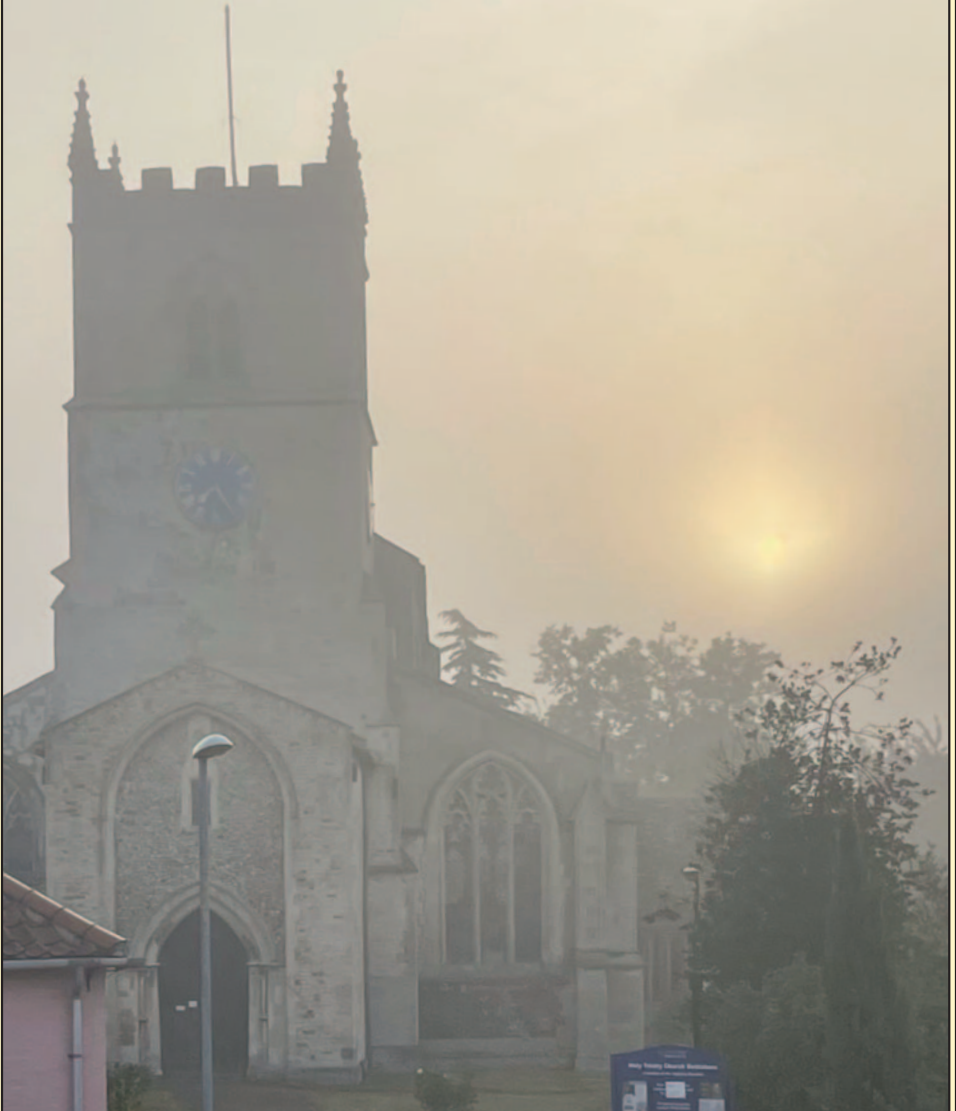


November 2023

THE 
Cresset



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



Do you use No.11 or No.12 bus service?

Would you like to travel by bus more and visit more places than you can currently?

Do you think improvements to the service could be made?

Then we want to hear your views

Improve Your Journey Along the B1102 Corridor

The A to B1102 Group, a cross-parish working group, wants to better understand the travel needs of people living in local villages.

The feedback will be used to lobby the authorities to make improvements to our bus services.

The survey will take 10-12 minutes. No personal data is collected.

You can fill the survey in by visiting:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZQQPPVL>

or

**Pick up a paper copy at Bottisham Co-op or
Bottisham Medical Practice or Holy Trinity Church &
Please 'post' your responses by 24th November**



I am writing this as we come to the end of a couple of weeks in Scotland. We have had every kind of weather you can think of, from temperatures in the 20's with people in shorts and folk playing tennis, (the house we are staying in overlooks the tennis club in Kirkcudbright,) to floods and stormy winds further north when we went up to Skye. Covered a lot of miles this time as we visited relatives and caught up with friends.



Interesting that it is almost as far from here in Kirkcudbright to the north end of Skye as it is back home to Bottisham. And given the different roads, it can take a lot longer!

But there is compensation that comes with the heavy rain in Scotland and that is the spectacular waterfalls to be seen as you drive along. Driving up the side of Loch Lomond and further North one sees great silver cascades tumbling down the steep slopes on all sides. However, the downside of that sometimes are the rock slides which they can cause.

Then there are the traffic lights! It seems that it is not just in Bottisham we are plagued with that temporary menace. Everywhere we went there seemed to be temporary traffic lights like a rash on the countryside. From urban streets in the local towns to surprise locations in the middle of nowhere in the Highlands of Scotland! If I had the foresight, I would have bought shares in 'traffilight4U'.

