



BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY OPEN FORUM

*** SAVE THE DATE ***

TUESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2023 at 7pm

FOLLOW UP FROM LAST MEETING - GOING FORWARD - HAVE YOUR SAY

Many of you joined us in March to express your concerns regarding anti-social behaviour, road safety, speeding and the need for better community engagement in our village. This meeting is to give you an update on the actions taken away from that inaugural meeting,

run through plans in progress and what has been implemented so far. It is also an opportunity for YOU to discuss things further with the panel.

We want to make this a really productive meeting. For that we need everyone with concerns to attend and help us bring these matters to the relevant authorities' attention. So, save the date and please spread the word.

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY 17THOCTOBER 2023

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Location:

Bottisham Sports & Social Club

Date & Time:

Tuesday 17thOctober 2023 Doors open 6.30pm - 7pm start

Meet Representatives From:

Cambridgeshire Police Constabulary

ECDC Community Safety & Projects Officer

Bottisham Village College & Community Primary School

County & District Councillor

Youth & Community Workers

September Issue 519

The sultry summer past, September comes, Soft twilight of the slow-declining year. All mildness, soothing loneliness, and peace; The fading season ere the falling come, More sober than the buxom blooming May, And therefore less the favourite of the world, But dearest month of all to pensive minds.



by Carlos Wilcox

Not that we have had much of a summer, but September usually signals the move from the heat of July and August to the cooler climes of October before winter steps in.

I do hope this year we do get an Indian summer, otherwise my barbecue will think it has been put on the scrapheap. Yet for all that we have had many dry days and the ground is still dry when you dig down. (At the time of writing).

The village is seeing its fair share of development going on. The 50+ houses on the south side are well underway, while the controversial retirement development on the flower meadow off the High St. has gone to appeal again. It seems odd that the plan, having been turned down by all levels of decision making right up to, and including, the Secretary of State, should be able to be challenged again, simply by the people with the money being able to tweak a line or two and go directly back to the Secretary of State (a different one) without the Local Authorities being able to have time allowed to review the revised plans. One begins to believe we have little control over what can be imposed on us. However, see below for an opportunity.

Another development which created debate was the Airfield museum's plan to fly helicopter pleasure trips twice a month to raise funds to pay their rent. The reason, apart from providing some modern flying experience, rather than purely looking at the history of the airfield, is a financial one. They have few sources of income and they have rent to pay for use of the field.

The magazine this month has several interesting items, the first of which comes straight to the point of having our say in what happens locally. The centrefold of the magazine is a 'pull-out' questionnaire to get your views on life in Bottisham. This is to create a Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan. This would then be used in any reaction to future development in the village. It is important that we all use this opportunity to record our thoughts.

Another very useful article is John Austin's Public Transport matters, which gives us the upto-date bus timetable. It seems to my eyes that more people are using the bus these days, judging by the gatherings I see at the bus stops throughout the day.

Then there is The Bottisham Bird Brain. Swifts this month, whose life cycle, which he outlines in detail, is quite remarkable. One does wonder how species evolve as they do when it seems there must be an easier way to live. However, that is what makes life so interesting and special.

Our cover picture this month is part of the lovely field of sunflowers opposite Muckdungle Corner (where the kebab van is).

Enjoy what is left of summer and I hope you have a great month. More next time.

Your Editor

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

It is with regret that I have to inform you that the only applicant for the position of Vicar of Anglesey Benefice withdrew just one week prior to the interview. However, the Anglesey Group churchwardens met together with the Archdeacon and Ely Cathedral representatives on the designated interview



date and as a result agreed that a new, slightly modified advertisement would go out in the Church Times in mid-September. Shortlisting and interview dates have also been penciled in. We are hopeful that we will make an appointment next time.

We have been in communication with Holly Isted, the Historic Buildings support officer at Ely Diocese, regarding the sad state of the church roof. She has responded by giving an update on the National Heritage Lottery Fund and informed us that a surveyor from Historic England is reading the report on our roof and hopes to revisit shortly.

The combination of sun, high temperatures and more recently rain, meant that the three areas of the churchyard grass which are left uncut for long periods of time had grown enormously. In early July the 'spring meadow' area was cut and at the end of July the 'summer flower 'and 'uncut' areas were duly mowed by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Huge amounts of grass had to be removed (part of the Ecofriendly churchyard rules) and I sincerely thank the team of volunteers who, at very short notice, duly raked, cleared and created huge piles of cut grass into small haystacks around the periphery of the churchyard. 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)

For many years we have had the benefit of a fine organist. However, from time to time he goes on holiday and we need to find others to stand in for our services when he is away. 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.

On Sunday August, the 6th we were privileged to host a service of Holy Communion led by the Bishop of Huntingdon, the Rt Revd. Dagmar Winter. Bishop Dagmar is also the acting Bishop of Ely, now that Bishop Stephen has gone to Lincoln to be the bishop there until he retires. There was a very large congregation present and all agreed it was one of the best services we have had. We were most grateful that she found the time to visit us here in Bottisham. On September 3rd Revd. Liz Caswell, a Bottisham resident, will come to lead our Communion service. Once again Ely is helping us out on Sunday October 1st when the Very Rev. Mark Bonner, the Dean of Ely Cathedral, will be taking our Sunday service. On September 17th Sarah Maxwell will be leading our Harvest Festival service when the food donated will be distributed to the local food bank.

