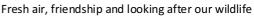


Village Litter Picks 2024/25



Bring your gloves and join us for refreshments afterwards

Starting Location	Date	Month
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	December
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	January
Queens Court Care Home	8	February
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	8	March
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	April
Queens Court Care Home	10	May
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	7	June
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	12	July

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at $\underline{10:00am}$ Ways to keep in touch with updates:

- Join the Bottisham Village Litter Pick WhatsApp Group
- Visit either the <u>Bottisham Events Facebook Page</u>
- Visit the <u>Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page</u>

Bellringers Celebrate

John Mark McCrae, one of our teenage ringers, who learned to ring at Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck, rang his first quarter peal on Sunday 13th October at St Mary's. He rang the heaviest bell (10 cwt) for 45 minutes without stopping, providing the rhythm for

the other five bells who were ringing in front of him. The quarter peal, to a method (pattern) called Reverse Canterbury, was rung to celebrate Carol Kitson's fifty years of membership of the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers. Carol is based at Bottisham and she encouraged John Mark to start ringing, so it was particularly appropriate that he rang his first quarter peal to celebrate her membership.



Jo Jones, Tower Captain, St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck

From left to right - Martin Kitson, Lesley Boyle, John Mark McCrae, Carol Kitson, Jo Jones, Clare Wilkes, Brin Wilkes, Gareth Davies.

December Issue 533

Season's Greetings to all our readers

December has arrived and the buildup to the main event of the year is underway.

I hope you all will have a wonderful Christmas and are able to enjoy every minute of it. That can be ably assisted by all the events that are taking place over this month right here in the village.

You will be very aware of the changes that have taken place at The Bell, and now they are open again under the new management team of Adam & Kieran. It is great to see that the local pub is being run by local people and is sure to appeal to local people. They have already organised some Saturday night entertainment on the run up to Christmas and we wish them well in their new venture. Watch for more in The Cresset in the new year.

The Social Club too has a string of events running up to and over Christmas and New Year. The Annual draw night is always the highlight of December with a huge Prize draw with dozens of prizes.

In addition to that, The Newmarket town band will be there as usual to get us in the mood with music and carols. A great fun night. Don't miss is.

Usually by this time of year, we can talk about the cold weather and disrupted travel plans because of snow etc. (See the cover picture from some years ago). But the weather recently has been very mild with temperatures well up in the teens and so far, as I write, not a touch of frost to kill off the flowers, many of which are still in bloom. Adding to that confusion are the bulbs which must think they missed winter and have started to put their noses up through the soil!

There are a few particular things to pick up on in this month's magazine.

First is the detail in the surgery's report which urges us to respond to the questionnaire that is out regarding the introduction of a 'Digital Portal' for access to any of our NHS services, from GP appointments right up, would you believe, to A&E calls. This needs attention as not everybody can access the internet and I think it is a hairbrained scheme thought up by those 'suits' who are detached from real life and are accountable to no-one.

There is a report on the progress of the revised bus routes, which may or may not help residents of Bottisham, particularly if it changes the No. 12 service.

There are reports from the various organisations which we have, and they do indicate just how much is going on in our village, and lots for us to be involved in.

Then we have Bird Brain, who's subject is that love it or hate it bird, The Magpie. Fascinating bird to watch and a great read in his article. With information about 'Pica Pica' which is certainly new to me. I have known the 'One for Sorrow' rhyme for ever, but never much more than four lines. Now we have it here up to thirteen! Sometimes at 6 o'clock in the morning it may only be two or three in the garden, but it can sound like thirteen! They are very intelligent birds and easily spooked.

(continued on page 2.)





(continued from page 1.)

You would have a job catching one, but if you do, you can soon attract others. I saw a gamekeeper's trap once which had three sections. Middle one with a tame one in it and the outer ones set to catch more and in no time their curiosity got the better of them and in they would go. However nowadays they are a protected species (which some people find hard to believe) so their numbers go unchecked.

Finally, you will see the deadline for the January magazine is early at the 10th December. This is to get the printing done before the printers close for Christmas and New Year.

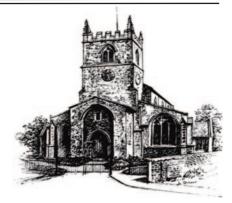
That only leaves it for me to thank those many people involved in producing and distributing your magazine, but also to all our readers who make it all worthwhile.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

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

This is the time of year when we think about the birth of Jesus Christ as we celebrate Christmas, and this will be reflected in the services and activities in the churches throughout the Benefice during mid-December. There will be special Carol, Christingle, Nativity and Crib Services in our local churches in addition to the usual Holy Communion and Morning Prayer.



