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Welcome to our December Christmas issue.



As an editor one treads a fine line between censorship and free speech and last month's Cresset brought that to a head. After receiving both positive and negative responses to JOW, I have decided to pare them down to one letter which you can read on page 39.

The one clear and consistent comment from both sides of the fence was that The Cresset should focus on affairs of the village and not to raise political or critical discussion about the wider world.

"The Cresset is not the place for this sort of article" is a common theme and one which I accept.

I am not going to publish further on this subject and hope we can move on.

A different subject, but one which was raised in some of the facebook chat, was that The Cresset was funded by public funds and should be subject to council control! I am pleased to say that we are not, and receive no public funding.

The Cresset is organised by a small committee of willing volunteers and totally funded by advertising revenue and donations. The distribution is also organised by a small team on a rota basis and delivered to 30 or so willing volunteers who put it through your letter box every month. The distribution team are always looking for volunteers to support them, by providing holiday and sickness cover etc. Contact Ian Cole on 812573 or email i.h.cole@btinternet.com if you would like to help.

I would, at this time of year, like to thank all the volunteers who help produce and distribute The Cresset together with all the contributors who make the magazine what it is, as an interesting and informative village communication. I would also want to wish them all, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (when it comes).

Our cover this year is another local winter scene which was taken last winter by Neil Winkcup. Neil also provided the cover back in March of another frost scene. It contrasts with the relatively mild weather we are experiencing just now, as we have been for months.

I hope you too, as we are, are taking advantage and managing to keep the energy bills down to help with the inevitable higher costs later in the winter as the cold weather eventually does roll in.

If you are ever out and about with your camera taking some local views, then do consider them as cover pictures for the Cresset. Portrait shots are best, (that's taller upright ones, not wide and flat) although I can usually crop the layout to suit.

The new bus operators were off to a shaky start, but by now I hope it is running smoothly and turning up when expected. The bus turning up Bell Rd from the High St. has always been a cause for concern and pedestrians need to take particular care when crossing at The Bell. Let's also hope that the long term route plans beyond next March, are organised.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our readers, for your support over the year and indeed years and to wish you and yours a **very Merry Christmas**.

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3.16)

This is the time of year when we think about the birth of Jesus Christ as we celebrate Christmas, and this will be reflected in the services and activities in the churches throughout the Benefice during mid-December. There will be special Carol, Christingle, Nativity and Crib Services in all our local churches in addition to the usual Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. Details can be seen on the Church Notice Board and elsewhere in the Cresset. In Bottisham we will have Morning Prayer on 18th December, and, as this proved so popular last year, an outdoor Carol Service at 6pm Friday 23rd December. There will be a Midnight Holy Communion at 11.30pm on December 24th Christmas Eve. We would love to see you at some of these services. It will be good to welcome back the Primary School for their Christmas Carol service in the church on 13th December at 6.00pm. The final service the Rev'd Sue Giles will take in Bottisham prior to her retirement will be on Sunday January 1st 2023 at 10.30am – it would be great to see you there to give her a good send off.

We had a memorable and most enjoyable coffee and cake concert on November 5th, entitled "England, our England" with Rex Freeman and Rosemary Wheeler. The final concert this year is on December 3rd, when I will give a talk entitled 'The History of our Christmas Carols', play my violin and will be joined by Sarah Maxwell (soprano) and Jonathan Giles (keyboard). I will outline the history of how we came to sing the now traditional carols at Christmas, as well as describing how the words and music, often written hundreds of years apart, came together. We will all sing a few verses of each carol together, as well as listening to Sarah's lovely voice. Put the date in your diary now. The coffee and cake will start at 10.30am, the concert last around 45 mins and entry will be £5 (children free), to include the coffee and cake. All are welcome. Money raised will go towards the church building and heating fund.

Julie Bristow is planning two candlelit concerts with her choirs Cloud Nine Community Choir, Eclipse Vocal Group and Rising Up Youth Group in Holy Trinity Church on 10th December entitled 'Winter Hours' - celebrating winter with music and poems by Mary Oliver. The concerts will take place at 4.30pm and 7pm. Tickets £10, £7 concession for children under 16. All funds will go to supporting local families at Christmas. Julie is working in partnership with Bottisham Village College, Holy Trinity Church and Bottisham Co-op. For ticket information contact Julie 07793025326 or bristowjulie6@gmail.com

Many of you will have noticed, if you walk through the Churchyard, that there are areas of unmown grass which, now we have had rain, are vigorously growing. This is part of our aim, in partnership with the Parish Council, to gain a Churchyard Conservation Award as part of our objective to promote biodiversity by allowing wildflower seeds which are in the ground to flower. As part of this we plan to have a 'spring flower area', which will only be mowed after the spring flowers are finished. To this end I am delighted to report that our application to the Redrow South Midland's Community Fund for £200 to purchase a large

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quantity of spring flowering bulbs has been successful. I hope that by the time you read this a working party will have planted them all. In addition, we would like to thank the Parish Council (who are responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard) for resurfacing most of the pathway though the churchyard which had broken up and was becoming a trip hazard.

Our toddler group for children and their parents continues to be held on a Tuesday morning – anyone is welcome to join us. Permission has now been obtained from the Diocese for permanent removal of the now unfixed north aisle pews and this will give us a more versatile space.

We are expecting a number of visiting bellringing teams over the next couple of months and so you may hear them ringing at unfamiliar times.

I hope to see you at one of our services or concerts.

Stuart Field, Churchwarden

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sun Dec 4th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quay Village Hall
Wed Dec 7th	8 pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) – online via Zoom
Sun Dec 11th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Family Worship: Christingle, Swaffham Prior – also on Zoom
Sun Dec 18th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer – Bottisham
	3 pm	Carol Service - Quay
	4.30pm	Carol Service – Swaffham Prior
	6pm	Carol Service – Swaffham Bulbeck
Thu Dec 22nd	10.30 am	Carol Service – Lode
Fri Dec 23rd	10 am	Play and Praise Nativity – Lode
	3pm	Crib Service – Swaffham Prior
	6pm	Open Air Carol Service – Bottisham
Sat Dec 24th	4pm	Christingle & Crib Services – Swaffham Bulbeck
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion - Bottisham
Sun Dec 25th	8am	Holy Communion, Quay
	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Prior
Every Thu	10.30am	Holy Communion - Lode

Please check the Church notice board for current information;
or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk,
which is also the address to request the Zoom link.

Copy deadline for next issue is 12 December.

Please send material to the editor at
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District Councillors' Report

TRANSPORT

Thanks to a lot of local people and the AtoB1102 group the number 11 and 12 buses have been 'saved' at least until the end of March. However, we still need to persuade Stephenson's and the Combined Authority to reinstate Bottisham on the number 11 route. We also need to address ticket charging and some other matters. But at least we have the buses. We are aware that the buses have not always run and have sometimes not kept to timetable – indeed the timetables are not yet displayed at all stops. That must be incredibly frustrating for people who need to get to work etc, but we must give Stephenson's time to get used to running the new routes which they were only asked to tender for a few weeks ago.

Public transport should be reliable and affordable so that all of us can get to work, visit friends, attend appointments, and enjoy our leisure time. Unfortunately, there is a confusing structure of responsibility – the Combined Authority is meant to be responsible, but the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership and the County Council also have a major say and none of them have adequate funds for the investment needed, nor are their combined funds sufficient. Earlier this year the Government rejected a bus improvement funding bid from the Combined Authority. Two causes of this rejection have been identified. The first was that the Department for Transport had applied a deprivation score, which did not help our cause as a high growth area. We agree that deprivation has to be tackled, but so does the increasing pressure on our transport system caused by our high growth. The second was the Government's view that the application had shown insufficient commitment to bus priority schemes, active travel and road charging. Bus priority schemes and cycle paths are expensive to deliver on rural roads. In other words, to achieve what everyone wants we need significant investment from central Government.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership's consultation is open and closes at midday on 23 December - GCP Making Connections 2022 | Consult Cambridgeshire (engagementhq.com). It is offering significantly improved services for most of us, paid for through a road charge for driving in Cambridge. It will have a major impact on these villages, especially on those who commute in Cambridge for work or study. We have some hard copies of the document which we have asked local shops etc to display for those without web access. Please contact us if you would like a copy.