Our toddler group will start to meet up again on a Tuesday morning starting around 9.30am in term time. All are very welcome to attend. A small team continues to take a service monthly at Hilton Park and Oaklands on the second Wednesday of the month. The increasing number of residents attending at Hilton Park has meant that the services now need to be held in a larger room.

We look forward to welcoming you to any of our services. Stuart Field Churchwarden

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BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB

Saturday 23rd September 2pm Until 4pm Bottisham Sports & Social Club, Downing Close

Donations Very Welcome - No Shoes Please.

Items can be brought to The Social Club from 10am on the Day Alternatively - We Can Collect Items, Just Call Cindy King 01223 811220 or email to Bottishambowlingclub@Gmail.com







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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sun Sep 3rd	9am	Online Service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Bottisham,
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Wed Sept 6th	8 pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) – online via Zoom
Sun Sep 10th	9am	Online Service on Zoom,
		Holy Communion – Quy
	10.30am	Family Worship - Swaffham Prior
Sun Sep 17th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30 am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck,
		Harvest Festival – Bottisham
Sun Sep 24th	9am	Online Service on Zoom
_	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Swaffham Prior,
	3pm	Harvest Festival – Quy
Every Thursda	y10.30am	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.

BOTTISHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB

at Bottisham Village College Henry Morris Lecture Room

Enter via main Reception - Term times only

Club Night Wednesday 7.15pm Thursdays League Matches

First meeting Wednesday 6th September 2023

New members 13th September 2023 4 weeks free trial

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Parish Council Report

The July Council meeting proceeded well, benefiting from having three new councillors co-opted at our June meeting. There remains one vacancy on the Council and I would ask readers to consider exploring if they could serve our community as a councillor. Please do not count yourself out thinking you are not qualified. If you are a resident, you are qualified and training is provided. Please feel free to contact our clerk if you would like to explore the matter further at clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk.

Community Safety Forum - 7pm 17th October - Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club Many residents attended the very successful Safety Forum in March. We have now set a date (17th October) for the panellists to report back to the community on progress in implementing the outcomes from the meeting. Please could I ask all residents to consider attending this important feed-back event, at which there will be further opportunity to dialogue with many of the authorities that influence community safety in our village.

Environment

- Quotations have been sought to replace the old wooden noticeboard on the triangle by
 the shops. The board will be replaced with a new metal board which comes with a 15
 year guarantee. The current provision is damaged and unfit for purpose. It is hoped
 that, once specifications are finalised, the board will be able to be installed within a
 few weeks.
- The Parish Council also discussed that other boards within the village may need replacing over a period of time, but this will be explored when the new noticeboard has been delivered.
- The Parish Council discussed that the area around the shops could be a potential site for a biodiversity project. This will be examined in more detail over the coming months.

Bottisham & Swaffhams Greenways Communication has been received from the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership in response to a joint letter sent on behalf of Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham Parish Councils about the Greenways project. This letter expressed concern about the process of initial consultation with East Cambs villages. However, after on-site consultations by the project team with the Parish Councils, the proposals are under review and new plans should be made available shortly. The joint assembly of Parishes will decide on next steps when they see the revised plans and will communicate back to residents accordingly.

Project Play A report from the Project Play working group was presented to the Parish Council, which outlined five potential sites for a play facility. However, these are all privately owned and access to the sites will be determined by the willingness of

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Continued from page 7

landowners to cooperate. It was discussed that consideration should be given as to whether it would be most appropriate to lease or purchase land, the former likely to be more acceptable to landowners. The Parish Council resolved that the working group should be given the authority to make initial enquiries with the landowners on behalf of the Parish Council

Six Oaks Renewable Energy Park You may be aware that RIDGE CLEAN ENERGY have submitted a planning application for the "SIX OAKS RENEWABLE ENERGY PARK" (using solar panels) on arable land just south of the A14 within the Bottisham Parish boundary. This is in a very isolated position and will have minimal impact on residents, while enabling Bottisham to play a part in combating climate change.

In recognition of the potential impact on their residents, RIDGE CLEAN have offered a "Community Benefit" of £25000/annum to local Parish Councils during the 40 projected years of operation. A meeting was held in June between the Parish Councils that have been approached by Ridge Clean, namely Bottisham, Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom.

The Parishes have asked Ridge Clean to consider raising their offer to match what we believe is being offered elsewhere. We have also communicated that we would prefer to administer the funds by setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), rather than utilise e.g. Cambridge Community Foundation that charges a 12.5% fee.

The most sensitive matter is the appropriate division of the funds between each Parish. Writing this at the end of July we are in the midst of discussions and will communicate the final arrangement in due course.

Bottisham Retirement Village Many if you will be aware that Axis Land Management are making a further appeal against the refusal by ECDC to give planning consent for a retirement village. ECDC's Planning Manager has requested an extension of time, as he is still gathering more information. However Axis Land Management has refused this request and has referred the matter to the Inspector (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on the basis of non-determination by ECDC.

The Planning Application will go to the ECDC Planning Committee on 6 September, at which Bottisham's District and Parish Councillors will again express their opposition to the proposals.

The applicant's appeal/enquiry is scheduled for review by the Inspector in w/c 16 October.

