Site south of 2 Parsonage Barns, Erection of storage building, outdoor covered storage area, extension to form staff welfare facilities, and associated infrastructure.

#### Applications Approved by ECDC.

21/01498/TCON - 17 Stocks Close, CB25 9BY, To comply with Condition 3 (Tree topping, lopping and felling) of Decision Notice 86/01020/RMA

# Bottisham & District Gardening Club

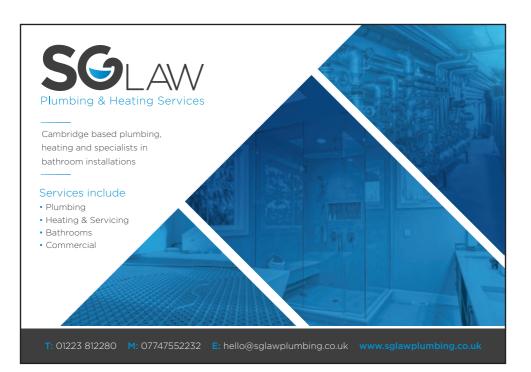
We had an interesting meeting in mid - November when Pippa and Steve Temple gave an interesting talk entitled "Sir Lancelot Brown How capable was he?". It could be said that all his gardens looked the same from Stowe to Chatsworth to Burleigh to Wimpole to Blenheim – a lake, landscaped trees not a straight line anywhere and wide open spaces with clear views from the front of each stately home. He was from a relatively poor back ground but was lucky enough to be supported and cared for by Sir William Moraine after his father died when Lancelot was 3years old. He completed his 6 years as a gardening apprentice on Sir William's estate and then was lucky enough to serve another apprenticeship in engineering specialising in hydrology. He was therefore well capable of re designing Stowe under the leadership of William Kent. His excellent work there led him to introductions to the landed gentry and many important commissions. He was known as a hard worker and employed good people. He is known as England's greatest gardener, friends with royalty, designed 280 gardens and died a wealthy man (in the 1760's he earned an average of £6,000 a year which is more than £1m in today's money). He bought an estate for himself at Fenstanton and became High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon.

His nickname came from his own comment when reviewing a new garden "What are the Capabilities?"

Our Christmas meeting held in December was a social event with wine, refreshments, quizzes and a competition for a Christmas table decoration.

Hope to see you on January 25th in the Poppy room at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club at 7.30. Our speaker will be Paul Robinson from Lode speaking about organic gardening.

Sylvia Overton





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# Act to Ensure Your Travel Needs are met in the Future

If you travel into Cambridge for work or leisure, your journey over the coming years will change dramatically. As I explain below, the days of using your motor car to get into central Cambridge are numbered. We are all going to be encouraged (some may say.. prised) out of our cars and on to different modes of public transport – bus, cycling, walking - if we want to access significant parts of Cambridge. This article tells you how you can ensure your voice is heard as the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) and Combined Authority, the government bodies charged with leading the transformation of public transport in this area, make decisions which affect you and me.

#### WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

- 1. The population of the Greater Cambridge area is expected to grow by 28% 33,500 new homes and 44,000 new jobs are planned\*
- 2. If everyone continued to travel as they do now, 26,000 extra daily car journeys could be added to our already congested roads\*
- 3. To ensure the region can cope with the growth and meet the reality of the Climate Emergency, the GCP have calculated that traffic needs to be reduced by 20 25% on 2019 levels\*

#### WHAT ARE THE COMBINED AUTHORITY AND GCP'S AIMS?

The aims are to create a more joined-up public transport system to ensure that journey times are better than they would be by car, that road space is better utilised, increasing the number of "sustainable public transport vehicles" on the road network as well as creating better environments for people to cycle, walk or just spend time enjoying public spaces. To achieve this, the GCP are exploring options including:

- 1. Increased car parking charges both at city centre car parks and at workplaces
- 2. Charging private vehicles to drive into parts of Cambridge
- 3. Charging vehicles to drive in particular areas unless they meet particular emissions criteria. The revenue raised from these options, if adopted, will fund a greatly enhanced bus network offering more frequent buses in all areas including rural areas, better connections, more direct services to areas of employment, faster journey times and lower fares.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

It is essential that as many of us contribute to the Consultation so that our views are heard. Go to www.atob1102.org and follow the link on the first page to Current Campaigns: GCP Making Connections Consultation. There you will find more information and links to take you to the Making Connections Brochure and Consultation Survey. Make sure that you comment on the proposed bus routes in our area and make clear your personal travel needs - where you travel to and from.

Continued on page 13

# M&P LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN

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#### WHAT DOES THE A TO B 1102 GROUP THINK?