Details can be seen on the Church Notice Board and elsewhere in the Cresset. In Bottisham we will have Holy Communion on Sunday December 1st (Advent Sunday) and Morning Prayer on Sunday 15th December - both at 10.30am. Our Carol Service will take place on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm led by Sarah Maxwell and our Christmas Holy Communion will take place at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December led by our vicar Max. You are very welcome to attend any of these services. Once again, we will be welcoming our local primary school for their Christmas Service 6-7pm Thursday 12th December. By the time you read this you should have received through your door the Anglesey Benefice Christmas Card. This contains a message from our Vicar the Rev Canon Max Osborne as well as a comprehensive list of all the services throughout the Benefice in December.

As part of our extended ministry, we continue to take a simple service of Morning Prayer in both Hilton Park and Oaklands care homes once a month. On December 11th this will take the form of a Carol Service. If you would like to join us please let me know.

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Red to Green	

The £250 grant from the Housebuilder Redrow South Midlands Community Fund was put to good use when wildflower seeds of this value were sown in the Summer Flowering area of the Churchyard in early November. Since the churchyard 'closed' to burials in 1898 the churchyard has been maintained by the Parish Council and further clarity to these arrangements was given in the Local Government Act of 1972. However no official documentation of this arrangement, if it was ever made, can be found. The Parochial Church Council at its last meeting and the Parish Council at its meeting on November 4th agreed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' whereby the Parish Council undertook to maintain its current level of maintenance and responsibilities for the Churchyard.

The Bottisham congregation joined those from Quy in St Mary's Church Quy for a simple Service of Remembrance on November 10th when the names of the fallen from Bottisham in the two World Wars were read out.

Our Tuesday morning Toddler group and Thursday morning 'Prayerful Art Group' continue.

On behalf of all the members of the Church I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and hope to see you at one of our services.

Stuart Field, Churchwarden



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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sun 1st Dec	9am	Online service on Zoom		
	10.30am	Holy Communion, Bottisham		
	4pm	Village Worship, Quy Village Hall		
		Advent by Candlelight Concert, Swaffham Prior		
Wed 4th Dec	8pm	C by C, a contemplative service, online via Zoom		
Sun 8th Dec	9am	Online service on Zoom		
		Holy Communion, Quy		
	10.30am	Christingle Family Worship & Baptism, Swaffham Prior		
Sun 15th Dec	9am	Online service on Zoom		
	10.30am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck		
		Morning Prayer, Bottisham		
	3pm	Carol Service, Quy		
	4.30pm	Carol Service, Swaffham Prior		
Thurs 19th Dec	e 3pm	Carol Service, Lode		
Fri 20th Dec	10am	Nativity and Crib Service, Lode		
Sun 22nd Dec	9am	Online service on Zoom		
	10.30am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior		
	6.30 pm	Carol Service, Bottisham		
		Carol Service, Swaffham Bulbeck		
Tue 24th Dec	6.30pm	Holy Communion, Bottisham		
	11.30pm	Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck		
Wed 25th Dec	8am	Holy Communion, Quy		
	10am	Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior		
Sun 29th Dec	9am	Online service on Zoom		
	10.30 am	Holy Communion, Lode		
Thursdays 5th and 12th December				
-	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.

Copy deadline for next issue is Tuesday 10th December.

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



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Parish Council Report

The next full council meeting will be held by on 9th December 2024, 7.30pm at the **Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club.** All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. Please note that the clerk to the council does not keep regular office hours. Replies to emails and phone calls will be attended to as soon as is practicable. Details of upcoming meetings and Councillor Details are available from the Parish Council Noticeboard and from the website bottisham-pc.gov.uk.

CHRISTMAS EVENT

Firstly, I would like to tell you about a very exciting event that is happening for the very first time this year. The Parish Council have arranged a Christmas event for the Community to take place on the Triangle near the shops on 7th December from 4pm.

Along with the lighting of a Christmas Tree by a very special member of our community, there will be storytelling, refreshments, carol singing, Santa and his friends including the Grinch and "little donkeys". The carol singing will not only be limited to the Triangle, but the plan is for the carolers to sing their way to the Triangle, including a visit to Queens Court.

This is a family friendly event, and we encourage as many people as possible to attend to make it memorable. Details are available from the Parish Council Website, our noticeboard and look out for the posters dotted around the village. The Parish Council very much wishes to express their thanks to Urban Tree Forestry, The Bell, The CO-OP, Morgans, the Pharmacy and both the schools for all their help and support to make this event a reality. I would also like to thank Cllr Nadene Cundell personally for all her hard work in getting this event off the ground and arranging the Advent windows. The Parish Council Noticeboard will be unveiling the 7th advent window in their noticeboard, so please bear with us until the 7th - as one half of the noticeboard will remain covered to not spoil the surprise.

The event will also be an opportunity for residents to come and meet their Parish Council and put a name to a face. We look forwards to seeing you there on the day.