Jon Ogborn - Chair of Council

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

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 September.

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



To the Editor

Mrs Ellen Morris

It is with deep sadness I am writing to advise you of the passing of my mother Mrs Ellen Morris, at the age of 101, who was a resident of Maple Close, Bottisham for 58 years.

She moved to Bottisham, with my late father and three young children in 1963, as the 4th family to move into the "new" Park estate. She worked for a number of years at Crystal Structures in Tunbridge Lane, where she enjoyed the company of the other ladies working there.

When my father passed in 1998, Mum decided to stay in Bottisham, due to the friendly neighbours and village amenities and was seen regularly in the village shops etc. Eventually, in 2021, age and ill health determined that she move into a care home, and one was chosen close to where her daughter Sheila lived in Potters Bar, where she passed away peacefully on the 16th of August surrounded by her family.

Yours sincerely - Bob Morris



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District Councillors' Report

This Council's Youth Engagement strategy was discussed at the Operational Services Committee in June. As part of that strategy a Youth Fusion Event was held at Bottisham Sports Centre, showcasing opportunities and support for young people across the District. Two other events were held in Littleport and Soham. It is hoped that similar events will be held across the District in future. Those who missed the events can find out more about services for Young people at - https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/youth-pages/welcome-ecdcyouth-webpages We also agreed the updated Environment Plan with the actions for the current year. The plan commits East Cambs to reducing the carbon from its operations by at least 80% by 2030. This is a welcome, but challenging target and there was no clear plan to achieve it, so we supported an amendment calling for officers to draft a plan for achieving the target. The meeting reviewed the finance report for the Committee's areas of responsibility and noted a revenue overspend of £742,000 - 13% of budget. Just under £500,000 of this overspend was the increased fee to ECSS for waste collections. There was an almost £3million underspend on capital, due to delays in programmes – notably the Disabled Facilities programme. In response to her question Charlotte was assured that the Council were taking actions to try to get this programme back on schedule, so that people with disabilities can have the necessary adaptations to their homes.

We also had a very interesting presentation from Voluntary and Community Action East Cambs. Although they are based in Ely, they are happy to help around the District – they offer a community transport scheme and a gardening scheme for people who need help with their gardens. If you need help with transport, and the village schemes cannot assist then contact 01353 666 553 or email carscheme@vcaec.org.uk. If you need help with your garden contact 01353 666 556 or email gardening@vcaec.org.uk.

Finance & Assets Committee in July noted that the Council as a whole had a revenue underspend of almost £2million and a capital underspend of almost £2million. The Committee appointed people to outside bodies and John was appointed to the Swaffham Internal Drainage Board.

Full Council in July approved the Corporate Plan for 2003-7 and the actions for 2003-4. At the meeting we made the point that the street improvement actions should not be limited to towns and Ely City and that streets needed to be well kept in villages too. We welcome the recognition in the Plan that the Planning Service, waste collection and street cleaning need to be improved. We are also pleased to see that after refusing our proposals to start the new Local Plan process, as recently as February this year, they are finally starting the process with preliminary work on a new Climate Chapter and budgeting for work to start on a new local plan from 2024/25.

Audit Committee approved the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022, and these have now been published. The External Auditors were unable to present their plan for auditing the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023, or even give a timetable, because of the significant backlog in auditing Local Authority Accounts across the country.

Continued on page 13

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Continued from page 11

The Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee met in June and elected Charlotte as their Chair. The Committee had the opportunity to question the Mayor and his teams about their plans for Cambridgeshire. There is a new senior management team and they are planning to move initiatives forward, including supporting skills training and better public transport.

Charlotte is meeting with the Mayor and his Director of Transport after this article goes to press to discuss the problems caused now that the number 11 bus no longer stops at Bottisham. She will report back on the outcome next month. The government gave the Mayor an extra £2.3m for buses this year, which sounds a lot until you realise that the budget for subsidising the buses across the County – including the number 11 bus – is £7m each year. Under the current system bus operators choose which routes to run commercially, and keep all the profits from those routes, and local authorities have to subsidise any non-profitable routes which they feel should be kept running. The Mayor is considering franchising buses where the Combined Authority would be responsible for all routes and would pay companies to run them, keeping the profits to help off-set the subsidies.

The next meet your Councillors is on Wednesday 20 September at 6.30pm at Brinkley Memorial Hall.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 September.

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

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Cambridge, Past, Present & Future - A colourful month of activities



Wandlebury abuzz as New Pollinator Garden Open

Local charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future has created a pollinator garden at Wandlebury Country Park. The new garden was officially opened by Professor Ed Turner, Curator of Insects at Cambridge University Museum of Zoology, who spoke about the link between plants and pollinators and how important it is to help insects, which are in global decline.

The garden has been built in a sheltered area of the park to create a peaceful place where visitors can appreciate the flowers and the insects that pollinate them. A beautiful handmade oak bench has been installed next to the garden. The flower bed is backed by a charismatic 18th-century wall and this is being used to display butterfly plaques designed by celebrated nature artist Eleanor Chaney.