- 1. We welcome this consultation and the proposal to dramatically increase public transport especially to rural communities, however
- 2. We believe the GCP should work in closer partnership with the communities, like ours, who need to access Cambridge to develop attractive alternative modes of transport that encourage car drivers to change their mode of transport
- 3. It is more difficult for people who live outside Cambridge to access the City by public transport If the city does not meet our needs, we will work and shop elsewhere to the future detriment of Cambridge!
- 4. We are concerned that the proposed new bus routes which form the basis for this consultation are not based on current reliable data which maps the current journey patterns of commuters and leisure travellers and we are lobbying the GCP to address this point before any final decisions are made
- 5. Whilst commuting patterns are still in a level of "flux" post the Covid Pandemic, it is vital that future bus routes operate in a way that meets the needs of commuters, in particular otherwise, people will fail to make the shift from car to public transport
- 6. As it becomes more difficult to get into Cambridge as routes are re-prioritised for bus, walking & cycling, motorists will find ever more inventive ways of getting around the blockages, traffic speeds will further decrease leading to more and more congestion beyond the City, for example, at intersections like Stow-cum-Quy
- 7. We believe that fast "express" bus routes need to be created with mini park & ride sites in villages enabling an express bus to make only one stop in each of the key villages, thus enabling fast journey times for commuters to travel hubs which offer connections to different parts of the City without all services going into central Cambridge. The proposals by GCP meet some of these ideas, which we welcome.
- 8. In relation to the proposed changes to our current bus services along the B1102 corridor, we want to know how residents of Stow-cum-Quy will access bus services and how our communities will access the Science Park area surely it would make more sense for an orbital bus route around Cambridge that went from Cherry Hinton to the Newmarket Road Park & Ride site (where it intersected with the service through our villages) and then on to the Science Park area, Milton and beyond?
- 9. Finally, we would like to establish why Dullingham Station is missing from the map and more information on how these proposed services enable our College Students to access Hills Road, Long Road Sixth Form and the Regional College with greater ease than they do at present.

This is an important first step to addressing a reality none of us can continue to ignore and we hope the Mayor, the Combined Authority and the GCP will continue to expand their engagement with us, the rural communities that need to access Cambridge day by day.

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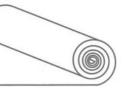


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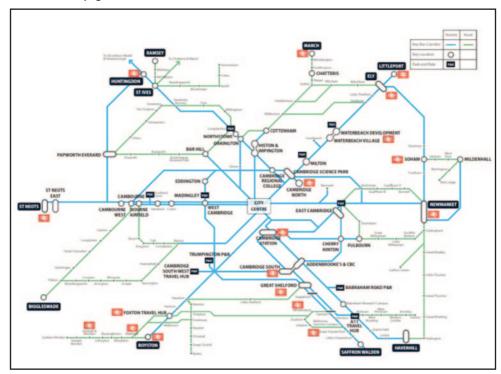


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#### WHO IS THE A TO B1102 GROUP?

We've been established to raise awareness of transport issues that will affect you, people in the villages of Burwell, the Swaffhams, Lode & Longmeadow, Bottisham and Stow-cum-Quy – to enable you to have a stronger voice and to lobby for improvements to our local transport infrastructure. We are a voluntary group and have no political affiliations or commercial interests in the decisions we are enabling consultation around. Many of our members are Parish Councillors in their own rights, so we have links to the Parish Councils of the villages we represent, our role is to complement and support their work, not in any way replace it. Learn more by visiting our website www.atob1102.org

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# Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

On the 18 November Jean Webb, Ely Diocese Mothers' Union, Trustee, and Faith in Action, Task Group Co-ordinator spoke to us about her role and current Faith in Action projects. Jean has held her role as a Trustee for three years and will continue to do so for the next triennium.

Jean spoke about the Away From It All (AFIA), Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by our members. It gives the opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life and it continued to go ahead (when restrictions allowed) during the pandemic. The number of families that MU funded for a holiday at Searles Caravan Park in Hunstanton had been somewhat less because of this. The families who had benefitted very much appreciated their holiday.

Each child is given a purse with pocket money to spend, and Jean encouraged members to look out for purses in charity shops or on stalls usually for the price of a few pence. How difficult it had been for the organisations that MU supports during the Covid pandemic lockdowns. Members throughout the Diocese were very productive with knitting and creating during lockdown and the number of knitted 'traffic light bonnets' for premature babies has been overwhelming. To the extent that local hospitals are unable to accept any more until current stocks have been used.