COST OF LIVING HELP

The East Cambs Housing and Community Advice Team will be visiting our area regularly to advise on Housing, Welfare Benefits, Energy, Debt and Money. Bottisham was recently added to the regular schedule at our request and we are still pressing for the Advice Bus to visit other villages.

Bottisham, Sports & Social Club every Thursday from 1.00pm-3.00pm

Waste Collections Over Christmas

Continued on page 9



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OPENING TIMES

Monday and Wednesday

9am-3pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9am-12.30pm

Continued from page 7

To allow the crews to enjoy a Christmas break, the collection dates will be changed across Christmas.

Collections due on Monday 26 December will be collected on Wednesday 28 December

Collections due on Monday 2 January will be collected on Wednesday 4 January

Collections due on Monday 9 January will be collected on Tuesday 10 January

COUNCILLORS' SURGERY

For January and February, we will be holding our Councillors' Surgeries by zoom, to save people coming out in the cold and the dark. Our next Surgery Zoom will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17 January – Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196. Or you can contact us directly at any time – charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk, 07976 607512; or john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01223 812120.

And finally Seasons Greetings to all readers.

A Letter from Lucy Frazer, our Member of Parliament

As we near the end of the year and Christmas approaches, I wanted to reflect on 2022 and let you know a few of the matters I have been working on, on your behalf.

This year has not, so far, been without its challenges - whether that is the spiralling energy costs or the war in Ukraine. I have been humbled by the response of so many families who have supported Ukrainian refugees. Many families across our area have opened their homes to those fleeing conflict, and I was pleased to hold an event in the summer to bring together some of the volunteers, organisations and families who have been involved in supporting those who have come to the UK.

I know that cost of living is a real concern, and I am committed to helping constituents across South East Cambridgeshire find the support and advice they need. In my previous role as Financial Secretary to the Treasury, I was proud to work with ministerial colleagues to introduce a package of measures to help tackle the cost of living crisis. These included a £400 discount off energy bills. Since then the Government has gone further with the introduction of the Energy Price Guarantee which caps the price per unit of electricity / gas from 01 October 2022 for at least six months. This price guarantee will save the average household £1,000 per year compared with the previous energy price cap announced by Ofgem in August. In the coming months, the Government will consider how it supports households with energy bills beyond April 2023.

Improving healthcare locally, including access to healthcare, continues to be one of my priorities. Addenbrooke's has developed plans to build two new hospitals on its site at the Cambridge Biomedical Centre. These will specialise in children's care and cancer research. Together with my neighbouring MP, Anthony Browne, I have made clear my support for these two new hospitals. I recently visited Addenbrooke's to meet with senior leaders to

Continued on page 11

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discuss who we could progress these projects. Anthony Browne MP and I are in the process of arranging a meeting in Westminster to press the case for these developments.

The planned relocation of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant (CWWTP) continues to concern people, especially those who live closed to the planned site of relocation, north of the A14. Anglian Water have now held all their planned consultation ahead of submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate, which we expect either at the end of 2022 or in early 2023. As I have done throughout this process, once this DCO is submitted I will seek input from affected communities before making my response, as your local MP, to that application which will reflect the points and concerns of residents.

I know that residents in Bottisham have been concerned about increased noise from the A14 since its upgrade and I have raised this with National Highways and they have confirmed that the section through Bottisham is due to resurfaced in 2023/4. I am also aware of potential plans by Six Oaks Solar Park and I have liaised with the relevant parish councils to ensure that I will represent the views of my constituents.

I was really pleased to visit Rev Sue Giles and her team of volunteers at the Holy Trinity Church earlier in the year to thank them for all their work during Covid to support vulnerable neighbours. And I was pleased to welcome members of Bottisham Parish Council to Parliament in October, meeting with them before they had an interesting tour of the Houses of Parliament! If you would like to do the same then please email me on the details below.

And I had a fantastic time visiting Marleigh Primary School and seeing the excellent new facilities as well as taking part in their Forest Assembly and answering a range of engaging questions about Parliament, being an MP and how laws are made.

I wish you all the best for the rest of the year. And, as always, if I can be of help or assistance, please email me on lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk.

Parish Council Report

I know that bus services have been the major issue of concern to us locally over the past couple of months. It seemed to catch the Combined Authority by surprise that Stagecoach were serious about their plan to withdraw services, including the 11 & 12 serving Bottisham. At very short notice, other companies were invited to tender to run the services up until the end of March 2023. Stephensons, a firm whose main operations are in Essex, had already indicated they would take on the 12 route and were further awarded the 11 service. This has been a challenge for the company, who are new to operating in the area and for their drivers, who are now following unfamiliar routes. Life has not been made any easier with roadworks on Newmarket Road in Cambridge coinciding with the first few days of operation. Nevertheless, we are hugely relieved that there is a service in place and that it is gradually settling in.

Continued on page 13

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The outstanding issue for Bottisham is that now the only service for the village is the 12, which comes down the High Street from the Hilton Park end and exits via Bell Rd (and vice-versa). Discussions are continuing about whether it would be possible to reinstate Bottisham within the route for the number 11 service - to reconnect us with the other villages along the B1102. I want to thank all those involved with the A to B1102 Group (including representatives from the Parish, District and County Councils and the Village College) who have coordinated the views of this and other local villages in a most effective way in a very short time. We will remain involved as the discussions continue on the services planned from 1 April 2023.

At the same time, an important consultation is underway from the Greater Cambridge Partnership on their proposals to transform how people travel around Greater Cambridge, which includes a proposal for congestion charging in the City. The Partnership comprises the City and County Councils along with South Cambridgeshire District Council and the University of Cambridge - but not East Cambridgeshire District Council. So it is particularly important that residents of East Cambridgeshire make their views heard as, although not members of the partnership, we are significantly affected by the decisions it makes. The consultation runs until 23 December and you can make your own representations by following this link: Consultation launched on proposals to transform how people travel around Greater Cambridge

I would like to draw attention to an advert this month about a planned Bottisham mini-forum on community safety. I shall be writing further in the January Cresset about it, but could I ask you to consider attending on 8th March and put it in your diary? In the meantime, I wanted to make everyone aware of a quarterly Zoom meeting where the Neighbourhood Police Teams liaise directly with local residents to hear of the issues which are of significant local concern. This has been a very useful way of securing police action on issues which concern local communities and I would encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to engage directly with them. The next Police Community Engagement Meeting takes place on 10th January on Zoom. You can book at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/east-cambs-community-engagement-meeting-january-2023-tickets-315313038787>

I wrote a couple of months ago about Jonathan's retirement as our Clerk at the end of November. I am delighted to be able to announce that our new Clerk will be Alice Bettoney, who will take up the role on 1 December. We were particularly pleased to be able to appoint a resident of the village who has a personal stake in the flourishing of the Council and our community. Please note the new telephone number to reach our Clerk in the back pages of this magazine.

Finally I join with fellow Council members in wishing you all a very Happy Christmas – we look forward to engaging with you in 2023.

Jon Ogborn; Chair of Bottisham Parish Council

Copy deadline for the next issue is 12 December.