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is encouraging people to get involved with the garden and to help support the charity's work by dedicating a plaque to celebrate a special person or event. Donors can choose a plaque inspired by four native British butterflies by making a suggested donation of £199. See here for more information about the pollinator garden and how to order www.cambridgeppf.org/appeal/butterfly-plaques

James Littlewood, CEO of Cambridge Past, Present & Future is delighted "we are incredibly grateful for all the help we have received; the garden was designed by a volunteer and alongside our staff team, volunteers have to helped to dig out the new bed, lay a new path and plant the flowers. They are also now working hard weeding and watering so that the garden can get established. We hope that visitors to the park will be inspired to help pollinating insects in their own garden or window box."

The construction of the garden has been supported by grants from South Cambridge District Council Community Chest and the Cambridge Water Pebble Fund.

The garden is part of Wandlebury Country Park just 2 miles from the city centre. There are 140-acres of woodland, meadows and fields open dawn til dusk every day of the year and is free to enter with a small car parking charge for non-members. Supported by a warden service visitors can enjoy a games field, den building, discover wildlife in the viewing hide and book a BBQ area. There is a wildlife pond, 8km of paths, off road mobility scooter and a toilet. A pop-up café is onsite 10-5pm every Thursday – Sunday and every day in school holidays. Dogs are very welcome and must be kept on a lead at all times.

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ST JOHN'S PLAYERS, FULBOURN

AUDITIONS FOR OUR FEBRUARY 2024 PRODUCTION OF ABIGAILS PARTY

Auditions Summary

The time: One evening. Summer 1977.

The situation: A suburban house in Romford, Essex.

Beverly and her husband Laurence host a drinks party for a few neighbours in their suburban house.

The guests are Angela, and her husband Tony who have recently moved in to their nearby house, and Sue, a divorcee whose daughter Abigail is having a rowdy party on the same road.

The simmering tension, resentment, jealousy and arrogance that play over out over the evening builds perfectly as the drinks are poured and not supplemented with enough crisps and "cheesy pineapple ones".

As the play is set in the 1970's, the actors will be required to smoke herbal cigarettes and/or cigars during the production run although not in all rehearsals.

Summary:

Written by Mike Leigh, Abigail's Party is widely recognised as one of the most important plays of the last 50 years. Its power lies in combining sharply observed comedy with casting a spotlight on relationships and society. Although it was written in the 1970's, its themes are timeless.

The Characters:

Laurenceestate agent25 to early 40'sBeverlyLaurence's wife, former beautician,25 to early 40'sAngelanurse25 to early 40'sTonyAngela's husband, computer programmer25 to early 40'sSuedivorced mother of Abigail50's

The actor playing Laurence will need to grow a moustache for the production, and the actor

playing Tony will need to grow a beard.

Audition Dates: at 7.30pm: Townley Hall, The Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn, CB21 5BS

Monday 4th September / Wednesday 6th September /

Wednesday 13th September

Rehearsal dates: Monday and Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 from 30th October 2023

Production week: Monday 19th to Saturday 24th February 2024

Director: Nick Gulvin. **Producer:** Claire Milner

More Information: Contact Nick Gulvin at njgulvin@gmail.com

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Summer Success at the Community Garden.

On Sunday 30th July we hosted our first post-pandemic summer fair at our community garden in Bottisham.

The weather stayed mostly dry but windy for us and a huge amount of cake and sausage rolls were consumed by visitors and volunteers alike!

The market style vibe to the day allowed visitors to wander around the whole garden and pick up freshly picked veg, a range of plants and herbs, as well as handmade crafts and then stop off at the tombola for a chance to take home a prize.



Overall, the day was a huge success, and we raised an amazing £827.28!

Our Christmas fair (we apologise for using the C word so early in the year) will be hosted at our barns in Swaffham Bulbeck but watch this space for more event details soon.

We still have plenty of fresh veg for sale so why not pop by, Monday - Friday, 9:30-16:00. Volunteering Opportunities

We are looking for volunteer minibus drivers to take clients and support workers on day trips to places such as local National Trusts and the Cambridge Botanic Gardens. Training can be provided but driving license is a must! If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering with us this year, please do let us know at info@red2green.org

Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

AUTUMN TERM BEGINNING AT 10.30AM ON THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER.

We are pleased to announce the return of a firm favourite, Marina Burrell, who will lead us on a literary adventure with a ten-week course entitled 'RUSSIAN LITERATURE through RUSSIAN EYES'.

We will discuss the role of Russian Literature in world culture through a Russian perspective, analysing some literary samples from Pushkin, Tolstoy, Gogol, Chekhov and Silver Age poetry. Also discussing the life and works of Pasternak and Alexievich.

The course will be a Power Point presentation supplemented with period artefacts, links to videos and audio materials.

Please note there will be a break for half term on **Thursday 26th October**. The fee will be £40 plus a £5 joining fee for non-members.

We look forward to seeing you at Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club, Downing Close for this course. New members are always welcome.

For more information email bottishambala@btinternet.com

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Bottisham WI

Three meetings to cover and a big first to report as men (yes men) were invited to our June meeting to hear David Duker speak about "One of our Own - WW2 fighter pilot".

With a keen interest in WW2 history David was privileged to be offered by the sons of Squadron leader Ekins a box of memorabilia stored in the garage. They had no idea of its significance as their father never spoke about the war. His diary, log books, dog tags, pilot's wings, photographs and even his silk escape map were found. He joined the RAF in 1939 in the volunteer reserve and quickly gained his wings flying initially a Blackburn B2 which is now preserved in the Shuttleworth Collection.