Sadly, involvement with Littlehey Prison had to be suspended due to covid restrictions, but hopefully this will be able to resume in some form in the not-too-distant future.

Jean then went through a table of items she had brought with her, including mixing bowl filled with essential kitchen and baking items, and little bags filled with essential toiletries. Many clients at the refuges and hostels arrive with no personal possessions. A newly introduced knitted item Jean has been working on is the Dementia Canula Sleeve for patients that have a canula in situ. Once on the arm it prevents the patient from pulling on the canula. The sleeve is knitted in a similar way to a 'Twiddle Muff', and decorated likewise with small knitted items and varying textures. Jean concluded her talk by clarifying how important and essential all these items are in making the recipients' lives that little bit easier. Donations for these organisations are acceptable throughout the whole year not only for the Christmas appeals!

Copies of our programme for January to June are now available in all five parish churches and the programme begins with our New Year Communion Service on Thursday 20th January in Lode Church at 2.30pm. This will be led by Rev'd Sue Giles. You are most welcome to join us.

New Year Good Wishes to all readers. - Ann Langran

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

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

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# Tim the Vinophile Writes

## NEW YEAR - NEW DRINKING HABITS?

Well, somehow we got through it and now comes the traditional resolve to look after ourselves (and others) better. As I see it there are two ways to approach this as far as drinking is concerned.

The first approach is complete abstinence which can mean low (or no) alcohol beers, wines and spirits and is usually coupled with a gym membership and lots of good intentions. We all know that once dry January has passed it's back to the old ways and February is often quite cold so maybe the gym can wait a day, a week, a month...

The other approach is "less is more" and one worthy of consideration. Rather than have a bottle of wine on the go all the time, why not save your wine drinking for the weekends, spend a bit more and savour the experience? Instead of two bottles of £7 Shiraz how about one £13 bottle of Cotes du Rhone?

To really enjoy wine, I firmly believe that you need good wine glasses and the New Year sales are a great time to snap up some bargains. Riedel's varietal-based glasses are a delight to use but there are plenty of alternatives that won't break the bank. One thing to remember is that you don't need to fill the glass to the top! With chilled white wine it will warm up before you drink it all and with red wine you're missing out on one of the real pleasures of wine drinking – swirling it around and inhaling the aroma (or bouquet if you want to sound pretentious). Take your time and try and work out what you can smell. There have been many inconclusive studies about whether opening a bottle in advance improves the flavour but don't take their word for it, try it yourself! Pour a glass, take a sip, swirl it round for about 30 seconds, inhale the fumes, another swirl then another sip. I will be amazed if you can't tell the difference.

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

#### **DRY JANUARY**

#### Adnams Ghostship. Most supermarkets

Adnams invested in a de-alcoholiser; a reverse osmosis plant which allows the team to brew Ghost Ship 4.5% and then take out the alcohol. You'll still get to experience that famous citrus kick and smell lovely lemon and lime, but with added smugness.

#### Pentire Seaward www.pentiredrinks.com

**Plant based, vegan and alcohol free**; what's not to like for dry January? Bright and zesty grapefruit citrus top notes layered with natural berry from harvested sea buckthorn and wild seaweed.

#### LESS IS MORE

Shiraz Viognier, The Lane 2019, Corney and Barrow, Newmarket £15.50

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# Reasons to be cheerful...

In this mad crazy world in which we live, there are many things which upset or disappoint us. I have a silly sense of humour, and there are many things which make me smile as I go about my life. Road signs, TV adverts, clothing labels, people, animals, food packets, and all sorts of other stuff. Here are a few things which made me giggle this month.

Did you know that Walkers "Smokey Bacon" and "Roast Chicken" crisps are "suitable for vegetarians"? (Printed on packets)

Mr Motivator recently turned 69 years old and is still wearing Lycra. (Radio 2)

Why do people always look under their car bonnet when their car breaks down?

Who is Bill Payers, and why do I need his permission?

Where has all the Bacon Rind gone?

Clothing label in Underpants "Keep away from fire". Don't worry I will.

Nine mile hill is only named as such when travelling North-East towards Newmarket. (liquisearch web page)

Why do round Pizzas come in square boxes?

Job advert on the A10 at Stretham. "want a new job to complain about?"

According to the picture sent to the patent office, toilet roll must come towards you over the top of the roll. (QI Elves).

Why is there a light in the fridge but not in the freezer?

Barbie didn't have a Belly button until she was over 40 (OI Elves).

Multi tasking-Does this mean that I can mess more things up in the same amount of time?