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



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Planning Notes

a) New Applications

22/01260/FUL – 136 High Street, CB25 9BA, Construction of single storey rear extension

b) Planning Applications Approved by ECDC

22/00936/TPO & 22/01133/TRE – adjacent to 133 High Street, CB25 9BB

T1 Conifer – Prune away from property to give 2 metre clearance/ G1 Beech – cut back to boundary to give 1.5m clearance

22/00890/FUL – 3 Lysander Cl., Loft conversion incl. 2 front-facing dormers and rooflights to front and rear.

c) Planning Application withdrawn

22/01057/FUL – Howgar House, 41 Bell Rd ,Construction of 2, 2 bedroom, 2 storey semi-detached dwellings with garages.

A to B1102 Report

First thing to do is to thank Hilda Buchanan and Jenny Rankine representing Bottisham Village Collage and Alan Sharp our County Councillor for their active support to the group. But as you may now be aware the two buses have been reconfigured so that the 12 service is now the only bus that serves Bottisham. It is an Express service which runs hourly between Newmarket and Cambridge via us here in the village. The only thing that is different to my last report is that the bus comes into the village. The 11 now serves Ely, Newmarket, and Cambridge via Burwell and Quy. So as things stand, I am the only group member commenting on the 12. I am dependant on your views as to how things are going so, I can report back to the group. My email is odellsteven7@gmail.com.

I have observed the 12 during the day going down Bell Road but then I saw one coming down Lode Road. So, I need you to tell me which way the bus is going as we have asked Stevensons to go down Lode Road. Is this happening? If not, then please tell me! Also, I have suggested that there should be an interchange at Lode crossroads so that people coming to Bottisham from other villages can change buses with a through ticket. I have also been made aware that the early morning and the evening buses are standing room only. At which times does this happen? The group will at some point have a face-to-face meeting with the Managing Director of Stevensons once the service has had its settling in period. So, it is important to give me feedback!

I end on an important note. The 12 is a fully commercial service. **USE IT OR LOSE IT!!** You have up until march to do this as the service will be reviewed.

Steven O'Dell

Copy deadline for the next issue is 12 December.

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



A BOTTISHAM CORONATION CELEBRATION



An initiative is underway to set the stage for a village wide celebration of the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and The Queen Consort in May 2023.

A small group has met to consider the viability of such a celebration and a possible central location and potential funding. The role of the group is not to organise the event but to facilitate the coming together of those in the village that might be supportive. The next step will be for an open village meeting from where it is hoped an organising committee can be formed representative of the whole community.

However, for the celebration to succeed the village as a whole must be supportive and take ownership. Everyone; residents, clubs, societies, institutions, local businesses, schools etc. can all show support by their attendance at the public meeting - possibly in January 2023. You can also express your willingness to get involved by emailing:

Please look out for more information in the January Cresset and hopefully on the appropriate Bottisham Community Events Face Book page.

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Six Oaks Renewable Energy Park Ltd, a project company owned by Ridge Clean Energy (RCE), is applying for planning permission for the Six Oaks Renewable Energy Park, an innovative hybrid renewable energy project, which will achieve efficient, reliable and stable domestic energy generation, combined with benefits for your community.

RCE is an Oxfordshire-based clean energy company, and its team has an established and successful history of working with landowners and local communities to research, finance, construct and operate renewable projects across the UK.

The proposed renewable energy park, situated on land to the south of the A14 and west of the A11, between Bottisham and Six Mile Bottom, would pair solar with battery storage. Six Oaks Renewable Energy Park would have a capacity of 49.9MW, generating an equivalent amount of power each year as is used by approximately 10,700 Cambridgeshire homes.

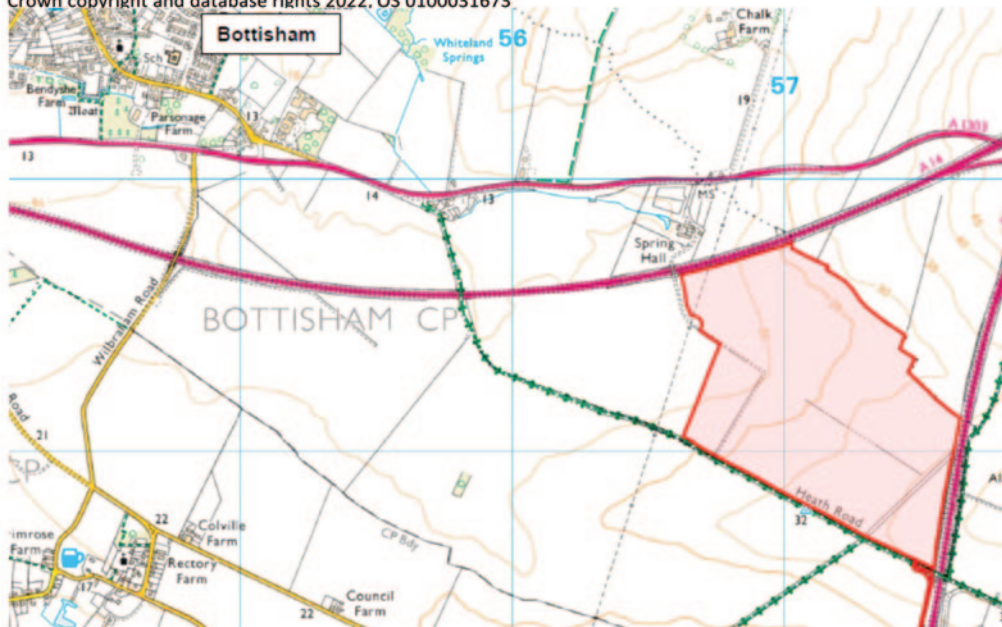
RCE are working in partnership with your community to make local projects and ideas become a reality and to support and encourage parishes on the path to net zero. We are keen to hear from you about any suggestions you may have, where our expertise and support could make a difference.

Since the project was first presented to your community in March, the site design has changed to avoid any grade 2 (better quality) agricultural land. Additionally, the energy park would deliver a substantial net gain to local biodiversity through an array of ecological enhancements, such as including species-rich seed mix in between the rows of solar panels to encourage wildlife including bees and birds. New hedgerows will be planted and existing hedgerows restored to provide additional screening and to benefit wildlife.

Name: Richard Barker (Project Manager)

Email: sixoaks@theridgegroup.com Phone: 01608 819253

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A Warming Story for Christmas...

When you read this edition of *The Cresset* we will be into Advent and if you are lucky you will be going to one of the many excellent Advent Carol Services in our area. If you are really fortunate there are a few showpieces that take place in the Cambridge College Chapels and at Ely Cathedral and at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds.

Advent leads us into Christmas time and for most there is no other holiday quite like it. Christmas is a time for families to reunite and be grateful for all that they have – more so today than ever with the problems of the world and the very personal challenges many are facing at home. Christmas is about different things to different people but by and large it is about the pleasure of ‘giving’. As the saying goes; “it is more blessed to give than to receive”.

This sentiment reminds of one of the very first concert pieces I sang as a Lay Clerk in a Cathedral Choir. It was not a great choral work such as Handel’s *Messiah* or Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* but more akin to an ‘operetta’ and one I had never heard before. The operetta was all about ‘giving’ which also brought back to me the story of ‘The Little Drummer Boy’ which relates to how, as a poor young boy, he was summoned by the Magi (the Three Kings or the Three Wise Men) to the Nativity of Jesus. Without a gift for the Infant, the little drummer boy played his drum recalling, “I played my best for him” and “He smiled at me” pum-rum-pum-pum-pum... - always played in our household over Christmas, especially The King’s Singers version. No, the concert piece I am referring to is that little known work; “*Amahl and the Night Visitors*” - composed by Gian Carlo Menotti and premiered on December 24th 1951 in New York. It is with thanks to Aaron Green I would like to relate the story of Amahl as my JOW article for Christmas 2022...