The Battle of Britain began in July 1940 and it was imperative that Britain managed to gain air superiority against the Germans as soon as possible so he joined No 11 squadron flying Hurricanes. He was based in Kenley and it was there he met Margaret Kimber who was a plotter with the WAAF. There was a real baptism of fire for the young men many in their 20's. 100 of aircraft strong their tactic was to fly directly into the enemy and he gained 30 hours experience and scrambled many times. He suffered the loss of his friends. On 5th September the cards were very much in Germanys favour. The squadrons 8 planes confronted 120 planes of the enemy, then there were only 4 then only 3. But on 7th September Germany changed tactics and concentrated on bombing cities and ultimately the Blitz. He then joined 501 squadron and flew many sorties until his luck ran out. He was shot through his back and was forced to eject. But he landed with his parachute on fire in a Canadian field hospital and was quickly transferred to a main hospital. 8 weeks later he was back in the air. Hitler finally gave up. 544 pilots had been killed – it was the first defeat for Germany and Winston Churchill made his famous speech. Squadron Leader Ekins was involved in bombing in Europe once the Germans invaded Europe and was eventually shot down whilst escorting bombers and became a prisoner of war. He had suffered 19 months of stress. He was awarded the DFC and died in 1993. His memorabilia is now in the Kent Battle of Britain museum. David now talks to school children of the Battle of Britain and tries to explain how brave these young men were and encourages them to consider how they would behave if they had to confront a similar problem now.

Kevin Boardman enthralled us in July with his talk on the Oregon Trail. From 1843 -1860 400,000 brave people made the 2,500 difficult journey to open up America. The eastern side of America was the home of the native American Indian and 640 acres of land was offered to those searching for gold, in debt, doing a midnight flit or for religious reasons i.e. Mormons. They encountered forests mountains, wide rivers, torrential rains and arid plains to make a fresh start and find a better climate zone. They had to take all their belongings, tools, spares and provisions with them for the 6month journey. The whole family went in groups of 30/40 wagons and the women kept diaries with the odd line or two from the men. Kevin has promised to return as a speaker to explain further based on these. I can't wait and will write further when he does.

In August over 50 members partners and friends enjoyed a tea party in Jane Morris's garden to celebrate the Coronation. Marquee and gazebos were to hand to protect the tables with their

Continued on page 23



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Continued from page 21

vintage tablecloths, fine china and carnation sprays. We were treated to a fine range of sandwiches, freshly made scones (both cheese and fruit) and a choice of cakes and tea with prosecco or fruit juice as we arrived. A veritable feast and ably served by committee family members. A lovely afternoon and the rain held off.

Next meeting is Tuesday 19th September when Barry Carter will tell us about Cambridge Search and rescue.

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room.

Sylvia Overton

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Flu Vaccinations: These will be held on the mornings of 23 and 30 September. Patients eligible for these will be invited to attend. Please wait for the invitation. Details will be on the website.

Training: The surgery will be closed on the afternoon of 19th September for staff training. **Survey Results**: These reveal that 88% of patients reported as being satisfied with the Practice

Missed Appointments: Please cancel your appointment if you are not going to attend so that it can be allocated to another patient. In June 58 appointments were missed and 44 in July.

Donations: Thank you to patients who have sent donations or left them in the red bucket. This will help provide items for the surgery.

The Patient Participation Group: We are happy to have 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 Meeting: Next meeting is due on Wednesday September 27th 2023 time to be decided. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. However due to administration changes at the Practice the meeting details may have to be changed.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 September.

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



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

On Saturday 8th July we celebrated twenty years of volunteers running the public library in Bottisham. We were the first to take the plunge after the closures and no one envisaged that we could maintain the service for so long.

Our 20th Anniversary celebration on a sunny morning was well supported, Public library staff and the Parish council were represented and several volunteers who were with us from the start. Clare Enright had even travelled from Derbyshire (by public transport!!) to support us. Thank you to you all.

Jenny Rankine, the College Principal welcomed all and Marian Earle our chairman thanked Margret Coles, Rosemary Jolley and other committee members for their organization of the day. Books were on sale, children signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge, we had a quiz, Ian Whates a local



author read and spoke generally about his work, refreshments were served and a celebration chocolate cake made by one of the College staff was enjoyed by all.

The Art competition judged by Jamie Sugg was won by Aurora Di Lorenzo for the under 7's, Teal McCabe in the 7-12 class and Hanna Stewart in the 13-16 age range. Congratulations to all three.

Many youngsters signed up to the **Summer Reading Challenge** entitled "Ready, Set, Read" that day and awards will be presented at on Saturday morning session on **16th September**.

We have held primary school visits from Bottisham Primary School in the summer term for several years. Each class with their teacher visits during a Wednesday morning session and they do an activity provided and resourced by the library volunteers on a topic relevant to the class. The children have an opportunity to look around and to borrow a book.

Our local MP Lucy Frazer came to the library one Friday evening as she was unable to attend our anniversary celebrations. A low-key visit but she was impressed with the number of our volunteers (big display board in the foyer) and surprised to hear that we were self - funding. Fortunately there was a steady flow of borrowers that evening to show how useful we are to the community

Our AGM is to be held on **Tuesday 12th September** and Louise Aldridge the Public Library Service Manager hopes to be able to attend.