Back home now, we have seen the end of the warm weather with temperatures closer to the norm for the end of October. Bright and sunny it may be but there are ground frosts in the mornings and the leaves are falling fast. At least the grass has stopped growing and the hedges have had their last cut of the year.

But this just allows us more time to do those other jobs that we have been putting off. Like giving all the garden furniture a good clean down, sanding and a couple of coats of preservative stain. A big job when you start but very satisfying when you finish.

November now and every year to date I would be telling you about the timing and location of the Royal British Legion's Act of Remembrance. In the past there has been a rotation of this occasion round Quay, Lode and Bottisham. Sadly, numbers of members have diminished and requests for people to become involved have been unsuccessful. So, this year each church will be holding their own services and people can remember in their own way. There is still the National Act of Remembrance and two minutes silence in Whitehall. There is also I understand a similar event in Ely.

The magazine this month has lots of information and interest.

Bird Brain focuses on the Jackdaw, a bird which I personally don't like due to the mess they can make of your chimney and they can be very aggressive to other birds. But another good read from Gerry.

You will see and read more about the bus services in the PC report and also see the invite again to have your say on what you would like to see done to improve the services to Bottisham.

No doubt there will be fireworks aplenty this week around the 5th and if you are involved then stay safe. Towards the end of the month the Patron Saint of Scotland, St Andrew will be celebrated as he will in Greece, Russia and many other places where he is also their Patron Saint. Another excuse to enjoy a plate of haggis.

Our cover picture this month is a very atmospheric misty sunrise behind the church taken by Debbie Wilson.

Enjoy this month, stay warm and if you have comment to make on anything you read in our magazine, then do let me know.

Your Editor

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

As I write this the weather is still unseasonably fine. The summer flower and spring meadow areas of the churchyard have had their final cut and we are about to prepare for next year. A large quantity of summer flower and rattle seed have been delivered and we are awaiting a further supply of spring bulbs. The working parties to sow/plant these have been organised and so we look forward to the spring. This additional planting and management will help us towards obtaining the Bronze award for the Wildlife Trust Churchyard Conservation Award. More details are posted on the church noticeboard. If anyone would like to help with tasks in the churchyard from time to time (you do not have to be a churchgoer, just someone who cares for our environment) then please contact me. (Details at the back of the Cresset).



The final advertisement for a new vicar has appeared in the Church Times with a closing date for applications towards the end of October. We are hopeful that we will make an appointment this time. In the meantime, I have written to a number of clergy and now managed to cover the Holy Communion services until July 2024.

Janet Garnett's intrepid team of bell ringers rang here on Wednesday 4th October during the morning and dedicated their two quarter peels to the late Ron Maltby who sadly passed away recently. Ron was a member of the church, built the first sound system for it, was a superb photographer and active member of the photography club. As well as Ron's funeral the church hosted two others, those of Derek Shipp and Terry Webb. Around 200 friends and family packed the church for Terry's funeral which demonstrates that although most do not attend church services regularly, they like to celebrate a loved one's life within a church environment.

Our Harvest Festival Service was attended by a good number who admired the splendid flower displays in the church. Carolyn Bangs, who leads the flower arranging team, is looking for new members to help her. If you are interested, please ring her on 01223 81159.

I managed to find three organists who were able to help us out on a single service each basis, during the holiday of our regular organist. However, I am sure there must be more out there who could help us out in the future. If you play the organ or piano (we have a keyboard in the church) and are willing to help from time to time playing the hymns at our services, again, please contact me. A small honorarium would be available.

Now the nights are drawing in we are privileged to have the church illuminated by the low energy lights kindly installed earlier in the year by Rank Brothers Ltd.

On Sunday October 1st a good number attended to hear the Very Rev. Mark Bonney, the Dean of Ely Cathedral lead our service and preach. On November 5th one of our regular 'stand ins', Rev Liz Caswell will be taking the service for us. It is always a joy when Liz takes our services because she knows so many parishioners and also gives an interesting and stimulating sermon. On December 3rd, the First Sunday of Advent, the Archdeacon of Cambridge, the Venerable Alex Hughes will return to lead our worship. Our Morning

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Prayer services continue on the third Sunday of the month led by our authorised lay minister Sarah Maxwell.

Like most households and with the change in energy prices from October 1st, we are reviewing our contract with our energy supplier and seeking an alternative. However, unlike most households the church is classified as a business and so contract negotiation is more complicated.

Our toddler group has started to meet up again on a Tuesday morning starting around 9.00am in term time. All are very welcome to attend. We are planning a Carol Service for Hilton Park and Oaklands residents on Wednesday 13th December and if you would like to join us and sing, please let me know.

We look forward to welcoming you to any of our services.

Stuart Field. Churchwarden

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Wed Nov 1st	8 pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) – via Zoom
Sun Nov 5th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Sun Nov 12th	9am.	Online service on Zoom
	10.50 am	Remembrance Service – Quy
		Act of Remembrance – Lode
		Remembrance Service – Swaffham Prior
		Remembrance Service – Swaffham Bulbeck
Sun Nov 19th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer - Quy
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer – Bottisham
Sun Nov 26th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Swaffham Prior
Every Thursday	10.30am	Holy Communion - Lode

**Please check the Church notice board for any changes to these details;
or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk, which is also the address to request
the Zoom link.**

You are very welcome to attend any of these services

RON MALTBY, 1926-2023

We are writing to thank everyone who has passed on their condolences, cards and sympathy following the passing of Carol's father, Ron Maltby, of Maple Close, Bottisham. We were very touched by everyone's kindness.