Keep smiling - Peter Rayment

# Cantilena Singers

We are trying to get back into the swing of things following the pandemic, and are looking for new singers to join the choir. The changing circumstances of the last two years have meant that many former regular members of the choir are now either unable or unwilling to attend, and so we are in need of some new voices.

The choir rehearses weekly on Wednesday evenings during school term-times from 7.45pm until 9.30pm in the hall at the primary school in Swaffham Bulbeck. We have performed a Covid risk assessment and are following protocols to ensure that our rehearsals are as safe as possible, including additional ventilation, socially distanced seating, and encouraging singers to wear face coverings throughout the rehearsal if possible.

The choir sings a variety of secular and sacred music, mostly unaccompanied, and although that may sound daunting, in fact we find that singers who are not used to unaccompanied singing soon adapt to the new experience. We have a core of strong singers in each voice part, so new singers need not worry that they will be expected to carry a line on their own. If you can read music, that's ideal, but it's not a requirement: you can quickly gain experience of reading music by immersing yourself in singing.

The choir is for adult voices, and we currently have members aged in their 30s up until their 70s, but we would welcome new members of any age. www.cantilenasingers.org.uk/

Daniel Spreadbury - dspreadbury@fastmail.fm



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# Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

We are pleased to announce the course and speaker for the first half of the Spring Term. "BEYOND the CLICHÉ: An Introduction to the Culture and History of Japan"

Julian Sedgwick (writer and lifelong Japanophile) will introduce us to themes in Japanese history, geography, culture and arts through his research and visits to the Fukushima Tsunami and Radiation recovery zone in writing his 2021 novel Tsunami Girl.

The five talks start at 10.00am. on Thursday 13th January and will be held in the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club in Downing Close. The cost will be £20.

New learners always welcome. Email bottishambala@btinternet.com for more information.

Helen Cole

# Do you need support with your or your family's cancer diagnosis?

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You don't need an appointment - just come in for a chat to find out more about the support offered to them. Our centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Find us at: 21 Milton House, Puddicombe Way, Addenbrooke's, Cambridge CB2 0AD T: 01223 249220. E: cambridge@maggies.org; Facebook: @maggiescentrecambs Instagram: @maggiescambridge; Twitter: @maggiescambs; Website: www.maggies.org



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# A Hearing Loop for Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

Those of us who live in Bottisham are very privileged in that we have in our village a beautiful Grade 1 listed church, parts of which were built over 800 years ago.

Whilst most do not regularly worship there, many make use of the church for weddings or funerals, or to attend special services at Christmas, Easter or Remembrance Sunday. Our schools also often use it for special services or carol concerts.

The existing sound system was painstakingly hand built by a member of the congregation some 60 years ago. It has served us well but has become unreliable and is considered inadequate for the effective addition of a hearing loop which is now a requirement under the Equality Act (Formerly the Disability Discrimination Act). The Parochial Church Council (PCC) have decided to pursue the installation of a new hearing loop, but the provision of a new sound system to support this has hugely increased the cost. This will greatly enhance the quality of the sound particularly for those with hearing aids.

The best quotation we have is £14,000 for this work to be done. We receive no financial support from the Diocese or other Church of England sources and so we need to raise a significant proportion of this for the work to proceed.

If you feel able to help us with this project please get in touch.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Stuart Field - on behalf of the PCC Tel.01223 604019

# Lode Half-Marathon & Family Fun-Run

After 9 half-marathons and fun-runs and one 10K run, the organisers are sorry to report that we have come to the end of the road. In the absence of younger people to take over, and the uncertainty over COVID and the regulations surrounding it, we have decided not to organise any more events.

We have all enjoyed our involvement in what turned out to be a great village event, which was much looked forward to, and benefitted several charities and local causes. Over the 9 years, we raised over £35,000, which is an excellent sum for a small event such as ours, and we wish to say a huge thank you to everyone who got involved or helped in any way, however small, to make the occasions so successful and enjoyable. Without all the tremendous sponsorship and support we received, we could not have run the events. Year on year, people have been generous with sponsorship, stood out in the cold (and wet) marshalling or helping in the car park, cycled the course with the runners, encouraged runners in and presented them with medals, served refreshments, helped with registration and bag security, etc.

There is a credit balance in the bank account and we are looking into the possibility of getting a bench for the village near to the new path/zipwire.

Thank you again from the committee members of the Lode Runners.

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This will seem a little out of date when you get this magazine – copy has to be sent to the editor early in the month and well before we have our meeting.

Tamsin Wimhurst a trustee of the David Parr House in Gwydir St. Cambridge was our speaker in November. She first visited the house in 2009, met the owner 96 year old granddaughter of David Parr and was amazed to find it as he left it – untouched since 1927 when he died!!