The Lego Club is in action again on Saturday 2nd September

Sylvia Overton

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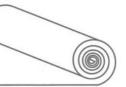


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23rd September
Queens Court Care Home - 21st October

Further Information:

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am for approx. 1.5 hours

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



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Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan



We are looking for your help to shape the future of our local area by creating a neighbourhood plan. Preparing this enables our community to create a vision for our local area and set objectives that would help achieve this and shape its sustainable development and growth. It's your opportunity to influence housing development and improve/provide facilities developed alongside in Bottisham Parish for the next 15 to 20 years. It can also help identify and protect local green spaces as well as having a voice on environmental, transport and employment matters. For this we need your help and hope that participation in this survey will be as wide as possible throughout our village. This survey is being carried out by Bottisham Parish Council. The questionnaire should take around 10 -12 minutes to complete. Please complete your questionnaire by 15th October 2023. Thank you for participating in this survey, your input is greatly appreciated.

Please tear this out of your Cresset and drop in the Co-Op (box marked Neighbourhood Plan). Copies of this questionnaire can be found there too.

Once the answers are collated, a Bottisham parish-wide event will be held at the Sports & Social Club to present the findings.

All answers will be confidential.

Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan																
Q1. What age group are you?																
<18		18- 24		25- 34												
Q2 . W	Q2. What is your ethnic group?															
Q3 . Ho	ow ma	any pe	eople	are in y	your	house	ehold?	>								
1				2				3-5				6	+			
Q4 . Ho	ow ma	any ac	lults (over 18	3) in	your h	nouse	hold?								
1					2						3+					
most ir	mport	ant ch	oice	nost ab	out li	iving ir	n Botti					10 wi	ith "1"	' bei	ing y	our/
		ommı								quiet			`			
	Attractive/varied countryside Mix of buildings (old & new) Play/sporting facilities Local medical services/hospitals															
Ease of access to Cambridge/Newmarket Local educational provision																
Gree	Green spaces in the village Range of community activities															
Q6. What other things do you like about Bottisham?																

Bottisham	Neighl	bourhood	Plan
------------------	--------	----------	------

Q7. What do you least like about living in Bottisham? Please rank 1-8 with "1" being you	ır
greatest dislike?	

Too remote	Poor infrastructure / transport							
Too much car traffic	Poor local services							
Few community activities for young people	Limited employment opportunities							
Not enough / unaffordable housing	To large an education provision							
Q8. What other things do you dislike about Bot	tisham?							
Q9. What features/facilities in Bottisham would you like to retain ie historical areas/sites, community assets, Village sign location, educational facilities, shops etc								
Q10. Bearing in mind that (i) the village popular 2021, and (ii) the Bell Road/Ox Meadow develor do you feel that more houses are required in B	opment will yield 50 more houses for rent/sale							
Yes	No							
Q11. Which areas and "views" in and around E development?	Bottisham should be protected from							

Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan

Q12. What do you consider the main transport issues within the local area? Please rank 1-5, with "1" being the biggest issue

Frequency of bus service	Parking	
Volume of traffic	Provision of footpaths	
Provision of safe cycle routes		

Q13. Do you consider that Bottisham needs more employment opportunities within it?

Yes	No	

If "Yes", please explain why you think this and what kind?

Q14. How often do you use these community facilities within the parish?

Facility	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never
Bus service					
Co-Op/Post Office					
The Bell pub					
Cycle routes					
Existing playgrounds					
Footpaths					
Church					
Sports & Social club					
Takeaways/restaurants					
Medical practice					

Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club.

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We are looking for Bar Staff. If you are interested and have bar experience, please contact us. Contact details below.

What's on?

Saturday 16th September - Charlie Brown - entrance £5 - 7:30pm Start The soul man himself is with us again for an evening of soul and Motown.

Saturday 21st October - Bowls Club Fundraiser - Quiz Night Time to test your knowledge.

Saturday 28th October - Family Disco with AJ - 5-8pm
Entrance only £1 child £3 adult
A Halloween special for families, dress up as your favourite character.

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

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 are back & 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. A great band with great sounds.

Please refer to the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk for the latest information. If you wish to be updated with the latest news, please email bottishamsasc@gmail.com
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Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)



I would like to start this month by thanking everyone who has visited the museum this year. Our visitor numbers so far this season are up by two hundred percent on last year, and we had a very successful Nineteen Forties weekend on 1st - 2nd July, with over 1,000 visitors attending.

On Sunday 16th July Mr. Joseph Piotrowski and his family visited from America and we recreated the photos of his Grandfather Edward Marevka standing in front of our Mustang, as he did almost 79 years ago to the day. Mr. Piotrowski's family were shown the exhibit dedicated to Edward which tells his story of being shot down and taken to Stalag Luft Ill.

On Sunday 29th October we have an additional attraction of reenactors giving weapon demonstrations and tours of the wartime bunker.

We still have two more events at the museum this year, more information to follow next month.