NOISE COMPLAINTS

The Parish Council has received several complaints of noise over the last few weeks, which has originated from various sources. It was agreed that the Parish Council will write to all organisations in and around the village that provide entertainment, reminding them to please inform the community if they are planning an event. It is hoped that by working with the community, the number of complaints will be reduced.

VILLAGE FUN DAY 2025

On a more positive note, the Parish Council have been approached by the Sports and Social Club to assist with funding for a repeat of last year's successful village fun day. It was agreed by the Council that they would be happy to make a financial contribution to help with the costs of putting on the event.

Continued on page 9



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Continued from page 7

CHURCHYARD

A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into with the Parochial Church Council in relation to maintenance of the churchyard, which has been closed since 1899. The Parish Council have been maintaining the Churchyard for many years, but the documents relating to when this arrangement was formally approved by Full Council are not available. This Memorandum formalises the arrangement in line with the Local Government Act of 1972 – which enables the PCC to request the Parish Council to assume responsibility for the benefit of the Parish. Now this agreement has been formally approved by Full Council and the Parochial Church Council, it will avoid any future confusion when members of the Council change.

It is appreciated that residents have for many years voluntarily contributed to the upkeep of the churchyard, which recently won a Bronze Award under the Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Scheme. The Parish Council fully supports and thanks the volunteers for their part in caring for the churchyard to the benefit of the whole community. **BUSES**

Members of the Council attended a review of the results from the 2023 local travel survey many of us completed, and a Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) bus franchising consultation.

The responses to the travel survey were significant in putting the case for the two new bus routes planned to replace the current No.11. These are the orbital route from Newmarket, via the B1102 villages and Bottisham to Addenbrookes etc and a direct route along the B1102 into Cambridge from Soham. These were due to launch end November 2024, but sadly the procurement process has meant a delay. But we are optimistic they will launch "soon"!!

The Parish Council debated the output from the CPCA consultation and approved a formal response supporting a move to a franchise model in the future.

If you need any further information relating to anything raised in this report or anything you wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council, then please do not hesitate to contact me via email, clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk or via phone 07369 248998.

Sam Chambers - Turner Clerk to the Council

Planning Notes

a) New applications: None

b) Planning Applications approved by ECDC:

- 23/00017/FUL (PP-11821234) Site South Of 2 Parsonage Barns Bottisham Cambridgeshire CB25 9EG. Erection of outdoor covered storage area and extension to existing building to form staff welfare facilities and associated works
- 24/00603/FUL 21 Parsonage Barns Bottisham Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB25 9EG. Single story extension to rear
- 24/00834/FUL Rothbury Cottage, 122 High Street, Bottisham. Single storey side extension
- 24/00847/TCON 11 Thomas Christian Way, Bottisham. To comply with condition 2 of decision notice 87/0107/RMA



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District Councillors' Report

Two motions were passed at 17th October meeting:

- 1. To increase the Council's local awareness campaign which has been underway for several weeks now, to alert those eligible for Pension Credit to apply by the deadline of 21st December 2024, see below for more information.
- 2. The banning of sea toilets on the waterways in the District; the discharge of sea toilets is permitted by regulation on all inland waterways unless specifically banned; the Council is to request the Environment Agency to take the necessary steps to achieve a ban on the Great Ouse and its tributaries.

Council unanimously agreed to create a working group in order to prepare a Local Plan (the document that defines where new housing, industrial and recreational buildings can be built within the District). Our current Local Plan is almost ten years old, and it must be replaced by an up-to-date version within two years to stop speculative building.

Hundreds of pensioners in East Cambs could be missing out on Pension Credit

An estimated 600 pensioners in East Cambridgeshire could be missing out on Pension Credit.

Pensioners on a low income are being advised to apply for Pension Credit now to be in with a chance of qualifying for this year's Winter Fuel Payment.

East Cambridgeshire District Council has launched a promotional campaign encouraging as many people as possible to apply for Pension Credit before 21 December. Applications received after that date will not automatically receive the £300 Winter Fuel Payment.

Pension Credit is available to people of a pensionable age on an income below the £218 a week threshold (£333 for couples). Those above the threshold may still qualify if they are carers, have a disability, or have savings under £10,000.

Anyone who needs help with applying for Pension Credit can contact the community advice team at East Cambridgeshire District Council, or attend one of the Council's dropin sessions. These take place at The Grange in Ely Monday to Friday, from 10am until 4pm.

At the last Full Council meeting (17 October) the council unanimously passed a motion to request changes to the government's decision to means test the Winter Fuel Payment, which in previous years had been paid to all pensioners.