Ron and his family moved to Bottisham in 1966 and was a member of the Parochial Church Council and also the Parish Council for a while. He built and installed the very first sound system in the church. A keen photographer, he produced all kinds of photographs, and many readers will remember "Ron's Photo Chat" articles in the Cresset.

Ron lost his wife, Rene, in 2020 due to vascular dementia. With the help of his family, Ron continued to spend many enjoyable times pottering about with his favourite hobbies. However, his own health deteriorated and Ron was 97 when he passed peacefully away in early September, after three weeks in hospital, having spent some happy months at Kings in Hilton Park Care Centre, and put on an exhibition of his photographs one afternoon. We cannot thank them enough for their support and care of him.

Carol, Martin and Heather Kitson.



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Parish Council Report

As I write this the Council looks ahead to a busy next week, with the start of the retirement village planning appeal and the community safety forum (the latter planned long before we had the appeal date) landing on the same day!! I will be reporting on the outcome of the appeal and the Forum in my next Notes.

Now to the central matter I wish to discuss - BUSES

PLEASE FILL IN THE BUS SURVEY!

The AtoB 1102 group (www.atob1102.org) is a cross-Parish body co-ordinating efforts to influence the development of our bus services, in liaison with our County/District Councils and the Mayor. It is the Mayor who holds final responsibility for our bus services.

While the No.12 bus is a completely commercial service (and should remain largely unchanged), the No.11 is subsidised by the Mayor and the contracts for any further subsidised services are up for renewal end March. So we are approaching a critical point, as decisions are made about future funding of services.

I am confident that the No.11 will continue. But the vexatious issue of the connection between Bottisham and the surrounding villages has yet to be resolved. A potential solution is to return to the routing of some/all No.11 buses via Bottisham - albeit this has implications for the many who have welcomed the faster direct service into Cambridge. Another alternative that has been mooted, is a completely new route connecting the B1102 villages to Addenbrookes via Bottisham, the Wilbrahams and Fulbourn. This might provide a better solution for all, if we can demonstrate there will be demand to fill the bus.

In order to help us guide the Mayor in developing an optimal service, there is a need to generate good quality data as to the genuine travel needs of residents. To that end, the B1102 group has instituted a resident's survey across the local villages. An online version can be accessed at:

<https://bottisham-pc.gov.uk/Contents/ContentItems/4rpbgybdprx40w5e40qyhzevcc>

A hard copy version is also available in the COOP, Bottisham Medical Practice and Holy Trinity Church - where there are also boxes to post your responses. Please could we have all responses back by 24th November, to give the group time to analyse the results to present to the Mayor.

Could I please ask that all our readers fill in the survey - whether you are a current bus user or just a potential user? Our objective is to see a service developed that will encourage us all to use the buses more - to help reduce congestion and our carbon footprint.

BROADBAND INSTALLATION

The Parish Council has been inundated with complaints about recent roadworks to install full fibre broadband. These have included complaints about lack of warning about roadworks and failures to "make good".

Unfortunately the Parish Council has no authority over activities on the public highways

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 7

and, contrary to rumour, receives no income from the works being carried out. However we have, in concert with our County Councillor, had numerous communications with the company over the matter. The company does provide the Parish Council with a list of planned roadworks that we place on our web-site but, of course, few see these. It also insists the contractor is instructed to deliver paper warnings to residents, but residents complain they have not seen them. There is not much more we can do but hope that our communications have improved matters somewhat.

As I travel around the countryside, I see evidence of similar activity in many villages and towns - so we are not alone!! One must hope all the aggravation will have been worth it in due course! The bad news is that the company expects to be continuing installations in Bottisham until after Christmas. The good news is that contractors are required to “make good” within 6 months and we have up to 2 years subsequent to completion to complain and request things are “made good”. So please pursue the company if you feel things have not been left in a satisfactory condition.

Jon Ogborn; Chair of Council

Check out our website for the latest news, minutes, agendas, and reporting features at www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk

Planning Notes

New applications:

23/01061/FUL. 33 Jenyns Close Bottisham. Single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory, rear box dormer to create 2 bedrooms at first floor.

23/00961/CLP. 61 Bell Road Bottisham. Garage conversion

Planning Applications approved by ECDC:

23/00255/FUL. 68 High Street Bottisham. First floor rear dormer.

23/00796/FUL. 20 Pound Close Bottisham. Demolition of existing single storey side extension and porch and the erection of single storey rear and side extensions, internal alterations and associated works

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 November.

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



Village Litter Picks

Fresh air, friendship and looking after our wildlife

Bring your gloves and suitable clothes for the outdoors!

Starting Location	Date	Month
2023		
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	25 th	November
2024		
Bottisham Village College (<i>sports centre car park end</i>)	13 th	January
Queens Court Care Home	10 th	February
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	16 th	March
Bottisham Village College (<i>sports centre car park end</i>)	20 th	April

Further Information: All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am for approx. 1.5 hours, refreshments 11:15am (donations welcome!)