The museum and cafe are open every Sunday and Wednesday from 10.30am to 4.00pm. Anyone who is interested in volunteering in the café on Wednesday or Sunday please contact the museum on 01223 813952 and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Charles Cook. Museum Volunteer





Public Transport Matters

The bus timetables for the 12 (Newmarket - Bottisham – Cambridge, and vice-versa) change slightly from Monday 4th September, with some buses at the beginning and the end of the day changing time by up to 10 minutes, earlier or later. The new timetable for the 12 is printed below. Keep this handy so that you don't miss the bus after the timetables change.

Service 12 bus timetable from Monday 4th September 2023 Mondays to Saturdays only

Newmarket Bus Station	06:30	07:20	08:25	09:30	10:27	Then	27		16:27	17:30
Bottisham High Street	06:47	07:37	08:42	09:47	10:44	each	44	12H	16:44	17:47
Cambridge Airport	06:56	07:46	08:51	09:56	10:53	hour	53	till	16:53	17:56
Cambridge Bus Station	07:10	08:00	09:05	10:10	11:07	at:	07		17:07	18:10

Cambridge Bus Station	07:15	08:10	09:15	10:18	Then	18		14:18	15:18	16:18	17:18	18:20
Cambridge Airport	07:27							14:30	15:31	16:31	17:31	18:32
Bottisham High Street	07:35	08:34	09:35	10:38	hour	38	till	14:38	15:42	16:42	17:42	18:40
Newmarket Bus Station	07:52	08:52	09:52	10:55	at:	55		14:55	16:00	17:00	18:00	18:55

Timetables for the 11 (serving Lode Crossroads, the Swaffhams and Burwell) are unchanged but buses on the 11 will now follow a slightly different route in Newmarket and will therefore be serving the stop at Newmarket Academy.

The changes to the 12 have been done for a number of reasons. Firstly, to fit buses more closely to the Bottisham Village College student attendance times (and thank you to the College and to councillors for working hard to make this happen); and, secondly, to ensure that the scheduled timetables better reflect the prevailing traffic conditions. A third reason is to enable better connectivity at Newmarket at the morning peak (0620 to 0825) with buses from Fordham, Soham and Ely, and in the evening peak (1540 to 1900) with buses back to there. This means that people working in Bottisham and living in these places will now be able to get here (and back again) more easily by bus.

The new timetables will be on Stephensons' website at www.stephensonsofessex.com, while they will also appear in the latest version of the glossy leaflets that Stepehensons have available on-bus for passengers to take away.

Readers may have read in the national media about the planned closure or reduced hours of rail station ticket offices which the government has been pressurising the rail companies to adopt. These plans have proved controversial, and the consultation period has been extended in consequence, but unfortunately will be finished by the time this article appears. In a later article I'll post about what has actually been decided, following the consultation.

An alternative to trains for long-distance journeys, of course, is Express Coach services.

continued on page 41



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continued from page 39

The network of these has changed a lot over the years, and particularly since Express Coach services were 'deregulated' in 1980, 5 years before buses were. But both Cambridge and Newmarket have always been quite well served by Express Coaches, and in the summer the international coach operator Flixbus announced that it was introducing a new service from Cambridge to Paris. This has stops at Parkside and at Trumpington Park & Ride: details are at www.flixbus.com

Happy travelling!

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National Rail Enquiries www.nationalrail.co.uk or 03457 48 49 50

John Austin

Bottisham and District Gardening Club

On a warm and sunny Midsummers Day, members enjoyed a visit to the gardens at Helmingham Hall in Suffolk. The displays were outstanding. We were not the only ones to appreciate them, the local bee population was much in evidence. An added attraction was a sculpture trail of very varied exhibits, which will be sold in support of cancer charities. Many of us rounded off our day with a cooling purchase from the ice cream parlour in the courtyard. Many thanks to Julia Green for organising a Grand Day Out.

The July meeting was well supported and many members and one visitor enjoyed strawberries and Pimm's. A quiz prepared by Cindy King was appreciated and won by Enid Buckett. The Don Bedford Cup for the best rose was won this year by Dick McLaughlin, a beautiful bloom which was a clear winner. Sadly, Tricia was not there to share the glory as I'm sure she would have had a hand in its success.

The next meeting is Tuesday 26th September when Charles Bradford will be talking about the Gog Magog Farm Shop

Thanks to Valerie Leake and Julia Green for their reports as I missed both meetings.

Meetings are held in the Poppy Room at 7.30pm. Sylvia Overton



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News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

By early September, most swallows are preparing to migrate, and we often see them clustered in groups on telegraph wires.

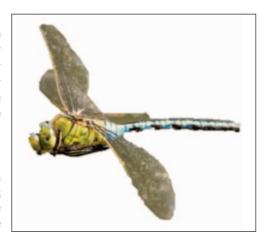
Many birds are leaving their breeding grounds to head south for the winter, but there's still plenty to see around the reserve. Many dragonflies are still on the wing, including the larger migrant hawker, southern hawker and emperor. There should also still be the purple globes of devil's bit scabious amongst the wildflowers still in bloom.

Pop-up Dragonfly Walk

Did you know that Wicken Fen is home to 24 species of dragonfly and damselfly? We'll be hosting free pop-up dragonfly walks with the British Dragonfly Society in August and September – keep an eye on our social media channels for the next dates.

Lino Print Workshop – 17 September 23

Local mixed media artist, Judith Handley, will be leading a lino printing session, taking inspiration from the natural world. Tickets are £65 and are available from our website.