Amahl, a boy known for his tall tales and the occasional fib, gets around on a crutch due to his disability. As he sits outside playing his shepherd’s pipe his mother calls for him to come inside. Amahl is slow to react to his mother’s commands. Finally, after several attempts to get him inside, he shuffles into the house. Amahl tells his mother of a giant intense star he has seen rising high in the sky above their house. Of course, she doesn’t believe him and tells him to stop fibbing.

As the sun sets, Amahl’s mother worries about her and her son’s future. Before falling asleep she prays to God that Amahl doesn’t have to turn to a life of begging. Suddenly, there’s a knock at the door. Amahl opens the door and, to his surprise, finds three Kings who introduce themselves as Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar (otherwise known as ‘The Magi’). They had travelled a long distance on their way to deliver gifts to a child of great wonders and asked to stay at Amahl’s home for the remainder of the night. During the evening Amahl tells The Kings that he used to be a shepherd, but after his father died his mother had to sell all their sheep. He tells them that it won’t be long before they have to turn to begging.

Amahl is keen to know what is in the boxes. So King Caspar opens his treasure box to show Amahl and his mother the magic stones, brightly coloured beads, and sweets he has brought for the Christ Child. Out of envy Amahl’s mother holler’s at him not be a nuisance and sends him to his bed.

Later that night the Three Kings take to their room and go to sleep. Amahl’s mother sneaks down to the Kings’ unattended treasure boxes to take a few gold coins for her and her son. The

continued on page 21

M&P

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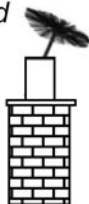
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Kings' page wakes up to find Amahl's mother pocketing the gold and he cries out for help. Amahl is woken up by the commotion and crawls out of his room to see his mother being attacked and so immediately starts fighting the page. Understanding Amahl and his mother's predicament, King Melchior allows them to keep the gold. He says the Christ Child will not need all that gold to build his kingdom. Amahl's mother is overcome with joy when she hears of such a king and implores The Magi to take back the gold. But sadly she has nothing of her own to give. Amahl, too, wishes to give a gift to the Christ Child so he offers The Magi his most valuable possession - his crutch. As soon as the crutch is handed over Amahl's leg is miraculously healed. Amahl badgers his mother so much that she eventually gives her permission for him to travel with The Magi to see the Christ Child in person, and to offer him his crutch in thanks for healing his leg.

And there the story of 'giving', of even the humblest of gifts, ends. I am pretty certain that most left the concert feeling enriched and warm inside with a sense of total fulfilment – I certainly was.

"The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much you spend."

Henry David Thoreau – a 17th Century American naturalist, essayist, poet, and philosopher

WI

The speaker at our October meeting was Jason Middleton who gave us a fascinating talk on the history of jewellery. His passion for jewellery comes from a background of working in various aspects of the trade including sales and importing gemstones.

Our journey through time began with ancient people who wore jewellery made of feathers, bones, shells and coloured pebbles. These coloured pebbles were gems which have been long admired for their beauty and durability. Ancient Egyptians favoured gold, lapis lazuli and turquoise to make exquisite items whilst the Queen Elizabeth 1 loved her pearls. Diamonds were not popular until people learned how to cut them to show their brilliance, which began in Europe sometime around the 1300. Many types of jewellery items still made today began as functional objects. Pins and brooches originated from the clasps that held clothing together. Rings and pendants were used for early seals and signs of identification, rank, and authority. What a lot we learnt!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14th December when we hold our Christmas Party.

Bottisham W I extend a warm welcome to all. Prospective members are welcome to visit which is free for their first meeting.

Ann Meade

Copy deadline for next issue is 12th December.

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

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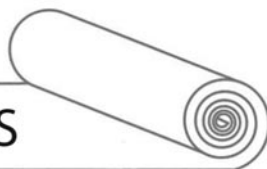


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Christmas has arrived at Anglesey Abbey. Visit us from the 1 December 2022- 2 January 2023, to see the ground floor of the house fully dressed for Christmas. Don't miss the showstopper tree in the Tapestry Hall, a perfect spot to stop and take photos. The dining table will be dressed with foliage and food, and the domestic wing will give a sense of everyone getting ready for Christmas. House entry is via pre-booked ticket only, head to our website to book your ticket and enjoy Christmas at Anglesey Abbey.



You can make the most of yuletide at Anglesey Abbey with festive performances by local bands and choirs in the turning circle to help you get into the Christmas spirit and enjoy festive treats and the Christmas lunch menu in Redwoods starting on 28 November. Start your Christmas shopping in the knowledge that every purchase helps us look after Anglesey Abbey, with hand-selected gifts, local jewellery, and stocking fillers available in the Shop.

Out in the wider estate, the sensory delights of the Winter Garden are in full swing, delicate scents and vibrant colours are a season must-see at Anglesey Abbey. Families can enjoy a wintry adventure down to the Woodland Play area, spin the wheel to see what you'll get up to this winter!

Our annual fundraiser, Winter Lights, is launching on Friday 9 December, running for 13 consecutive nights. Alongside a variety of artists and performers we'll be continuing our partnership with local author Robert MacFarlane, and illustrator Jackie Morris. The Lost Words and The Lost Spells poems, music and illustrations will thread throughout the experience. Magical projections of Jackie's nature illustrations created by the award-winning projectionist team Ross Ashton and Karen Monid, as well as new versions of songs and poems from the books throughout the route. Talented independent street food vendors will be nestled in the Orchard area to refuel after your night-time adventures with the many tempting treats on offer. Limited tickets remain, so head to the website to book your ticket now and keep an eye on our social media pages for all the latest updates.

In January and February 2023, Snowdrop season begins! Our specialist collection tours will be available via pre-booked ticket, more information is available on our website, or speak to a member of the team to find out how you can learn more about the conservation and care of this special winter flower at Anglesey Abbey.

For all the latest news, visit our website and social media pages.



BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY OPEN FORUM

SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH 2023 at 7pm

COME & HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have any concerns about any aspect of community safety in Bottisham, whether anti-social behaviour, road safety or anything else then come along to this meeting. It is a chance to meet representatives from East Cambs Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and get an understanding of what they do and importantly ask your own questions. These representatives work together to help protect our community from crime and generally help people feel safe. This meeting is being hosted by Bottisham Parish Council with support from East Cambs CSP.

If questions can't be dealt with immediately, the panellists will get back to you. After the forum, the panel will also take away the issues raised and implement a 3-month plan. There will then be a community update afterwards.

So, Save The Date: 8th March 2023

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Location:
Bottisham Sports & Social
Club

Date & Time:
Wednesday 8th March 2023
Doors open at 6.30pm - 7pm
start

Meet Representatives From:

Cambridgeshire Police
Constabulary

Bottisham Village College &
Primary School

East Cambs District Council

County Councillors

Road Safety & Highways

Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club.



OPENING HOURS

Weekdays - 5pm to 11pm

Saturday - 12 noon to 11pm

Sunday - 12 noon to 9pm

HALL HIRE

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What's on

3rd December - Children's Christmas Party with 'Calamity Jane'
3-6pm - Entrance £1 for members children, £3 nonmembers children

4th December - Craft Fair with lots of stalls, buy your Christmas
Presents - Free Entry - Midday - 4pm

19th December - It is the Christmas Draw and singalong with
'Newmarket Town Band' - entrance free - 7:30pm start

24th December - dancing to the sounds of 'AJ's disco'
Entrance free to members, £3 nonmembers

31st December - NYE party with 'Emma & The Dinosaurs'
Tickets £7.50 for members, £10 nonmembers - includes a chilli supper

7th January - Comedy Night

**England World Cup Matches
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Ad hoc bar work available, please contact
the club for more details.

Please refer to the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk for
the latest information. If you wish to be kept up to date with the latest news, please
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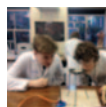
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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Flu Vaccinations – Medical staff are concerned at the lack of uptake by the over 50s. Please contact the Practice for flu vaccinations, Those not eligible under the NHS can have them done privately.