He bought the terraced house in 1887, spent the first 6 years making it habitable (even bringing the outside loo indoors in 1890, a first for Cambridge I expect) and then by candlelight he hand - painted each room in the style of William Morris. His day job, 6 days a week at the princely sum of 8d an hour took him around Britain. He was employed by the company Frederick Leach as an artworker decorating churches (all Saints Church Cambridge), stately homes and colleges (the ceiling of Jesus College) often working closely with William Morris and his company (St James Palace in London). A real labour of love. He must have had a very understanding wife especially as he painted in stages ie not one room at a time.

It is only open to 6 visitors at a time and restricted to 2000 people a year in respect of conservation but you can book virtual tours. The website is www.davidparrhouse.org and well worth a look.

I am sure that our Christmas meeting on 15th Dec will be enjoyable with refreshments and a quiz.

On January 19th our speaker will be Kate Kirk talking about Her Amazing Aunt – Cicely Saunders and the Modern Hospice Movement. 7.30 in our new venue (at least until Easter) the Poppy Room

Hope to see you there.

Sylvia Overton

### Dear Editor

I'm the director of the Cantilena Singers, the choir based in Swaffham Bulbeck. We are trying to get back into the swing of things following the pandemic, and are looking for new singers to join the choir. The changing circumstances of the last two years have meant that many former regular members of the choir are now unable to attend, and so we need some new voices.

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# News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Thank you to all those who supported the Practice in their objection to the Retirement Village appeal. It will be presented to the hearing in January.

**Appointments:** The same number of patients are now being seen face to face as pre pandemic. **The Pod:** With a grant from the Federation the Practice is planning to purchase a Pod machine to be sited in a cubicle where the playhouse currently stands. This machine will enable patients to weigh, check blood pressure and enter urine sample results which will all be downloaded onto their records on System 1 so the GP can note issues and make best use of the appointment time. Patients are finding home monitoring of their blood pressure difficult.

**Ear Syringing:** Appointments for this are available at the surgery between 10am and 1pm. **Patients Participation Group:** We are currently a very small group of patients who represent all the patients of the Practice. We would welcome new members to best help us with our liaison between the Practice and fellow patients.

#### We wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2022.

**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 Community Library

I hope you saw our report in the last issue of your magazine and took note. Could I remind you that the library is one of the few things in life that is FREE. I know you pay for it as part of your Council Tax but it is free at point of use and our large group of volunteers would be pleased to see you at any of the sessions.

It was great to see our regular patrons at the BCSASC Christmas Fair on 5th December who supported our book and jigsaw stall. Whilst we didn't come away with a lot of money we enjoyed the Community support. We have been able to take the remaining items to various charity shops, Scotsdales etc and some will be kept for the sale shelves in the library. Thank you to those who helped on the day.

I understand that there a few tables available for our Annual Quiz on Saturday 15th January. For obvious reasons we did not have a Quiz in 2021. Please contact Margret Coles on 01223 812199 if you would like to book a table for 6. This is our main fund-raising event so we would be pleased to have your support.

Sylvia Overton



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## **Public Transport Matters**

Many articles and talks on the radio with local politicians regarding how to promote convenient local transport and how to improve the climate. The budget statement gave the green light for new electric buses. Cambridge city is to get 30 new zero emission buses with a more than 4 million pounds grant award. This is ZEBRA - zero emissions buses regional area. There was a meeting of local councillors and the Department of Transport. They want to get people out of their cars and on to public transport. They also want to improve the problem of congestion along Newmarket Road. There is a campaign group 'AtoB1102' that wants better public transport for people in the eastern villages from Quy, through to Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck and Prior, Burwell and Fordham. The question is whether traffic priorities for Newmarket Road will cause problems for the villages if there are more buses not just the hourly ones.

Rail is much more in the news. By the time you read this there should have been the ceremonial opening of Soham railway station on December 13th.

There are other stations reopening that were closed by Dr Beeching particularly in the North and Midlands. Northern leaders say they will pay towards this. The Dartmoor rail line has reopened after nearly 50 years. It goes from Exeter to Okehampton. It was shut in 1972. There have been many changes to the original HS2 plans and Boris Johnson has been told that it is losing him support. Leeds, Manchester all affected. Changing the route affects people whose houses.

were on the route. Cambridge's station has dropped to being the 40th busiest in Britain. It is one of the busiest stations outside of London.

Online rail ticket seller is back on track due to resurge in passenger demand but now we have been asked again to work from home.

China has said that bullet trains go faster with small wings added to the carriages.