Mucky Pups – 22 September 23

Our popular Mucky Pups outdoor adventures resume in September after the summer break. The sessions are for pre-school children (aged 2+) who enjoy getting grubby, with seasonal activities, crafts and stories. £7 per child, accompanying adult free. Booking is essential via our website

Vision Festival – 23 September 23

Join us to celebrate our Vision project and Footprints Project – we'll be offering activities that we have been developed thanks to our National Lottery Heritage Fund grant. Enjoy a wellbeing walk, handle artefacts we have found during archaeology activities, see the photographs of the natural world that young people produced, and much more. Full details available on our website

For the latest reserve information, please visit our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen Details of our events can be found at https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on

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Bottisham Bird Brain

I hope everybody has been enjoying our somewhat erratic summer. I decided on this month's topic whilst sitting in the garden one balmy evening when the peace was suddenly shattered by the excited screams of a small group of Swifts careering between the houses, chasing insects. (By the way, who knew that the collective noun for a flock of Swifts is a 'scream'?) By the time you read this, there will be precious few Swifts left in the UK as the majority will already be on their Autumn migration back to the warmer climes of central



Africa, where they'll follow the sub-Saharan rains to find the densest insect populations.

But I wanted to share with you my fascination for Swifts, an interest developed as a kid after I read that a young Swift flies for three years, non-stop, after fledging from the nest, only landing when it's ready to breed. It even sleeps on the wing, cat-napping for a few seconds at a time whilst gliding at night! I remember doing a double-take on this because is seems incomprehensible to a human that a creature could maintain such a marathon of movement without depleting its energy reserves completely! So, let's have a detailed look at this remarkable bird: Apus apus.

The Swift is a uniformly dark brown bird with the exception of a white 'bib' under the chin and its rapid beating of long, slender, scythe-shaped wings give it a rather busier demeanour than a swallow (which is dark blue and has much longer tail streamers). The beak is tiny, but the gape of the mouth is wide to facilitate feeding. The feet are also very small and weak: ok for clinging onto a vertical surface using the claws, but having little power to enable the bird to take off from the ground if it's exhausted. So, if you ever find a grounded Swift, it may already be too far gone to survive, but it's worth a rescue attempt if it's alive. Simply pick up the bird, put it into a box lined with some comfortable fabric, and find an expert to take over... contact the RSPB or 'Swift Conservation' (details at the foot of this article).

We are lucky to have Swifts at all really. They only visit these shores long enough to breed – around a three to four-month stay between May and August – and their migration is triggered by the reduced availability of flying insects and airborne spiders – their sole source of nutrition.

A single swift may gather as many as 100,000 insects per day whilst feeding chicks, covering an average of c. 500 miles in the process. Typically, they feed at a height of between 50 and 100 metres but are adaptable to exploit different conditions, dropping to feast on a swarm over a pond, or rising to 1,000 metres where turbulence has forced their prey upwards. They are selective though... taking the largest insects that they can swallow, whilst avoiding anything that stings. And they have the ability to collect up to 1,000 insects in the throat which is mixed with saliva to produce a ball to be either eaten or taken to the nest. Hydration is achieved by catching raindrops or skimming a mouthful of water from the surface of a pond. Just imagine the precision required by such an operation when the cost of making a mistake is almost certainly death!

(Continued on page 47)

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(Continued from page 45)

Swifts are one of many bird species that pair for life – a bond often formed in adolescence, when the birds may be only a year old – and, once mature, they will usually be faithful to the same nest site, year on year. Swifts like to nest in a chamber of some description, which is furnished with materials gathered on the wing, e.g. feathers, straw, hay, seeds, cemented together with saliva, and accessed by a small hole. Young birds looking for their first nest site will often bang their wings on an entrance to a prospective site to see if any occupants complain, before deciding whether to move in, fight for supremacy, or look elsewhere! In modern times, their traditional nest sites – cliffs, crags, caves, holes in trees – were largely replaced by nesting in town and city buildings. But the modernisation of buildings has resulted in a severe loss of suitable sites and, allied with the increased use of pesticides reducing the insect population, the Swift suffered a severe decline in numbers – over 50% - in the 20 year period to 2015.

The Swift, as a British bird, is not in any immediate danger with number currently around 60,000 pairs but the decline is serious enough for them to have been added to UK Conservation's Red List in 2021 to try and bring some focus to the recovery efforts. There is now an annual Swift Awareness UK Week every July during which various interest groups across the country are encouraged to create events and working parties to increase the availability of nest sites. Nest boxes have proved attractive to pairs of Swifts who may not otherwise have found a home and those sited in church belfries, in particular, seem to be favoured by the birds. But anyone can get involved in the effort to save our Swifts. The RSPB, among others, now sell a specially-designed Swift nest box which can be attached high on the walls of any house, preferably more than one at a time. And the building industry is being encouraged to install internal nest boxes called 'Swift Bricks' in new developments as well as in the refurbishment of older buildings.

Next year, I plan to try one or two Swift boxes. Why not join me and we can report developments on this page!

For further information, advice, or to get involved:

https://www.rspb.org.uk https://www.swift-conservation.org http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com

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Oh, how we envy thee thy lovely swerves!
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from The Swift - Wilfred Owen (c. 1916)

TTFN - Gerry Daish

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