Ways to keep in touch with updates:

- ✓ Join the Bottisham Village Litter Pick WhatsApp Group
- ✓ Visit the Bottisham Events Facebook Page
- ✓ Visit the Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page

District Councillors' Report

We were saddened to hear that James Fitch had passed away. James was County Councillor and District Councillor for many years for the Bottisham ward villages. He loved these villages and worked with and for the residents. One of his longest campaigns was to get safe cycle routes, so he was delighted when the Lode to Quy cycle path opened and looked forward to seeing the path from Burwell to Exning open. He knocked on Charlotte's door the day she moved in to Reach to welcome her and her husband to the area and introduce himself as their local Councillor – they were very impressed! They soon realised that he was regularly out and about talking with residents and helping to get things done. More recently, he has given us advice and support and shared his long knowledge of the area with us. Like many people, we shall miss James greatly.

Everyone should have received their black bin bags by the end of October. If you haven't received yours, please let one of us know, and we will make sure they are delivered.

After years of refusing to answer questions about the finances and management of its trading companies, and a demand this February for an extra £500,000 in fees for the year to 31 March, the Council has finally admitted significant problems with ECSS and initiated major reforms. The Chief Executive, who is also the Managing Director of ECSS, published a report triggered by a review instigated by the Audit Committee, following a proposal from Charlotte. There had been a clear indication of one of the major weaknesses when the Council's Observer at ECSS Board meetings, Cllr J Huffer, was asked how frequently she received and reviewed Management Accounts for ECSS and she admitted that "ECSS Board last reviewed the management accounts on 31 January 2023. Prior to this, as it is essentially on operational budget, the Board did not receive management accounts, instead it discussed and approved the annual statutory accounts". Regular review of Management Accounts is a key control of an organisation's finances. The Audit Committee will be reviewing the report in more detail and Charlotte will be pressing for a thorough and independent review of governance at ECSS and ECTC (which shares many of the same governance procedures as ECSS).

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has dropped its plans to charge people driving into and around Cambridge. We are working with colleagues to ensure that we get the much-needed public transport improvements for our area. This will require significant and sustained investment from central government, not just a one-off £2.3m. We were interested to see that the idea of a congestion charge in Cambridge goes back to 1990 when the Conservative County Council adopted 'demand management by road pricing'. This was firmed up by the Conservatives in 2009 with bids to Government for £500m funding to implement a congestion charge on very similar borders to the GCP's proposal, and deliver improvements to public transport, cycle paths etc. The Government funding stream was closed in 2010, and without the funding the County Council paused the scheme.

Our next 'Meet your Councillors' is on Monday 20th November 6.30-7.30 in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Or you can join us in the Red Lion afterwards, as it should be re-opening in October. You are always welcome to contact both of us directly – john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk, charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk



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Bottisham WI

We had an interesting talk in September by Barry Carter from the Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue team (CamSAR). This is a lowland rescue volunteer group and compares with the better - known mountain rescue services, the coastguard and the RNLI. They are a specialist search team called on by the police for the search for high risk, vulnerable missing people, a child, an elderly person living with dementia, or even someone considering taking their own life. Each member is trained and examined to national standards and procedures and continues training throughout their service. They could be called upon if there is a local disaster (plane crash), power outage or flood warnings. Louise, a trained dog handler brought her dog Pip who is regularly called upon (there is an average of 60 callouts a year day and night) to join in the searches and is a valuable member of the service. A very worthwhile charity which has won the Queen's Award for voluntary Service.

We shall be collecting gifts again this year for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal toys suitable for children, toiletries for single mums or children just out of care can be brought to our November meeting.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 21st November when Pat Howard our Chairman will show how us how to make Christmas cards.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room.

Sylvia Overton

Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

“Russian Literature Through Russian Eyes”

Marina Burrell is presenting a very interesting and well-prepared course on Russian Literature. To date we have studied works of Pushkin, Chekov, Tolstoy and Kuprin. Still to come: Women's poetry of the Silver Age, Pasternak's Dr Zhivago, Solzhenitsyn, Brodsky and more...

Looking further ahead, details of 2 five week courses for the Spring Term will be in the December Cresset.

BALA is affiliated to CALL (Cambridge Alliance of Lifelong Learners) which supports Adult Learning Groups in Cambridgeshire. CALL has an interesting programme of events for the Autumn and Winter.

Details can be found on the CALL website www.call-ed.org.uk

Helen Cole

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Tue 7 Nov | 11am - 12.30pm | Free - Walk & Support CPPF at Wandlebury Join chief exec James Littlewood on an autumn stroll at Wandlebury and find out how you can become a patron to help us protect the beauty of Cambridge. Meet in car park.

Fri 10 - Sun 12 Nov | 7.30pm | £15.87 - Ghost Stories at the Leper Chapel

Fri & Sun | 'Cathedrals' cambridgefears.eventbrite.co.uk

Sat | 'Casting the Runes' runescambridge.eventbrite.co.uk

An intimate performance in the atmospheric Leper Chapel.

Wed 15 Nov | 10am-12pm | Free - Woodland & Wildlife Walk at Wandlebury Join our wardens for a gentle guided walk to learn about the woods and their wildlife. Meet in car park.

Wed 22 Nov | 6.30pm-7pm | Free - CambridgePPF Annual Meeting St Barnabas Church, Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 2BD

CambridgePPF trustees and chief executive will talk about the work of the charity over the past year with the opportunity to ask questions.