Some stations including Osterley tube station are going step free to help disabled people.

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

Happy travelling - keep safe and well. - Paddy James

# Older People are Often Victims of Fraudulent Tradesmen

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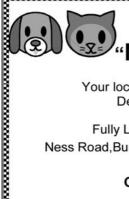
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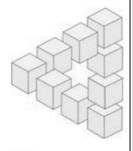
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#### Thoughts of a Sports Nut

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY; welcome to 2022, a year in which I have promised to do my best to find some happier yarns to spin! Given the ongoing events at the time of writing, this is proving to be something of a challenge... my beloved Ipswich Town is sliding back towards mediocrity down in League One, England were predictably trounced by Australia in the First Ashes Test, and we are all wondering if the government will survive its latest PR disaster! However, a promise is a promise, so I'll do my best to put smiles on your faces, even if it's only sardonic ones!

I was delighted to see that Gareth Southgate has been rewarded for his achievements as England football manager with an extended contract to December 2024, which will take in the World Cup 2022 and the Euros 2024. He will continue to be accompanied by his assistant, Steve Holland, something of an unsung hero in the camp, and I hope he will garner more recognition in future if the team challenges again for the top honours. We all have our opinions on team selection, tactics, etc, and often feel that Southgate & Holland are over-cautious or resistant to change, but the statistics don't lie: third in the 2020 European Nations League, semi-finalists in the 2018 World Cup and finalists in the 2021 European Championship...this is progress, folks! It doesn't come cheaply though... Southgate is now on £5million a year. I wonder what the FA will consider a fair price if he actually wins anything!

My only issue with all these competitions is the number of almost meaningless matches. You may have noticed England men's recent 10-0 win in San Marino and the Lionesses' 20-0 victory over Latvia in qualifying games. Who benefits from this? Would not the 'minnows' of world football (in both genders) enjoy a more valuable experience by competing in a group or groups of their own, where the winners would progress to the main tournament? The likes of San Marino, Andorra, Faroe Isles, Lichtenstein, Gibraltar, for instance – not forgetting their long-suffering supporters – would surely rather have competitive matches with a tangible prize at the end than be used as target practice for the 'big guns'!

A couple of interesting examples of footballers' generosity came to my attention just before Christmas. Firstly, the Serbian national team scored a remarkable victory over Portugal in their final qualifying match to secure their place at 2022 World Cup Finals, and they were given a million Euros by their government as a reward. The team immediately donated the money to a charity responsible for the treatment of sick children. Bravo Serbia! Then Ipswich Town announced cut price tickets for home matches over the Christmas period (ok, ok, you could argue that they're not worth full price at the moment!), but a supporters' group, working with a local charity, extended the campaign to actually buy tickets for struggling families. They raised £12,500 in less than a week... hats off to them!

Talking of money, there was great news for Azeem Rafiq in November when Lord Patel, the new Yorkshire County Cricket Club chairman, delivered a £200,000 settlement to the former player, together with an official apology for the club's racist past and thanks for Rafiq's whistleblowing exploits which, among other things, has left Yorkshire in tatters with an £18 million debt! It's interesting to note that the Yorkshire investigation upheld only seven of Rafiq's 43 allegations of racism and bullying... how large might that settlement have been with a higher

(Sports Nut continued on page 43

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#### (Sports Nut continued.)

strike-rate? I don't suppose the inconvenient discovery that Rafiq himself had used anti-Semitic language on social media 10 years ago helped either.

Former government 'Homeless Tsar', Baroness Casey of Blackstock, duly published a well-balanced report of her findings from the enquiry into events surrounding the Euro 2020 Final at Wembley. Anyone interested can find all 128 pages of the Review on TheFA.com website. Obviously, there is plenty of criticism of the various stakeholders of the event and the Baroness concludes that the various, unique contributory factors (such as relaxing of Covid restrictions and England's participation!) created the "perfect storm" at the final. It seems that all the relevant authorities, not least the Metropolitan Police Service, underestimated the risk of trouble, but it completely escapes me as to how any of them thought that an 8.00pm kick off was a good idea on a day when pubs, supermarkets and and drug dealers opened for business first thing in the morning! As a spokesman for the MPS observed, in a breathtaking example of understatement, "additional resources from earlier in the day would have been desirable".

Much as I welcomed the review and the report, I must say I found the outcome a little anodyne. You could sum up the Casey recommendations in terms of better organisation, better communication, stronger action against offenders and a charge to The FA to campaign for "a seachange in attitudes towards supporter behaviours". I'm not even sure what that means, and Mark Bullingham, The FA's CEO, received the conclusions with such a predictable statement of "apologies", "moving forwards" and "lessons learned" I wondered if he was equally mystified! He even went on to talk about future major international events, but I think he can forget about Euros or World Cups for a while, don't you?!