The Council will be carrying out a number of actions including:

- writing to people who are registered for its assisted bin collections to see if they are eligible to apply for Pension Credit before 21 December
- contacting Parish Councils, community groups and charities operating in East Cambridgeshire to ask for their help to ensure all eligible pensioners are supported in claiming their entitlement
- encouraging as many people as possible to sign up to Age UK's petition to SAVE THE WINTER FUEL PAYMENT.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp

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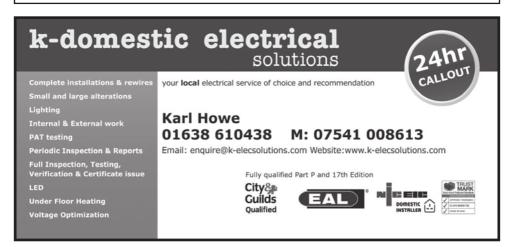


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Charlotte Cane MP

It's hard to believe, but we're already four months into my time as your MP for Ely and East Cambridgeshire. It's been full of new experiences both in Parliament and here at home, and I wanted to take a moment to share some highlights and updates with you.

Earlier this month, I made my maiden speech in the Commons, and it was a memorable experience. I spoke about our area's incredible mix of industries, from agriculture and the horseracing community to cutting-edge tech businesses we can be proud of. I also highlighted our beautiful natural landscapes, including the chalk grasslands, Wicken Fen, the Devil's Dyke, and the iconic "ship of the fens"—Ely Cathedral.

The Chancellor's recent decision to increase National Insurance employer contributions is a worrying one for many of our local healthcare providers and public bodies. I've called on the Chancellor to reconsider this rise, which risks putting even more pressure on already overstretched services. Our local NHS teams, care homes, and charities need support, not additional burdens.

In rural areas like ours, reliable broadband is still a luxury rather than a given. I recently joined a debate on broadband provision and am now seeking a meeting with the Minister to push for better connectivity in our villages and towns. It's not just about convenience; poor internet access affects businesses, schools, and families across Ely and East Cambs. I'm determined to make sure our voices are heard on this issue.

This month I've also had the privilege of voting to remove hereditary peers from the House of Lords. This vote marks an important step towards modernising our political system. I've long believed that the Lords should be a place of expertise and experience, not inherited privilege, so it was an honour to play a part in making this change at last.

I've been out and about in the constituency recently, meeting residents at my surgery, visiting farmers across the region, celebrating the opening of the new Community Diagnostics Centre at the Princess of Wales Hospital, visiting the Social Club in Haddenham, Cottenham Village College, Wicken Fen, Cambridge Regional College and Queens Court Care Home—just a few of the many engagements I've had the pleasure of attending as your MP.

It was an honour to lay a wreath at the Remembrance Service in Ely, while my representatives did the same at local ceremonies in Littleport, Soham and Reach. I was moved to pay my respects alongside so many of you, honouring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Copy deadline for next issue is Tuesday 10th December

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Barbara gave a very detailed account of her life in Uganda in the 1960s when she worked as a teacher alongside her husband. Her many photos really brought the experience to life. She first flew out, at Christmas, on a VC10 with a six week old baby, landing in 28 degree equatorial heat and said that flying was very different from how it is now.

The houses where the teachers lived were built by Americans and were very spacious. The polished cement floors looked like marble and were very good for potty training! The gardens contained many tropical flowers. All the water had to be boiled and filtered but fortunately Barbara didn't have to carry the water on her head in a soufria as the local women did. She learnt the basics of Swahili which came in useful when bargaining for the home deliveries of amazing fruit.

Barbara brought many artefacts and books for people to look at. These included a highlypolished wooden stool, hand-woven cloth and an elaborate head dress. The bells worn by white ash covered boys on their legs, after their circumcision, as they stamped to relieve the pain were of particular interest.

After five, very memorable, years away Barbara and her husband returned to the UK.

In 2019 Barbara returned to Uganda for a holiday with her daughter. As her daughter had been very young she really had very few memories of Uganda but Barbara found that it had changed a great deal. In the 1960s DDT had been used very heavily to protect from mosquitos now nets are in widespread use. The tea estates, once owned and run by Brooke Bond, are now owned and run by local people. Animal hunting has led to a severe decline in the wild animal population so now locals simply demonstrate the traditional methods using nets and spears for the tourists. Barbara and her daughter were also shown how to make bark cloth and treated to displays of traditional dancing.

As a memento of her visit Barbara planted a pawpaw tree which she hopes will flourish in the tropical climate.

She thanked her neighbour, Jo Pugh, who assisted with the presentation and Jennifer who had helped with cataloguing her extensive collection of photos.

The recent sale of Christmas cards and a raffle raised valuable funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Many thanks to all those who contributed.

Once again we shall be collecting gifts and donations for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Suggestions for appropriate support were offered.

A Christmas lunch at Newmarket Golf Club has been organised for members and our next meeting will be our Christmas Party on Tuesday 17th December in the Poppy Room at the Sports and Social Club at 7.30.