Wed 22 Nov | 7.20pm-8.20pm | £5 - Merlin Sheldrake in Conversation St Barnabas Church, Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 2BD

Talk and Q&A with the award-winning biologist and best-selling author, Merlin Sheldrake. Booking essential.

Sat 25 Nov | 10.30am - 3pm | Free - Fantastical Forest Exhibition 2023 at Wandlebury Outdoor exhibition of artwork created by Cambridgeshire communities to celebrate Tree Charter Day.

Every Thursday | Free - Enjoy a friendly social walk at Wandlebury. On first visit, arrive 10 mins early to register. Meet at the Stable Rooms.

Longer Walk: 10.00am - 11.00am

Shorter Walk: 10.30am - 11.00am

Volunteer Work Parties - Every Tuesday | 10.30am - 1.30pm | Free

Help care for green spaces and their wildlife- get active, meet others and enjoy learning. Wear tough clothes and footwear, instructions, and tools provided. Meet in car park.

Coton Countryside Reserve - Nov 7, Nov 21, Dec 5, Dec 19, Jan 16, Feb 6, Feb 27, Mar 12, Mar 26, Apr 9

Wandlebury Country Park - Nov 14, Nov 28, Dec 12, Jan 9, Jan 23, Jan 30, Feb 13, Feb 20, Mar 5, Mar 19, Apr 2

Holiday Bushcraft at Wandlebury Fun, outdoor activities at Wandlebury for children aged 5-12yrs with Wild Thyme & Embers. £42 per child per day. Full info and booking at: www.wildthymeandembers.co.uk

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November 20th

Saving Grace (15)

December 11th

Miracle on 34th Street (U)

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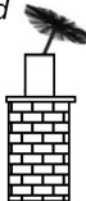
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GIVING TUESDAY Did you know that just after Black Friday, and Cyber Monday, is Giving Tuesday? This is a special day in charitable giving where individuals and communities can come together and raise money for local charities. This year the global celebration date is the 28th November and we are asking our Bottisham friends to think about ways they wish to engage with us this year. It could be as simple as using the donate now button on our website, shopping at the Co-op or with Give as you Live or thinking about volunteering some time to us. The cost-of-living crisis has been hard on everyone, but the UK charitable sector is facing huge cuts, and just starting a conversation with us can lead to so much engagement in the community!

CO-OP COMMUNITY FOUNDATION Thank you to all local Bottisham and Fulbourn residents who have shopped at the Co-op this year and have nominated us as their charity of choice! The final total is yet to be counted but we believe we have raised just over £1000 through the scheme to support the work at our community garden. The best bit of news is that we have been fortunate to be selected for the third year in a row, so please don't forget to nominate us as your charity of the year again this November. All proceeds in the coming year will be raising money for the mental health work we provide across our sites.

SAVE THE DATE! We are excited to announce that our Christmas carol service is returning this year for our clients and our local communities on the 6th December. The service at St. Mary's Church will be followed by refreshments, cake, plants, crafts, and a raffle at our barns in Swaffham Bulbeck.

We welcome you all to save the date in your diaries and keep an eye out for more information on the event to come.

RED2GREEN TASKFORCE: Do you have a task that could be completed in an hour by a group of our Aspirations learners? On Mondays and Tuesdays from January – March we are piloting the Red2Green Taskforce! Our group (maximum 7 clients at a time, fully supported) are looking for micro work experience opportunities and want to help their communities with anything from filing away books in a local library, litter picking, leaflet dropping, or anything else you can think of! Please contact Robyn Jarvis, robyn.jarvis@red2green.org if you have an idea and she can help you arrange a date.

Our Aspirations and Options services invite you to our

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

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At our September meeting, Wendy Bowen (wife of Revd Roger Bowen) gave us a talk on 'The Transformation of women's lives at the Jungle Doctor Hospital in Tanzania'

We began by looking at a modern map of Tanzania, highlighting Bunda in the north, where a girls' boarding school and safe house are built and supported by funds raised by the Anglesey Group of Parishes.

One hundred and sixty years ago missionary work began in Tanzania. The famous physician, explorer and missionary David Livingston (1813-1873) being one of the first. East Africa was divided into British and German spheres of influence by the Anglo-German agreement of 1886. British East Africa (now Kenya) came under the formal control of the British government in 1895, while immediately to the south lay German East Africa (now Tanzania). Germany not wanting Zanzibar or Uganda negotiated with Britain to acquire Heligoland and Britain take over Uganda and Zanzibar.

Soon after this the Anglican Church Mission Society (CMS) prioritised for conversion of Uganda. Not looking at the map realistically they thought the distance from Zanzibar to Uganda could be travelled by oxen and bullock carts. This turned out to be impossible due to the tsetse fly causing fatal harm to oxen. Arab slave traders from the middle east took a route from Dar es Salam, which the missionaries decided to use. Progress was very slow and their efforts ceased at Mpwapwa 108 km. from Dodoma (the current day capital of Tanzania).

We then looked at a 1930's map drawn in 1940, showing the railway from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma built by the Germans. Wendy drew our attention to the small town of Mvumi, 38 km from Dodoma. As the area became evangelised by the missionaries, a boarding school for girls and Jungle Hospital were built in Mvumi, and a small Cathedral in Dodoma. The hospital mainly dealing with maternity and gynaecology needs.