I can't say that motor racing is my favourite sport but I must recognise that the 2021 Formula 1 season produced one of the most dramatic and exciting battles in living memory. A thrilling finale was anticipated in Abu Dhabi in December, with Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton level on points in the drivers' championship, after a roller-coaster year of thrills, spills and wars of words. Hamilton, already a seven-time world champion, versus Max Verstappen, the ambitious young Dutch pretender, and remember, Verstappen had been 32 points ahead of Hamilton before the Silverstone Grand Prix in July! So, the scene was set, but nobody could have imagined the drama that would unfold on the last lap at the Yas Marina Circuit! Verstappen effectively benefitted from a 12 second 'gift' after a safety car was deployed with Hamilton leading by 11 seconds and the 23-year-old Dutchman stormed through on fresher tyres to clinch his first world title.

There followed a tense wait for the result to be ratified by the FIA following a double protest from Hamilton's Mercedes team based on the implementation of the safety care rules, which — difficult though they are to understand — seem to have been 'bent', presumably on the basis that this was a world championship decider. Those who know a lot more than me (not difficult!) feel that any other race would have finished behind the safety car with Hamilton in the lead! Anyway, the FIA rejected Mercedes' appeals, duly allowing Verstappen to celebrate his triumph a second time. I would in no way dispute his right to be crowned world champion but firstly, I doubt he would have wanted to secure it in such controversial circumstances, and secondly, where does this leave the FIA's credibility? One wonders if the matter might still end up in the court room, and that cannot be good for anybody except the lawyers!

TTFN Gerry Daish

"Every win is an injustice to someone" – Aristotle Onassis



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#### FATHER WHO ...?

The 'jolly' old man who sneaks into our houses every 24 December is beloved across the world and known by many names – some well-known others not so. But should we call him Father Christmas or Santa Claus? What's the difference? Where did he come from? Is he a Christian saint or a corporate stooge?

I pose these questions because wherever I went over the Christmas period I kept seeing or hearing references to Santa or Santa Claus. Who is this Santa person? On examination I find that Santa is yet another import, primarily from America, that is having an unwanted and an unnecessary impact on British folklore. Probably like you, I was brought up to call this mystical figure 'Father Christmas', as were our children and now their children. But I've become aware of late that folk are increasingly referring to this merry 'jolly' old gentleman as Santa Claus. What's more, when I looked at the display of Christmas Cards and Advent Calendars on offer, Father Christmas – let alone the nativity - hardly got a mention. Is this because we now see Christmas simply as a seasonal binge pandering to commerce, or another case of British traditions being dumbed down and possibly lost?

A couple of years ago the National Trust insisted that "Father Christmas" was used in its hundreds of stately homes and historic buildings because the name is synonymous with British culture. And for many in Britain he is also the personification of Christmas itself. "Santa Claus" on the other hand originates from the Dutch who sent settlers the US. They created a town called New Amsterdam which we now know as New York. Overtime their Santa has increasingly usurped the more traditional British "Father Christmas". Etiquette experts though back the NT's stand against Santa Claus. They describe the character as an Americanism and that British 'people' tend to prefer the less commercialised "Father Christmas". Yes, what goes on in America should 'jolly' well stay in America is what I say, and this doesn't just apply to Santa Claus...

But regardless of your preference or social standing the mythical figure is widely known for spreading Christmas cheer. As we all know – or do we – the first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in 336, during the time of the first Christian Roman Emperor Constantine. Christmas is a derivative of Christ's Mass originating in Victorian England which is a religious festival celebrating the birth of Jesus and the term Christmas or "mass on Christ's day" is of fairly recent origin.

Father Christmas and Santa Claus could be considered distant cousins as they both find their roots drawn from the real-life Saint Nicholas of Myra, who lived during the 4th century. Father Christmas first appeared during the ancient British mid-winter festivals but at the time he was not called Father Christmas. He was known as a pagan figure that was the bringer of spring. Then while under Saxon rule, this pagan figure morphed into King Frost - well known for visiting people's homes during the holidays and if people were nice to him, it was believed that he would give them a present in return. Father Christmas as depicted in the 17th century, sported a beard, but it wasn't white, and his clothing colour was green, not red. And we can thank Scandinavian

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#### Continued from page 45

myths for his reindeer pulled sled. His elves have a Germanic and distinctly devilish background but the mince pies, milk and sherry we leave out for Father Christmas have an even more ancient origin. Such offerings are reminiscent of sacrifices to pagan gods that long pre-date Christianity and there are some disturbing variations which I will not venture into.