If you are interested in joining or would simply like to know more about our activities then please do come along to our next meeting. All are welcome.

Jennifer Clark



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Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

Our meetings continue and members are enjoying a variety of photographic lectures and competitions during our 2024/2025 programme.

An evening of note was a Zoom presentation by Gary Friedman from Massachusetts, USA on 'Computational Photography – How Our Smartphones are Beating the Big Cameras'. The smartphone will cover most, but not all, of the techniques required for amateur photography, but it will no doubt sometime in the future.

Our programme continues during the Winter months and into next year; some of the highlights are listed below:

2024

November 12 - PRINT LEAGUE COMPETITION NO. 1

November 19 - 'SCOTLAND BEHIND THE LENS' BY STEPHEN BALL OF STEPHEN BALL PHOTOGRAPHY. Zoom presentation.

December 3 - 'LIVING & WORKING IN THE ANTARCTIC' by Professor Lloyd Peck, Science Leader of the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge.

December 10 CHRISTMAS QUIZ led by Sarah Horsley.

2025

- January 7- 'ICELAND IN WINTER' by Colin Westgate FRPS MFIAP APAGB MPAGB, West Mersea. Colin has visited Iceland many times and has some stunning images.
- January 14 PANEL PICS/CREATIVE BOARD COMPETITIONS. Themes chosen by members – up to 3 Panel Pics and up to 3 Creative Boards. Judge: Jonathan Vaines LRPS CPAGB AFIAP

Meetings are held Tuesday evening from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall High Street, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD (except the third Tuesday in the month an online Zoom meeting) and new members are always welcome.

Visitors can attend a lecture for a small entrance fee of $\pounds 4.00$, which includes refreshments. Our annual subscriptions are $\pounds 55.00$ for Adults, $\pounds 30.00$ for Students, plus a weekly attendance fee of $\pounds 1$, which includes refreshments.

If you would like to join us we would love to see you. A copy of our programme for 2024/2025 can be obtained from our Secretary, Debra Bennett, at secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com.

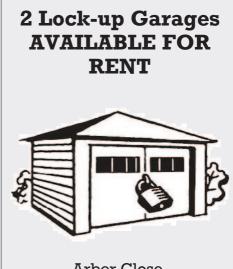
Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB - Chairman

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Bottisham Community Library Association

Now that the dark evenings and dreary days are upon us it's time to settle down with a good book. The advent of the Kindle was predicted to kill the printed book and badly affect libraries, but fortunately that hasn't come to pass. We still have plenty of people visiting the Library in search of a book. We have a huge selection of biographies from Ben Ainslie to Claudia Winkleman for you to explore. We all enjoy delving into other people's lives, be they famous or infamous and some can be stranger than fiction, so come and see if there is someone whose life you would like to read about.

We also have a large stock of jigsaws to help you while away those winter evenings, from picturesque scenes to more challenging abstracts that take patience and determination. All free to borrow.

Lego Club and Storytime will be on the 7th December at 10.30 a.m. when we look forward to seeing you with your children.

We will close for Christmas on Saturday 21st December and re-open on the 2nd January.

The date for the Mobile Library visit to Downing Close will be moved to Monday 30th December this month at the usual time of 9.45 to 10.15 a.m.

Happy Christmas.

Margret Coles

Sales, Wants and Swaps



IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL OR WANT TO BUY OR EVEN TO SWAP, THEN THIS PAGE IS YOURS TO USE. Send details of Item, price and Phone Number to BottishamCresset@gmail.com. Max. 5 Items. Entries by 12th of the month for next months issue.

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TEL
Small china headed doll on stand (Victorian)	£25 ono	668449
Child's pink china tea set (1940s)	£20 ono	668449
Aynsley tea set - 9 cups, saucers, sugar bowl,		
milk jug (Edwardian)	£25 ono	668449
Tea pot collection – various styles	£30 ono	668449
Pale pink glass decanter and five matching wine glasses	£25 ono	668449
3 Ceramic Bells whisky decanters, as new sealed and		
unopened collectors pieces. Decanter for the birth of Prince		
Henry(Harry) of Wales dated 15 Dec 1984. Decanter for the		
marriage of Prince Andrew to Sarah Ferguson, July 1986.		
Commemorative Decanter with Christmas scene		812633
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Bottisham Bird Brain

Last month's Heron got me thinking about other birds that are predators but not raptors. Obviously, there are many species which prey on minibeasts such as insects, molluscs, worms, etc, but I'm thinking more of those who will kill and eat small mammals and/or other birds, for example the larger Gulls and Skuas.

A few years ago, whilst working in my office on the Science Park, I heard a sudden squealing outside under the shrubbery. I jumped up to witness the distressing sight of a juvenile Song Thrush being pecked to death by an adult Magpie. I briefly considered interfering, but the poor Thrush was already in its death throes and why should I deprive the predator of his (or her) hard-earned reward? A difficult moment, and a reminder that the brutality of nature is never far away.