In 1960 Wendy and Roger came to live in the small village of Mvumi whilst at the Theological College. As a young girl Wendy had read many of the Jungle Doctor books written by Paul White. An Australian, Christian Missionary who established the hospital in Mvumi. Little did Wendy know when reading the books that she would actually give birth to her youngest son at the Jungle Hospital in 1969.

Girls were subjected to many harms, including disease, forced into marriage by their uncles, slavery, death in childbirth. Females were highly valued with wealth being valued in cattle. The uncles (not the father) of a female being given a cow when she married. Today it is not allowed to be valued in cattle. Boarding school is the best way of protecting



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girls from being abducted whilst travelling to and from school.

Wendy re-told an experience she encountered in 1965 that she will never forget. Living in a very rural area, with mainly none Christians living in the bush. One very dark African night 'Black as velvet', huge clouds, no stars or moon she woke to loud shouting and on looking out a young man was shouting "wake your husband and come to our home we need a hospital". She and Roger quickly responded and got in the car, and with the young man running ahead they made their way along very dark rural tracks. Eventually in the headlights they could see a very poor little house, with two figures standing outside. The headlights soon revealed a young woman of 16 her face in utter shock and dressed in sacking. Behind was an older woman clutching something in her arms. It was soon revealed the woman was clutching twin babies. In none Christian Africa when a woman gave birth to twins it was assumed the mother had been unfaithful, and her husband was not the father. Unless mothers were rescued the babies and in many cases their mother were killed. Roger and Wendy took the young mother and her twins to a place of safety at the Mission Hospital. Unfortunately, Wendy never knew what happened to them after. Those first missionaries got their priorities right by providing safety for girls and women, which has resulted in saving the lives of thousands of African females.

Our branch meetings usually take place on the third Thursday afternoon of each month in Passage Hall, Lode at 2.30pm. At our next meeting on Thursday 16th November we will be looking at the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, campaign which the Mothers' Union supports. You are most welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langran

Have you ever stopped of 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?
Well you can and very easily too. Come along to Meeting point on a Wednesday and have that cup of coffee with like-minded company



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Bottisham Community Library Association

Sixteen youngsters completed the Summer Reading Challenge entitled “Ready, Set, Go” and certificates and medals were presented to them on Saturday 16th September. Congratulations to them all.

We are hoping to restart our Story Telling and Rhyming sessions on Saturday mornings probably in the New Year. Watch this space!

We shall be selling **good quality books (all genres and suitable for all ages) at the Craft Fair to be held in Bottisham CSASC Main Hall on Sunday November 19th.** We shall have a large collection of **jigsaws too.**

Our annual library **Quiz has been booked for Saturday 17th February 2024.** This is our main fundraising event and has been most enjoyable in the past. We have unfortunately had to raise the charge to £9 per person but a substantial Ploughman’s Supper is provided. Please make a note of the date and come and support us.

The Lego Club has proved most popular and dates and topics are as follows

Saturday 18th November - Space

Saturday 9th December - Christmas

Details of opening times are elsewhere in the magazine.

Remember we have WIFI, we welcome new members especially children and are a Warm Hub.

Sylvia Overton

Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Charles Bradford from the Gog Farm Shop was our speaker and had brought tasters of sausages, British Brie, lovely peppermint chocolates followed by a taste of a very sweet pudding wine. All unexpected and fully recommended by members.

He had given up his London City Life to help his parents on the farm which had been in the family since 1919 and his father had been born there. He also liked the idea of the adjoining golf course! He was the inspiration of the well acclaimed farm shop and the produce that he sells has achieved many Great Taste Awards (28 in all) and most recently for the Beef Wellington and Chicken Kiev’s that he sells. He now employs 25 staff and supplies local restaurants. His suppliers are mostly from Norfolk and Suffolk. He survived Covid by setting up a delivery service and having a drive through shop where one paid by card on a selfie stick! Unfortunately the coffee shop is not functioning at present. He was glad he returned as saviour to his parents, it has been an interesting time, not without its setbacks but he remains very upbeat.

Next meeting is on Tuesday 28th November when **Simon White** will be talking and demonstrating **Wreath Making** in preparations for Christmas decorations.

Meetings are held in the Poppy Room at 7.30pm.

Sylvia Overton

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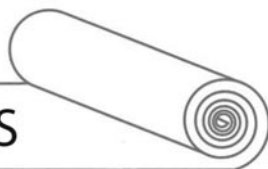


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Last month's article set out who East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) is and that the charity provides life-saving critical care 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year by air and road. This could be road traffic collisions and farm accidents, falls, strokes or cardiac arrests.

Having been tasked, by rapid response vehicle (RRV) or helicopter, the charity's specialist doctors, critical care paramedics and pilots bring the advanced skills, equipment and medicine directly to scene, in the fastest time possible. Patients are then often transferred to the most appropriate hospital to continue the process.

However, that's not the end of the journey for the patient and their family - far from it. Aftercare is and has become an important part of the support offered by EAAA. Understanding what happened during their pre-hospital treatment (and why) can be a huge step towards a positive recovery for patients. In 2022-23, EAAA's Aftercare service connected with over 450 people to offer practical and emotional support following a medical emergency.