Americans believe that Santa Claus can be found in the North Pole which considering it consists of constantly shifting frozen ice, is just a bit unlikely. The British and European traditions are more credible, and believe Father Christmas' workshop or grotto is in Finland, in an area called Lapland. But if our Father Christmas really wanted to be precise and come the night before the birth of Christ, he'd be popping down our chimneys sometime in September. So why does he come on the 24 December? Well, the reason we celebrate Christmas Day on 25 December is because Pope Julius I in the fourth century AD said so. He wanted to popularise Christianity and so appropriated existing pagan practises. This is perhaps why early representations of Father Christmas saw him dressed in green, representing the green shoots of spring in the depths of winter

And so combined with Christmas traditions of the past, Father Christmas or Father Noel was born. The earliest evidence for a personified Christmas can be found in a 15th-century English carol, in which a character called 'Sir Christëmas' shares the news of Christ's birth. He tells his audience to 'Make good cheer and be right merry. But this version of a Father Christmas was not associated with distributing gifts to children, but instead was believed to deliver the Christmas Spirit and encourage those adults around him to eat, drink and be merry. To conquer the English imagination the Victorians needed more from him - he was to be 'jolly' and dedicated to children and be associated with family comforts and safekeeping. He therefore needed to assume a more family orientated name and so 'Father Christmas' he became. As for Santa or Santa Claus, well like most things American - and judging from today's advertising and TV commercials - Santa has become synonymous with promotion and selling which to my mind makes him a corporate stooge. Whatever we call him the Father Christmas we all know and love today is well known for traveling around in his sleigh powered by 8 reindeer while carrying gifts for all the good little girls and boys around the world, and long may it continue to be so...,

"Have a very Happy and Prosperous New Year wherever you may be and whoever you may be with. I hope your 'Father Christmas' was kind and generous in whatever he bestowed..."

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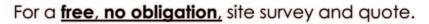






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(\*School holidays by
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#### **Bottisham Parish Council**

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#### PARISH COUNCILLORS

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#### DISTRICT COUNCILLOF CHARLOTTE CANE

JOHN TRAPP

#### COUNTY COUNCILLOR ALAN SHARP

PARISH CLERK JONATHAN GILES

## BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

#### LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

TUESDAYS
3.00-5.00 and 6.00 - 8.00
WEDNESDAYS
10.00-12.00
THURSDAYS
3.00-5.00
FRIDAYS
6.00-8.00
SATURDAYS
10.00-11.30am

Working in Partnership with the County Library Service.

## **Useful Information**

Bottisham Website:	isham-pc.gov.uk
Holy Trinity Church: Revd Sue Giles	812726
Roman Catholic Priest: Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard	01223 211235
RE:NEW/Lode Chapel: Rev. Alan Brand	01223 812558
Bottisham Surgery:	
Enquiries and Appointments	810030
Out of Hours only - Urgentcare Cambridge	111
Bottisham Library:	812354
Library hours: Monday Closed; Tuesday 3-5pm and 6-8pm; Wednesday 10am-12.00no	on
Thursday 3-5pm; Friday 6-8pm; Saturday 10am-11.30am	
Cambridgeshire Police HQ:	01480 456111
Cambridgeshire Police:(NON-URGENT MATTERS) ring 101 - In EMERGE	NCIES ring 999
Local East Cambs Policing info. www.cambs.police.uk/Neighbourhood-Policing/East-	Cambs
1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies: Kay Pearce	811055
Bottisham & District Gardening Club: Secretary: Julia Green	811467
Bottisham Bowling Club: Keith Gibson, Secretary	811049
Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club: Nora Watson	812121
Bottisham Community Primary School:	811235
Bottisham Cricket Club: Chairman: Will Allen Chairman@bottlodecricket.co.uk	- 07713 007757
Bottisham Local Charities Trustees: secretary - Jonathan Barrett	07920 425154
Bottisham Pharmacy:	812321
Bottisham Pool Association: Manager - Jason Rye	811121
Bottisham Royal British Legion Branch: Secretary. Peter Walker	811402
Branch Chairman: Dave Frost	nches/bottisham
Bottisham Scout Group: Group Contact: Linda Jones	813040
Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club: Secretary Graham Darling,	
Bottisham Village College, School:	812063
Bottisham Village College, School:	811250
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:	
Lucy Frazer, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA	
E. lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk W. www	.lucyfrazer.org.uk
Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Helpdesk:	0845 3030666
Saplings Preschool:	813226
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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