Anyway, I present - the Magpie (Pica pica): a highly intelligent member of the family Corvidae, believed to be one of the most intelligent of all creatures (evidenced by its ability to recognise itself in a mirror - the only bird to do so).

Pica pica is distributed throughout the British Isles and Eurasia, with 600,000 territories in the UK alone. Our population has quadrupled in the last four decades, so it's no surprise that we are seeing more Magpies than ever in our gardens and parks locally.

The year-round availability of roadkill is thought to be a major factor in this dramatic success story as Magpies are omnivorous and will scavenge whatever is available. Their natural inclination, though, is towards a vegetarian diet in the winter and mainly ground invertebrates in the summer. The step up to 'predator' comes when they are feeding young in the spring, raiding the nests of song birds, and even game birds, for eggs, hatchlings and even fledglings. You can imagine how that goes down with gamekeepers!

For all its less attractive traits, a close physical inspection of a Magpie reveals a quite beautiful bird, with sheens of purple, blue and green overlaying the striking 'black & white' appearance, especially on the wings and tail. It is smaller in body than its Crow relatives but appears larger because the tail accounts for half its total length. This distinctive shape, and rounded wings render the Magpie one of the easiest birds to identify in the field.

Noisy and gregarious like most Corvids, Magpies will mate for life, staying loyal to both their partner and their locality, but will chatter and squabble in sizeable flocks in the winter months. So, whether you're in your garden, or out in the countryside, I reckon you'll see at least a couple of Magpies seeking opportunities for either food or mischief. It's not mischief to them of course, more like curiosity, which leads them to be interested in objects, with which they might decorate their nests. (The persisting myth that Magpies steal shiny objects in particular has largely been discredited by modern science, though.)

There is plenty of folklore surrounding the Magpie: from providing good luck when greeted, to being harbingers of ill-fortune, or in league with the devil. (Who remembers the days when folk used to doff their hats on encountering a Magpie and ask after its well-being?) Many stories involve religion... a legend among early Christians declared that

(Continued on page 23)



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(Continued from page 21

Corvids were originally white, and took black plumage in mourning after the crucifixion; all except Magpies, who were too busy pilfering to grieve properly, so turned only partially black! They are also said to have refused to enter Noah's Ark, preferring to 'swear' from the roof during the journey to safety! Certainly the idea that Magpies are thieves and killers seems to have stuck in western culture, even though, elsewhere in the world, they are viewed much more positively: the Chinese associate Magpies with good fortune and happiness, whilst the ancient Mongolians and Koreans believed that Magpies controlled the weather!

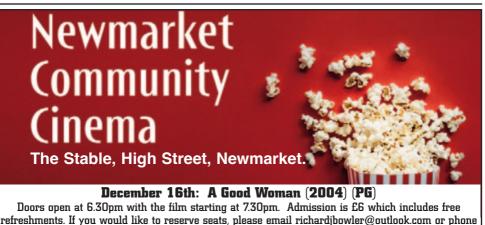
Perhaps the most famous manifestation of the Magpie as a scoundrel came from 19th Century France, where a play – 'La Pie Voleuse' (The Thieving Magpie) – told the story of a servant who was facing the guillotine accused of stealing silverware, but was saved by the revelation that the culprit was her master's pet magpie. Composer Gioachino Rossini was so taken with this story that he turned it into the famous opera, 'La Gazza Ladra'. If you don't know the wonderful, uplifting overture of this work, I urge you to look it up on YouTube or Spotify and give it a try!

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers a happy and peaceful festive season at the close of this tumultuous year.

TTFN - Gerry Daish

One for sorrow, Two for joy, Three for a girl, Four for a boy, Five for silver, Six for gold, Seven for a secret never to be told, Eight for a wish, Nine for a kiss, Ten a surprise you should be careful not to miss, Eleven for health, Twelve for wealth, Thirteen beware it's the devil himself.

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Mothers Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

We met for out Autum Social and Bring and Buy sale on a sunny afternoon. After our usual short service, we had great fun playing Bingo with kit-kats for prizes and enjoyed choosing bargains from our sale table. £41.50 was raised towards our branch funds which enables us to pay for the hire of the Fassage Hall each month for our meetings. The afternoon finished with refreshments and lots of chatter!

Our meeting on Thursday 12th December will have a festive theme and we will be making table flower decorations - bring a small container and join us, holly, flowers and candles provided.

We will again be supporting the Christmas Appeal for Women's Aid, with donations of supermarket vouchers. Donations can also be made online at www.womensaid.org.uk. Women's Aid supports survivors of domestic abuse, and those seeking refuge accommodation and support.