Earlier this year, a patient who suffered a cardiac arrest in Cambridgeshire received early CPR and defibrillation from bystanders. The patient was transferred to hospital and made a good recovery thanks to this early bystander intervention. The patient and the bystanders then reconnected with EAAA through the Aftercare service, and, to 'square the circle,' a base visit was organised for them. I was able to attend this visit to go behind the scenes to see for myself some of the support offered by the charity.

From meeting the crew who attended, to understanding medical interventions that were carried out at scene, and some of the equipment used, I could see just how valuable this process was to everyone involved in the 'chain of survival' on the day. They all appreciated how comprehensive the whole EAAA process is in helping them to see the whole picture.

EAAA covers Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire 24/7 thanks to the continued support of the public. When you see, or perhaps just hear, an EAAA helicopter overfly your area or see one of the RRVs, this is potentially just the beginning of a journey for someone, so please do get in touch if you can help. Whether you volunteer, or play the weekly lottery, give a one-off or regular donation or even a bequest in your will, EAAA is OUR charity, there for everyone's potential benefit. **Together we save lives.**

Michael White, EAAA Volunteer

EAAA Aftercare team support patients and their relatives treated by EAAA. To contact the EAAA Aftercare service, email aftercare@eaaa.org.uk

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 November.

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

Have you thought of advertising your business in **The Cresset?**

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WHAT'S ON?

Saturday 18th November

Miguel and the Shipwreck Crew

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Bill Withers and many more. Entrance £5

Sunday 19th November - The Annual Craft Fair - 12-4pm - Free Entrance

Friday 24th November - OPEN MIC EVENING

MICS open at 7:30pm

Saturday 2nd December - Christmas Party with Calamity Jane

Fun & Games for only £3 per child - 4-6pm

Family Christmas Party, an afternoon of fun and laughter

**Monday 18th December - Newmarket Town Band and our big Christmas Draw
Entrance - Free!**

Come and join the band for a sing along.

NEW YEARS EVE - See the New Year in with 'Let's Get it on'

£10 a member or £15 for a non-member includes chilli supper.

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2024 events are being booked.

Watch out of the 'The Numbers' in March.

**Other events planned are quiz nights, cheese & wine evening, family fun days and
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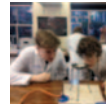
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Many thanks to all those who have visited the museum this year. We have had visitors from many parts of the world and locally, due to the brilliant reviews we've been having. Trip Advisor has put the museum in the top ten percent of attractions to visit in the world, alongside the Eiffel tower in Paris.

On Thursday 12th October we had another visit from the Mighty Eighth Museum in Savannah, United States of America. As with previous groups we gave them a guided tour of the museum and lunch. Afterwards they mingled with the volunteers who answered any questions they had.

Amongst the group was 101-year-old Captain John Luckadoo, a B17 Flying Fortress Pilot who flew with the 100th Bomb Group Based at Thorpe Abbots Airfield in Norfolk. A good time was had by all and it was a honour to meet the gentleman.

Don't forget we are still open Sundays till 12th November and Wednesdays until November 1st.

Charles Cook, - Museum Volunteer



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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Appointments: There were 47 missed appointments in August. Please inform the surgery if you are not going to attend your appointment so that other patients may benefit from using the slot.

Dispensary: There are still difficulties in getting delivery of supplies. Please continue to follow the 5 working day gap between ordering repeat prescriptions and collecting them..

Transport: There is a group looking at the current bus service and investigating what changes could be possible to improve this. They are including how it affects the patients from the village getting to the surgery for appointments and a survey will be set up to monitor this. Sadly we have not be able to reset up the dedicated car service for patients.

NAFFI Break: Next get together is on 1 November at 10am in the café at Anglesey Abbey cafe as usual. Gary will be wearing a green Help the Heroes shirt. This will continue in future months on the first Wednesday of the month.

The Patient Participation Group: As usual 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.

Change of Meeting: We have postponed the next meeting from December. This will now be at 6.30pm 25 January 2024 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meeting, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com.. Or speak to reception.



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Saturday 11th November 10.30am-1pm

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Christus natus est
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News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Earlier this year, the National Trust acquired an additional 15 acres (6.07 hectares) of arable land adjacent to the 24 Acres at Reach but separated from it by an Internal Drainage Board (IDB) ditch. The new land provides further opportunities for the National Trust to achieve their objectives of enhancing the habitats for the benefit of wildlife and providing access to nature for people.

One priority opportunity relates to Turtle Doves which historically used to be a regular summer presence locally. Unfortunately, British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) records show that the breeding farmland index list of birds have declined by more than 55% in the past 50 years, with loss of habitat a significant contributing factor. Turtle Dove, one of Britain's most iconic species, is now listed as globally threatened and is the UK's fastest declining species, with its breeding population falling by 99%.

Discussions with RSPB's Operation Turtle Dove (a national program set up to target habitat creation for the recovery of the species), identified the two plots of land as a suitable location to assist this species. To facilitate this recovery, the National Trust secured a Species Recovery grant from Natural England (NE). The grant will fund the creation of four UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats, allowing us to plant 635m of hedgerow, to establish wide arable field margins, lowland meadow and to create ponds. A wild bird crop will also be sown in the remaining arable area and a crossing point will be installed across the IDB ditch to join the two compartments via a permissive footpath from 24 Acres to Hightown Drive, providing an alternative green route between Burwell and Reach and offering greater access to nature for local communities. We're excited to be able to share this news and will keep you updated on progress.