From our Social Prescriber "NAAFI Break"

ALL veterans are welcome to come along and meet likeminded veterans
10 till 11am Wednesday 14 December at Anglesey Abbey to meet in the café.
Come along, for a good old chin wag, meet new faces and feel connected within our community.

Gary looks forward to welcoming you. He will wear a grey Help for Heroes T Shirt.

Prescriptions – Bank Holiday: Please ensure that you order your repeat prescriptions in time and have enough to cover you for the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

The Patient Participation Group: We are looking for new members to join the committee, all patients of this Practice are eligible. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved

Regular Meetings: Next meeting is Wednesday 25 January 2023 at 2pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite.

**We hope you have a happy and
healthy Christmas and New Year.**

Community Library

Not a great amount to report as we are holding a committee meeting later next week. We shall be discussing arrangements for our 20th Anniversary Celebrations for July 2023 so watch further reports in the magazines.

We are having a stall at the BSCASC Christmas Fair on Sunday 4th December from 12.00 to 4.00 and do hope you will come and buy the books and jigsaws we will have for sale.

Two relevant quotes I read recently.

"I ransack public libraries, and find them full of sunk treasure" Virginia Woolf

And "Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit...in any library in the world, I am at home. Germaine Greer

Please note our closure dates for Christmas.

Christmas closing dates to last session Wednesday 21st December and reopening on 3rd January 2023.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and best wishes for 2023.

Thank you for your support this year and resolve to come again and again.

Sylvia Overton

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Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

‘The More You Look, the More You See’.

Our course this term has concentrated on Art noting detail, balance, symmetry, dark and light, abundance and simplicity and our emotional response to what we see – ‘The Eye of the Beholder’

We now look forward to next term when we shall have two five - week courses presented by Stephen Poulter. Stephen has been delivering adult leisure courses for the past five years and also one - off talks for many community organisations.

The first course will be ‘An Historical Tour of Cambridgeshire from the 17th to the 20th century’. It charts nearly four hundred years of change in the landscapes and settlements of the historic county of Cambridgeshire.

We meet at Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club in Downing Close on Thursday mornings from 10.30 - 12.00 starting on 12th January. The last session is on 9th February. The cost for the course is £20 plus a £5 fee for new members.

After a break for half term the second course will begin on Thursday 23rd February. More details in the January magazine.

We take a break half way through each session and ask you to bring your own tea or coffee, we provide the biscuits!

New members warmly welcome.

For any enquiries our email address is bottishambala@btinternet.com

Helen Cole

BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING WITH OUR MP

The Parish Council was pleased to accept an invitation from our MP, Lucy Frazer, to meet with her and to have a tour of the Houses of Parliament; the Chair Cllr Jon Ogborn and Vice-Chair Cllr John Wilson met with Lucy on October 17th in Westminster.

The main items discussed were the threatened removal of the Stagecoach Bus Services from Bottisham to Cambridge and Newmarket, the importance of maintaining the Green Belt protection in East Cambridgeshire and the Government's strategy on solar farms with reference to the Sunnica application and the impending more local application by Ridge Clean Energy.

On the bus route issue, Lucy expressed her strong support for the argument to retain the current services despite Stagecoach's assertion that the routes were not economically viable. She stressed that this matter is devolved to the Mayor with whom she is having regular meetings to resolve the issue: but she emphasised that there is already a very substantial subsidy from central government for local transport. Hopefully, a positive outcome will have been achieved by the time this article is published.

Lucy agreed with our argument that the Green Belt should be protected and stressed that there was no pending legislation to alter that view. We pointed out that the new Cambridge Science Park North, currently at consultation level, will be on Green Belt land owned by Trinity College.

While being opposed to the Sunnica development on the basis of scale, Lucy felt that individual, smaller solar farm applications such as the Ridge Clean Energy site between the A14 and A11 should be left largely to the opinions and decisions of the appropriate Parish and District Councils. Parish Council met with the developers on October 26 and the issue was discussed at Parish Council on November 7th.

This was followed by a full 90-minute tour of Parliament followed by seats in the Visitors Gallery when the Commons was packed to review the Budget changes.

Overall, it was a very informative and worthwhile day.

John Wilson, Vice-Chair of Bottisham Parish Council

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Public Transport Matters

Well, with the changes to bus provision now by Stephensons coaches not Stagecoach we are finding out that public transport to us in the villages very much does matter. We do still have the 11 and 12 locally but we have no connection to the 11 route from Newmarket to Cambridge. This makes things difficult for people living in the villages who attend school, work or need to visit the doctors here in Bottisham. Also Bottisham people may wish to visit friends or family in the villages or Anglesey Abbey. The change to the 12 route is an improvement as we in Bottisham can now access it without having to walk to the main road.

There are now Stephensons green bus timetable brochures available on the 12 buses. They show the times for the 11 and 12 routes. The booklet can also be accessed on line on Stephensons websites. They have been short of drivers and occasionally had to cancel the buses. They plan this the day before and this too is available on line under daily service updates and they have a smartphone app for telling you where your bus is. The times in the brochure are sometimes slightly different from what we have downloaded up to now. The proposed £5 congestion charge to enter Cambridge is being opposed by most people. Some delivery drivers may be in and out several times during the day. I am not entirely sure who would be excused. This is a system in London.

Bus fares to the city's sixth form colleges rise to £1,500 a year. As we lose some bus connections taxi fares are also going up.

It has not just been bus changes causing problems as there have been rail strikes. My son was recently visiting from Cornwall and we had a nice trip planned to go on the rail connection between Cambridge and Brighton. Tickets and nice lunch in Brighton booked but then cancelled. There were also strikes in France which led to Eurostar cancellations. The East West rail link route is still being discussed especially the section between Bedford and Cambridge.

Lumo called the Ryanair of rail has achieved £35 million revenue with its east coast link between London and Edinburgh in just a year but in the hunt for £50 billion savings HS2 plans for connecting London, Manchester and Birmingham could be derailed. The link between Liverpool and Hull via Bradford is also due to be scrapped according to Grant Shapps. Upgrading existing lines at less cost could be of benefit. Ely station is due to get a 1.7 million upgrade. LNER is offering advance fares up to January 6th to help finance Christmas travel as are Avanti West Coast and GWR. They are all cheaper than the normal fares.

The world's longest ever passenger train is 1.2 miles in length. The 100 car locomotive was created to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Switzerland's first railway. It took almost an hour to complete the 15 ½ mile Alpine run.

Scotland is being suggested as a good place to visit for weekend breaks – Wigtown, Moffat, Dundee, Loch Lomond and Loch Earn.

Happy travelling. Take care. Rail info – 08457 48 49 50

Paddy James



Copy deadline for next issue is 12 December.

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

Exciting changes to our care home

At Hilton Park Care Home, we believe every person should be treated as an individual, with tailored care provided in the very best surroundings. That's why our home's recent refurbishment has been designed with comfort, well-being and happiness in mind.

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www.barchester.com/hiltonpark

News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

WINTER WILDLIFE

Water levels are starting to rise on the reserve following a long period of very dry weather. We're hoping that we'll soon start to see numbers of wildfowl increase on the wetter areas of Baker's, Burwell and Tubney Fens. Look out for whooper swans on Baker's Fen and winter thrushes feeding on the last of the autumn berries around the reserve.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

Wicken Fen is open every day except Christmas Day. The Visitor Centre is open from 10am to 4:30pm, and the Docky Hut Café from 10am to 4pm.

Join us over the festive season for some peace and tranquillity, and to enjoy time with family and friends. There are lots of options for nature walks – our Visitor Centre team will be happy to help suggest the best route for your visit.