We hope to see some of you on 12th December.

Alison Martin

Get your Vaccine Boosters!

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is urging anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines to make sure they've had them this winter. Please check if you, or someone you care for, is eligible - each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria as follows:

- Flu vaccine for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2025); have certain long-term health conditions; are pregnant; live in a care home; are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance; or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.
- COVID-19 vaccine for anyone aged 65+; those aged between six months and 64 years who are at increased risk of getting seriously ill due to a health condition or treatment; people who live in a care home for older adults, and those who are pregnant; and frontline health and care workers.
- RSV vaccine for anyone who is pregnant, or aged 75-79.
- Pneumococcal vaccine for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).

To find out more about these vaccines and how to book them, or find a walk-in clinic, please visit The Vaccinators websitehttps://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators

Copy deadline for next issue is Tuesday 10th December

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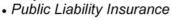
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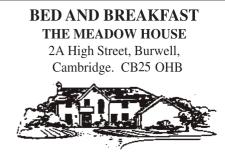
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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

A MESSAGE FROM BOTTISHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE REGARDING HEALTHWATCH SURVEY.

Do you live in Cambridgeshire? Yes.

Will you ever require NHS services now or in the future? Eg GP or A&E? Yes. Then read on as **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.**

- The local NHS team (the "ICS" those who fund our local NHS services) are spending £10Million on a "digital front door".
- What does this mean? Rather than go straight to A&E or call your local GP patients will need to login to a "digital portal" and you'll be told where to go.
- You won't be able to just book a GP appointment or just attend A&E like you can now.
- Instead, you might be sent to a pharmacy or to an NHS website without speaking to or seeing a doctor or nurse.
- Your personal health record will need to be shared more widely than your GP practice.
- It will become more likely you'll get access to NHS clinicians who aren't doctors, or NHS staff using artificial intelligence to advise you about your health.

How will elderly patients or those with learning disabilities access this? How will patients who don't have WiFi, smartphones, computer skills or good vision access this?

We don't know. And as your local GP surgery - we are very worried.

This feels like the end of a family doctor service on the NHS. It feels like your right to attend hospital in an emergency is under threat.

This Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS survey is about your views on these plans for digital access - and even this survey can only be accessed by those who already have digital access!

Please share with your elderly relatives and neighbours, help them complete it and help them have their say. Ask them their thoughts on the "digital front door".

This will affect each and everybody from cradle to grave.

Please feedback how the loss of access to your GP or walk-in access to A&E as you currently know it, would affect you and your family.

https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/form/improving-digital-access-to-health

The Patients' Group is looking for more patients to join us at our meetings. We meet every three months and would love to have your thoughts and feedback to help improve the facilities the practice may provide in the future. Why not come along to our next meeting or if you want to know more about what we do please contact our Chairman, Steve Gilson via email s.j.gilson@btinternet.com or leave your details with reception and he will contact you for a chat.

Next Meeting: Will be at 6.30pm Thursday January 23 2025 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meetings, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com.. Or speak to reception.

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

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

> BOTTISHAM MEETING POINT

every WEDNESDAY 10.30am – noon

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Bottisham Adult Learning Asssociation (BALA)

A NEW COURSE STARTING at 10.30 on THURSDAY 16th JANUARY for 5 weeks

Richard Gibbons will be giving a course of 5 linked topics:

Early Nuclear Crises Berlin – Divided City The Cuban Missile Crisis The Russians are Coming Nuclear Protest

The talks will include original video footage and music.

Richard has given presentations to many U3A groups and museums on virtually any topics related to WW11 or The Cold War. After teaching and managing a comprehensive school, he was Education Officer for Cambridgeshire and is now a self-employed media and education consultant.

The meetings will be held in the main room at Bottisham Sports and Social Club in Downing Close CB25 9DD and will run from 16th January to 13th February from 10.30 to 12.15.

The fee is £25 for members with an additional £5 fee for new members.

New members are always welcome. Any enquiries to Bottishambala@btinternet.com

Helen Cole



Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)

After a bumper season the museum is now closed until 6th April 2025. We had three successful Classic Car and Bike shows, and one rather damp Bottisham at War/Forties weekend which still bought the people in. There were a good number of group visits, from car and motor bike groups, military vehicles, the W.I., and groups from Normandy and America, not forgetting our local care homes. Helicopter flights were well supported, and a new event for the end of the season run by Adventure001 was a Falconry experience day which was fully booked. We hope to do more of the same next year.

On the 21st October the museum hosted a birthday party for Dorothy Smith who was 105 years old, and served as a WAAF working on code breaking at Bletchley Park codebreaking centre in WW2. A choir from Bottisham village college sang Happy Birthday and 1940s singer Mae Blossom sang wartime songs. About a hundred people attended including residents from Hilton Park care centre, where Dorothy is a resident. An item appeared on BBC Look East that evening. The museum would like to thank everyone for their support this year and wish you all a Great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The museum is recruiting volunteers for the new season. If you are interested in volunteering in the Museum or the café please get in touch via the 'contact us' section on our website www.bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk

Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer.