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Bottisham Bird Brain

After last month's Starlings, I thought I would tackle another common, urban bird that we find sociable, confident, busy but relatively relaxed... the Jackdaw.

A member of the Corvidae family (Crows), 'Corvus monedula' is smaller than the Rook or Carrion Crow and is much more likely to frequent your garden and your roofs, probably in social or family groups. They are easily distinguished from their all-black relatives by a silvery-grey back of the head and nape, and noticeably pale eyes. Jackdaws are omnivorous, like most Corvids, eating all sorts



of insects, worms, fruit, seeds, scraps and even eggs and young birds, but they will dominate your garden feeders if you let them! One way of harmlessly discouraging them is to use the spring-loaded feeders where the perch drops to shut-off the supply of seeds when a heavier bird alights on it.

Remember I mentioned onomatopoeic bird names a few months ago...? Well, the Jackdaw's name comes from its harsh call, emitted when alarmed or excited: "tchack, tchack". But its taxonomical name, 'monedula', is even more interesting because it underlines Jackdaws' penchant for picking up shiny objects: it comes from the same Latin stem, 'moneta', as money or coin. How about that?!

Jackdaws are pretty successful; widespread throughout the UK (over 1.5 million pairs), except the Scottish Highlands where there are fewer easy pickings, and you'll find them in fields, woods and parkland as well as in urban areas. Around this time of year, they'll often be joining up with their larger relatives to roost together for the winter. They'll nest in various holes or crevices and will certainly make use of unused chimneys if they're unprotected. A few years ago, Mrs Bird Brain and I were constantly picking up sticks from our ornamental fireplace, dropped by the Jackdaws nesting above. The birds were obviously having to constantly repair their home as the disturbance from their comings and goings persistently dislodged the foundations. And, when we finally called the chimney sweep (after the breeding season), Mr Bristley collected two huge sacks full of twigs and various debris, after which we hurriedly installed a cowl!

The more superstitious among you might be interested to hear of the Jackdaw's presence in different pieces of folklore (perhaps depending on your particular brand of superstition). Seeing a Jackdaw en route to a Fenland wedding was considered a good omen, but if it landed on your roof, then it could be a portent of either a birth or a death. The ancient Greeks apparently believed that all Corvids were white, until Apollo turned them black as a punishment for them telling him of his wife's infidelity. Then, in early Christian legend, the crow family all took black plumage in mourning after the crucifixion. (There's a caveat in the legend regarding the closely-related Magpie – which is black and white – but you'll have to wait for the Magpie page at a later date!)

(Continued on page 43)

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(Continued from page 41)

It seems that man has found meaning in Jackdaw behaviour more readily than with other birds and this may be due to, not just the relative intelligence of crows generally, but to the Jackdaw's liking for eye contact. Furthermore, research (conducted in Cambridge) has found Jackdaws able to respond to human expressions, and there are examples of them being befriended and trained by humans (although of course it is illegal to keep a wild bird as a captive pet).

Things were not always this cordial though! Both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I classified Jackdaws as vermin under their respective Vermin Acts of 1532 and 1566, after poor grain harvests, and shooting of Jackdaws was commonplace until the late 19th Century when it became recognised that, not only were they less culpable for crop failures and game predation on managed land, but they could be helpful in some respects (e.g. pest control).

Call me an old romantic if you like, but one of my favourite things about Jackdaws is that – like many species – they pair for life. And there has been some interesting research into their social hierarchies. Austrian ornithologist Konrad Lorenz found that a single female Jackdaw, who ranks lowest in the pecking order, can boost her status by pairing with a male and assuming his seniority. She will then be accepted by others in the group, have equal access to food and be allowed to bully lower ranking females by pecking! Lorenz's work in the 1930s also found regular same-sex pairings among Jackdaws, particularly among those in captivity. Then Dutch researchers in the 1970s discovered that, when females in the wild lose a partner, they will often pair with another female, or even two other females, to form a same-sex union through which to protect their interests!

Things are not even as simple as that though! In 2012, the Cornish Jackdaw Project was set up to examine Jackdaws' social and sexual behaviour, and they have found a significant amount of non-monogamous behaviour, even though pairings are generally life-long! Males would sometimes mate with a second female partner and allow her eggs into the 'marital' nest; and occasionally a rogue male would visit and mate with a female at a nest when her partner was out! Who knew, eh?

Whilst my jottings concentrate largely on birds of local interest, it's perhaps worth mentioning that October (at the time of writing, so far) has been a spectacular month for rare visitors around the country. There are too many to name, but rarities include Red-Eyed Vireos in Yorkshire, a Wilson's Phalarope in Norfolk, a Red-Flanked Bluetail in Powys, and a Black-Browed Albatross off Plymouth! So keep watching and listening, folks; you never know what might randomly turn up on your doorstep!

TTFN - Gerry Daish

There is a bird, who by his coat,
And by the hoarseness of his note,
–Might be supposed a crow;
A great frequenter of the church,
Where bishop-like he finds a perch,
–And dormitory too.

From *The Jackdaw* by William Cowper

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CRESSET Editor: email: BottishamCresset@gmail.com	
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