FESTIVE WINTER WOODLAND TRAIL

You may remember our popular 12 Days of Christmas trail from a couple of years ago, which featured amazing displays created from natural materials by our volunteers. We're creating another trail this year featuring woodland wildlife, so do join us over the festive period to enjoy fun, family activities and quirky characters along the Woodland Walk route.

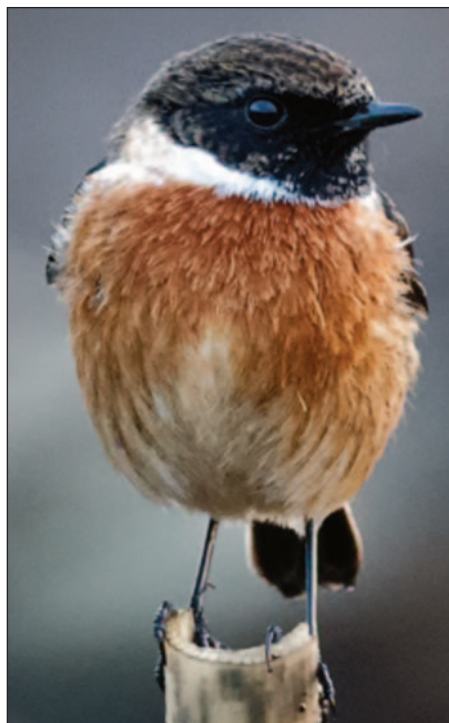
The trail is free (admission fees apply for non-National Trust members) and will be open from Saturday 26 November throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are planning a volunteer recruitment day on Saturday 28 January – keep the date if you're interested in volunteering at Wicken Fen. We will be recruiting for roles including: cottage and fen workshop volunteers, family discovery guides, walk leaders and outreach talks volunteers. Keep an eye out for further information on our website and social media channels.

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Details of our events can be found on our website at
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Reasons to be Cheerful...

- Coca-Cola's big red truck visits more than 40 locations in the UK every year.
- Baubles. What a lovely word for Christmas.
- Jingle Bells was the first song played in space. 16th December 1965 on NASA's Gemini 6a space flight.
- There are nearly 750 different versions of Silent night.
- The first artificial Christmas tree was a German tree made with goose feathers.
- In the "Twelve days of Christmas" all the gifts mentioned add up to 364 gifts.
- For an artificial Christmas tree to be more environmentally friendly than a real one, you will need to re-use it for 10 years.
- Turkey replaced Swan on the Christmas menu of the royals in 1851.
- Canada Post has a Santa letter program where kids can write to Saint Nick at the address: Santa Claus, North Pole, HOH OHO, Canada. Some lucky kids even get response letters!
- 1 in 3 men wait until Christmas Eve to do their shopping.
- The best Christmas present I ever got was a broken drum. You couldn't beat it.
- NORAD actually have a Santa tracker. All due to a typo.
- Paddington bear has two birthdays every year. June 25th and December 25th.
- What is the difference between a Brussels sprout and a bogey? You can't get the kids to eat a Brussels sprout.
- What did one snowman say to the other snowman? Can you smell carrots!!
- The days of the advent calendar are numbered!
- Just in case we get a white Christmas, don't eat yellow snow.
- I've bought the wife a new fridge for Christmas. I can't wait to see her face light up when she opens it.

Merry Christmas to you all - Peter Rayment



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Tuesday 25 October 2022

We had a good number of members in attendance for our AGM on 25 October. Derek Latchford chaired the meeting as the current committee stand down and are re-elected. Apologies were received, the minutes of the 2021 AGM had been circulated and were approved and accepted as a true record. We had no matters arising, so swiftly moved on to the Chairman's report. As Valerie was not present, her report was read out by Julia Green. Valerie gave a run down of our programme of events over the year, with speakers covering a wide range of topics. We had our annual Spring Lunch at Newmarket Golf Club and this year's outing took us to RHS Hyde Hall on one of the hottest days of the year. We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee at our Summer Social with a very topical royal quiz and feasted on strawberries and cream. The competition for the Don Bedford Rose Cup was well supported and was won this year by Frank Wright. Valerie paid tribute to the committee who all work so hard to make our meetings enjoyable.

The Treasurer had provided a full account of our income and expenditure over the year and the club is in good financial health. Main expenses are the cost of speakers and room hire, and after these deductions we still have a healthy bank balance to carry forward. It was agreed that the accounts be accepted, and Margret was thanked for her work through the year.

Election of Officers: The Chairman and Treasurer wished to stand down, but all other committee members had agreed to stand again. We had a volunteer for each of the vacancies and Nora Watson was welcomed as our future Chairman and Coral Hatley as Treasurer. The committee is now as follows:

Chairman - Nora Watson *Treasurer* - Coral Hatley *Secretary* - Julia Green

Committee - Julie Bard, Peter Bullock, Mary Edwards, Cindy King

Speaker secretaries - Janet Summers/Julia Green

Peter would like to stand down from organising the trips, which he has done for many years now, but we hope to organise a trip this year in June or July. We are open to any ideas or suggestions.

There being no other business, Derek thanked everybody for all the work they had put in over the year and we moved on to the social side of the evening. Generous supplies of wine and nibbles were brought to the table and enjoyed by members, and we were then set for the most hilarious game of bingo ever. Cindy was the caller and members were supplied with bingo cards ready for our winning top line and/or full house. But it seemed that many members had never played the complicated game of bingo before and there was great hilarity while we got to grips with it. I haven't laughed so much in years.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Christmas Social will be held in the Poppy Room on 13 December, with Sylvia and John Overton giving another of their wide-ranging and enjoyable Christmas talks. We hope to see you all there. The programme for 2023 is nearing completion and will be handed out at that meeting.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. We welcome new members, subs remain at £15 per person and that covers a variety of speakers, outings where possible (which may incur a charge), and refreshments on club nights.

Tricia McLaughlin

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Small Business Saturday 3rd December 2022 at Hidden Treasures

Small Business Saturday UK, is a grassroots, non-commercial campaign, which highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities.

Hidden Treasures, in Burwell will be celebrating Small Business Saturday on the 3rd December, with a Meet The Sellers Day. We will have outside stalls, giving you the opportunity to chat and meet the local artist. This will include locally made Fresh Christmas Wreaths and our Fundraising Pre-Ordered Christmas Tree's will be ready to collect.

On Small Business Saturday, customers across the U.K. go out and support small businesses and at Hidden Treasures we are offering you the opportunity to browse under one roof, 30 of the best local handmade, creative small businesses, all under one roof. So why not pop along and show your support.

Hidden Treasures can be found at IOB the Causeway, Burwell, Cambs, CB25 0DU.

Dear Editor

By acknowledging “Jolley Old World - What we need is a dose of realism” in ‘The Cresset’, November 2022, I am aware I may lead the writer to presume to think his writings stimulate debate. For some in our village, including me, they don’t but can create a sense of not belonging and a feeling of being unwelcome.

Jolley Old World himself has called for a greater sense of community in the village in previous editions; I am not sure how his very personal musings in the November 2022 edition does this, unless you belong to the ‘society’s majority’, or make up the ‘mainstream audience’. Whatever that is in 2022.

The November article includes the statement that “Collectively however, ethnicity, sexuality and gender diversity equate for just ten percent of the population....”. The government’s own data from the 2021 census shows that in England and Wales 17% of the population were born outside of the UK, and for gender diversity 51% self-defined as female and 49% male. Maybe he was mistaken in his use of data or the way he worded that statement to make his point.

It also portrays any organisation ensuring that they are open, diverse and inclusive to all, and therefore employs someone to oversee this work, as virtue signalling or woke. I am not sure if he realises that being open to all irrespective of race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation, as well as disability, gender, marital status, age, pregnancy, is thankfully laid down in law in the UK? That is what these Diversity and Inclusion roles are employed to oversee and manage in the organisations I work with. The 2010 Equality Act consolidated and strengthened laws that protect ALL people from discrimination and disadvantage.

Disadvantage being a key element that is often lost. Once we recognise where we have experienced privilege, in comparison to others, we are able to start to understand how unequal access to education, opportunities, power, certain employment and resources disadvantages and excludes some.

My main concern is that “Diversity in the main is a good thing but for it to work it must reflect that some sections of society are much smaller than many think” appeared at all in our village magazine. Diversity makes us all unique, not in the main but always. It is recognising and respecting all of our diversity that enables inclusion, where everyone feels valued and respected - minority and majority in any circumstance.

Imagine living in a village where we were all the same; from the same social class, same ethnicity, shared the same life experiences, the same religion or same sexual orientation.

I believe I may not be the same gender, age, ethnicity or social class as Jolley Old World, so maybe I am not in the “majority” he refers to, that is why I cannot understand his viewpoint.

However, I am sure others in the village also won’t understand or agree with it either.

The Cresset is a very well put together inclusive village magazine. I question if this is the place for personal possibly divisive views? I would prefer it to remain a magazine for building a diverse community for ALL village residents to feel welcome, informed, valued and to debate village matters if we are in the minority or the majority.

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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

It's exactly 10 years since I started sharing my nutty thoughts on sporting matters in the pages of our wonderful Cresset. The general idea was, not only to support a healthy balance between advertisements and articles in the magazine, but also to foster some debate on issues, local and global, in the hope that my enthusiasm might engage readers in what is one of the great strands of British culture (indeed, any culture). It has also been great fun, cathartic even, for me to try and garner empathy for various frustrations and, more importantly, share some of the joys of great feats or performances that you might have overlooked.

Looking back over the decade of football, cricket, cycling, rugby, tennis, athletics, boxing, etc, I've had my say on all sorts of related topics, from Bottisham to Brazil, from drugs to diversity, from champions to chumps; and, sadly, on the careers of many departed heroes and on the friendship of some precious departed friends.

One hundred and fourteen articles later, I find it increasingly difficult to accentuate the positives in a world that is so dominated by financial interests, that honest-to-goodness sporting competition seems no longer to be valued as it once was. Of course, this is an inevitable consequence of the justified popularity of sports, together with the massive scope of media coverage; but trying to give vent to uplifting stories at a time when I seem to find more villains than heroes... I fear I'm beginning to run out of steam!

The recent T20 Cricket World Cup gave me a brief interlude of joy, when England turned out to be by far the strongest team in the competition, even with five first-choice players missing for the final. The absolute demolition of India by 10 wickets in the semi-final was a serious statement of intent and, in a thrilling final against Pakistan, it was somehow inevitable that talisman, Ben Stokes, should not only score his first international T20 fifty (against a brilliant Pakistan attack), but also hit the winning runs in England's 5-wicket victory. With the 50-Over World Cup already in their possession there is no doubt that this team, originally built by Eoin Morgan, now honed into a formidable unit by Joss Buttler, are deservedly regarded as kings of the world white ball game. BUT...

I've found the build up to the football World Cup in Qatar especially painful because the whole ghastly, corrupt project could have been nipped in the bud if only the various national football associations had worked together to say NO to FIFA. But instead, they join the hypocrites in the mainstream media, all riding the 'gravey train' to Doha, whilst making vacuous, politically-correct noises like "an opportunity to shine a light on inequalities". Oh, it'll be ok because Harry Kane will wear a rainbow armband and the Qataris will relax their laws on alcohol consumption for a month! Then the loathsome Sepp Blatter, disgraced former head of FIFA, took the biscuit in early November by announcing that it was 'a mistake' to award the tournament to Qatar! (Slippery to the last, he blamed his deputy, Michel Platini, of course.) You honestly couldn't make it up!

Furthermore, I am well aware that my monthly rants have little in the way of local content. Yes, I've reported on local teams' achievements and announcements occasionally but, when I look at my list of potential future topics, it's still dominated by professional sports and the famous & infamous therein. I couldn't help noticing a little frenzy of

(Sports Nut continued on page 43)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

discontent on social media recently after a fellow Cresset contributor expressed some opinions which a number of readers found incompatible with their views on appropriate village magazine content. It occurred to me that my jottings also contain many strongly expressed opinions of scant local relevance, other than the fact that we might all take an interest in the world around us, not just what goes on between the A14 and the fens. And so, dear reader, I am thinking that the Sports Nut's race is run...

Thank you to everybody who has endured my "Thoughts..." since 2012, especially those who have taken the trouble to feed back to either the Editor or me when I have pushed one of your buttons! All that remains is for me to wish all Cresset readers a very Merry Christmas (or should I say 'holiday season' for fear of offending any souls of a non-Christian persuasion?) and I'll leave you with one of my favourite quotations.

Paul Kirton, CEO of Grassroots Football UK, was commenting on the true legacy of football but, for me, it sums up the essence of all sport. "In 20 years from now, it won't make a difference if a grassroots team won, drew or lost this weekend. What matters is the memories that remain are memories of fun, happiness and lasting friendship."

TTFN - Gerry Daish

P.S. Stand by for 'something completely different' from me in the New Year!



Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

For our October meeting we held a Harvest social and autumn bring and buy stall. After our time of worship, Julie Sale gave feedback from the Autumn Diocesan Day she had attended in Milton on the 8th October. Reporting that task group leaders updated members on current news, and it was encouraging to hear that 15 families had enjoyed 'Away from it all' holidays this year. The main focus of the day was on Re-imaging MU. Looking at what we need to do both locally and nationally to ensure that Mothers' Union can continue for many years to come. Members worked in groups to discuss modernisation, relevance, building relationships and living with faith.

Our social activity for the afternoon was a Harvest Bible quiz, and the bring and buy raised £41.

From 25th November to 6th December Mothers' Union joins with over 6,000 organisations from 187 countries in support of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence and Abuse. Raising awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence and abuse in all forms and in all societies.

Our meeting in December will be held a week earlier than usual on Thursday 8th December. After a short Advent service, we will be making a Christmas decoration followed by tea and mince pies. Please note this will be held in Fassage Hall, Lode. You are most welcome to join us.

We wish all readers Peace and Joy this Christmas.

Ann Langran

Cambridgeshire County Council Report

BUS SERVICES

After the withdrawal of 18 routes by Stagecoach across Cambridgeshire, which affects the route numbers 11 and 12 locally that run through Newmarket, we have a service that has been taken over by Stephensons. It is good that there is a service, but it comes with several issues.

The number 12 is running directly, with limited stops, from Newmarket to Cambridge via a stop in Bottisham.

The number 11, which previously ran from Cambridge along the B1102 corridor and into Newmarket and then to Ely, now runs from Cambridge to Newmarket. There is another service 112, which runs from Newmarket to Ely.

However, the number 11 is no longer stopping in Bottisham, which causes problems for residents getting to the doctor surgery in Bottisham, the Village College and the Sports Centre.

In addition, due to driver shortage, the reliability of the services has been poor.

The Mayor of Cambridge and Peterborough is presenting a paper at the end of November, which having seen the draft paper is very Cambridge centric and supports congestion charging in Cambridge.

CONGESTION CHARGING

The Greater Cambridge Partnership consultation on implementing a £5 congestion charge between 7am and 7pm on weekdays across the Greater Cambridge area, which would include Addenbrookes is now live, so please go to the GCP website and make your contribution, which runs to 5pm on 23rd December.

I have serious concerns that the questions on the consultation are very leading and are not a proper consultation but aimed at getting their preferred outcome.

County Council Budget

The County Council currently has a £28m budget gap for the 2023/2024 year. The Liberal Democrat led administration made an increase of 1.99% in their precept for the current year and put that straight into reserves, so they already have some monies to balance the books. In addition, The Liberal Democrat led administration has made spending decisions on certain policies, knowing that this would put a strain on the budget.

I will continue to work to try to protect all County Council services from any cuts that the Liberal Democrats make.

I am elected to represent residents and I will continue to do that to the best of my ability, but if there is anything that concerns you, please contact me and I will try to fix it.

If any resident wants to meet me or call to discuss a particular issue, then please feel free to contact me. I want to hear comments from everyone, as that is the only way that I can truly represent you.

Alan Sharp Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Woodditton Division

Tel: 01638 507485/ 07794292941

E-Mail: Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Have you ever stopped a morning to sit down to have a cup of coffee in the house on your own, and thought it would be nice to talk to somebody?
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In the July/August article, I mentioned that an important part of the 'lifesaving process' is often early application of CPR – cardiopulmonary resuscitation. EAAA is committed to continual training of crews, supporters and members of the public in this process. Whilst many, particularly members of our emergency services, will be familiar with this, others will be much less so, or have no knowledge at all.

Please take a few moments to acquaint yourself with the Casualty Assessment Procedure, namely:

Danger – firstly ensure your own safety – be aware of any danger to yourself, the patient and any bystanders

Response – check the patient for a response – shake their shoulders and ask, “are you alright?”

Airway – Open the airway and ensure it is clear. Place your hand on their forehead with other fingers under the chin and tilt back the head.

Breathing – Check for normal breathing for 10 seconds. If they are not breathing call 999, 112 or send another to call and to bring a defibrillator if possible

CPR – start chest compressions and, if trained, combine with rescue breaths – 30 compressions 2 rescue breaths.

Hopefully, soon you will be joined by 'early responders' from the emergency services, including East Anglian Air Ambulance, who will take over responsibility to continue.

Wherever you are, it is always a good idea to ascertain where an accessible defibrillator is located – in your local community or away from home.

EAAA community mission is simple – we want to save more lives and minimise the impact of trauma and medical emergencies in the community.

To all who support our mission thank you and, to those yet so to do, there are many ways in which you might help – please get in touch – info@eaaa.org.uk

Together, we can save more lives.

Michael White

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Our Wonderful Ukrainian Guests

It's been a couple of months since we wrote a little bit about our blossoming relationship with our wonderful Ukrainian Guests, Olena (mother of 3 month old Maxim and 5 y old Lev) and Nika (grandmother)

We have had ups and downs in terms of illness, the worst of which was summoning an ambulance to rush baby to hospital on the one day both my husband and I were not at home. Luckily baby recovered after a night in isolation with Mum and happily all is now well.

Nika continues to attend English lessons in central Cambridge twice weekly using the bus which has been wonderful in giving her a sense of independence and she has enjoyed her time exploring the streets and shops. Her English is improving and she is a much loved team member in the Redwoods Restaurant at Anglesey Abbey. Olena has online English lessons and cares for Max as well as helping Lev improve his English, reading simple books and doing jigsaws which he loves. Unfortunately, there are no baby groups locally and she has not yet had a chance to meet other young mothers.

Lev is really enjoying school at Great Wilbraham and came home proudly with a Maths Star certificate which reflects his ability with numbers. There was great excitement when he received his very first birthday party invitation from a friend in his class. He had a great time at a local indoor play area and it was a wonderful afternoon for him.

News from Kiev, where Olena's husband still lives with his mother who has moved into their apartment, has been upsetting and there was a terrifying Monday when many tears were shed as the missiles struck and there was no communication from Andrii to let his wife know if he had survived. It transpired he was able to get himself and his mother to safety in a basement beneath the apartment building where they spent 24 hours without food, water, heat or light. They are now back in the apartment albeit with intermittent power – sometimes there is complete blackout in the streets as well as no heat/phone signal or water. It is truly a nightmare. This has led Andrii to consider the possibility of travelling to the UK under the Homes For Ukraine Scheme where he could be reunited with Olena, Lev and hold the baby son he has never met yet. This entails us agreeing to sponsor him and act as host to which we have agreed and he has completed the application for a Visa. We have no idea if this will be granted and under the current rules if he will be allowed to leave. Everything is an unknown and these people have no control over their lives. All we can do is wait and hope.

On a more positive note, we have managed to find a 3 bedroomed property for Olena, Nika and the children to rent and move into. This is very local to us but not sadly in Bottisham as there was nothing available. However, we collected the keys to a house in Great Wilbraham today, which is where Lev attends school, and we hope they will become part of the community. Of course there will be more problems arising from this as Nika relies on the bus service to attend her English lessons – only one bus from the village at 7am (her class is 2pm!) and also a problem of how she will get to work at Anglesey Abbey, currently she cycles from our house but this is not going to be a viable option especially in the winter and there being no cycle path along the road from Little Wilbraham to the 1303

Continued on page 51



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at the start of Bottisham. Anyone who travels from GT Wilbraham to Bottisham/Lode and could offer a lift please let us know. But of course we will continue to support them and act as taxi in order for them to work and access services such as doctor, dentist etc.

It will take a couple of weeks to move them in as Ron and I are taking a holiday which was booked months ago and will not be here to physically help them to move so they have a few more weeks in our house and then we will help them set up home in their new village. Thankfully it is partly furnished and already friends have offered to supply cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils as they obviously have nothing. Although a great step forward there is much anxiety on their part as they have come to rely on the safety and security we have been able to offer but hopefully we have done enough to reassure them that we will continue to play a huge part in their lives and spend much time together at weekends and holidays. Once again I have no shame in asking for any offers of furniture to help them set up home, in particular a double bed and also a child's desk which Lev can sit at for his homework. We have been given a TV from a friend and a TV cabinet, other things needed are cooking pots/saucepans for the wonderful soup which is a staple in their diet.

Thank for you reading this, and thank you to those of you who have offered support and donated clothes/equipment etc. I can't name you all but if you are reading this you know who you are. It has meant the world to them and often they are totally overwhelmed with the kindness shown. If you are at Anglesey Abbey come and say hello – I'm in Reception and you may see Nika busily clearing tables and serving food in the restaurant.

Wendy and Ron Haynes, Olena, Nika, Lev and Max (the family we are privileged to have in our lives)

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Website: <https://bottishamvc.org/sports-centre/>

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Useful Information

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Stuart Field, Churchwarden01223 604019
Roman Catholic Priest: Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard01223 211235
RE:NEW/Lode Chapel: Rev. Alan Brand01223 812558
Bottisham Surgery:
Enquiries and Appointments810030
Out of Hours only - Urgentcare Cambridge111
Bottisham Library:812354
Library hours: Monday Closed; Tuesday 3-5pm and 6-8pm; Wednesday 10am-12.00noon	
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Cambridgeshire Police:(NON-URGENT MATTERS) ring 101 - In EMERGENCIES ring 999
Local East Cambs Policing info. www.cambs.police.uk/Neighbourhood-Policing/East-Cambs	
1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies: Kay Pearce811055
Bottisham & District Gardening Club: Secretary: Julia Green811467
Bottisham Bowling Club: Peter Clowes, Secretary811565
Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club: Nora Watson812121
Bottisham Community Primary School:811235
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Bottisham Local Charities Trustees: secretary - Jonathan Barrett07920 425154
Bottisham Pharmacy:812321
Bottisham Pool Association: Manager - Harry Bubb811121
Bottisham Royal British Legion Branch: Secretary. Peter Walker811402
Branch Chairman: Dave Frostwww.Britishlegion.org.uk/branches/bottisham
Bottisham Scout Group: Group Contact: Linda Jones813040
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Bottishamcsasc@gmail.com812063
Bottisham Village College, School:811250
Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information811372
Bottisham W.I.: Secretary - Jenn White • mrandjw@btinternet.com811600
Bottisham Youth Football Club: Adam Bridglandadambridgland@hotmail.com - 07764 488599
Cambridgeshire County Councillor: Alan Sharp01638 507485/07794292941
Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	
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