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Public Transport Matters

I'm not yet able to report on the planned new bus services T4 and T5 to replace the 11 service between Newmarket and Cambridge via Burwell because start dates and full timetable details have been held up through what I understand are delays concerning contract finalisation. HOWEVER, the A2B1102 Group is confident that the new bus routes will go ahead some time early in the New Year, and when details are known and able to be published the Parish Council websites for at least the villages covered by 'Public Transport Matters' will show full details. (i.e. Bottisham Parish Council at www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk, Lode Parish Council at https://lode-pc.gov.uk/ and Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council at https://swaffhambulbeck-pc.gov.uk/). We also expect that there will be publicity in some local shops. So keep a look-out !!

But, meanwhile, from 27th October, we have had a 'first' in England because the holding company of Stephensons (the operator of the 12 bus service and the current contractor for the 11 service), has been sold by the previous sole shareholder, Bill Hiron, to an Employee Ownership Trust. Stephensons has grown considerably since Bill Hiron purchased it in 2001 and now has around 140 buses across Essex, Suffolk and parts of Cambridgeshire.

An Employee Ownership Trust is the 'John Lewis' model of ownership - not previously seen in the English bus operator industry sector - and gives employees of the company a stake in the business without personal risk or expense. Apparently, it has received a very positive reaction from staff and is expected to help with staff recruitment and retention, which is a universal problem throughout the UK bus industry.

On another note, readers may have noticed new express coach services recently in their travels in Cambridge. As well as the National Express coaches which connect both Cambridge and Newmarket to destinations further afield, such as London, Norwich and the Airports at Stansted, Gatwick, Luton and Heathrow, we are now seeing Flixbus linking Cambridge to several places in England and with connections to Europe at Victoria Coach Station in London. Flixbus is a relatively new but large European-wide coach network, and tickets for travel on it can be bought at www.flixbus.com. However, in another development the Stagecoach-owned megabus, which links Cambridge to places such as Norwich, Birmingham and Bristol, has decided to scale down its English operations considerably, though it will still operate in Scotland.

HAPPY TRAVELLING

National Traveline Enquiries (for bus services) www.traveline.info or 0871 200 22 33 (a Premium-rate service) National Rail Enquiries - www.nationalrail.co.uk or 03457 48 49 50

John Austin

Copy deadline for next issue is Tuesday 10th December

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Queen's Court - Living Later Life Well

As the weather cools and thoughts turn towards Christmas, we all inevitably think of those who might be living alone or with extra challenges. At MHA we work extra hard during the colder months.

Queens Court really push the boat out and make sure that everyone gets as much warmth and cheer as possible, the home has a variety of activities, entertainment and parties all over the festive season, which is a huge effort on behalf of the team but one that is embraced with huge gusto. The Home Manager Yvonne is a real lover of all things Christmas and during her tenure at the home each year has seen festivities with nothing overlooked. Their fundraiser to support the residents comfort fund is on Dec 7th from 10.00am. until 1pm. So please come along and support them.

The Communities team will be on hand providing the usual Saturday Breakfast rolls and cuppas, and maybe a mince pie! The Proceeds from food and drinks will go towards supporting the Community Groups.

Friday the 20th of December is the Communities Christmas party at the Sports and Social Club, from 11 am with entertainment from the Banjo Man and festive nibbles, come along and wish everyone a Merry Christmas with us.

The Communities Team is also looking at winter warmers and sees more people each week at the Saturday Breakfast Hub, which is open to all and offers low cost hot breakfast rolls and free tea and coffee. This started as part of the winter hub initiative last year through our association with Cambs Acre but like many hubs we have kept going year round as its become so popular. We are super grateful to our volunteers who turn out every week to support this.

The team also offer a Thursday Lunch Club which is held at the Sports and Social Club, open to anyone over 55 we offer a chatty lunch time at a very low cost. Largely thanks to the club who accommodate us all in the Poppy Room, and the volunteers who help us out each week.

We will also be hosting a Dementia Carer support group in the new year, offering advice from experts in the field and most importantly a safe accessible space that allows those caring for loved ones to relax a little and know that their partners or perhaps parents, friend or neighbour is being well occupied at the same time. Loneliness in informal carers is known to be high, so our aim is to try and reduce those feelings whilst offering helpful relevant support.

We have been concerned about the winter fuel payment stopping for many people and have access to advice on both accessing additional help and also to support anyone who might like to check entitlements to assistance. Many people don't think to make a claim because they don't realise they are entitled. So please get in touch with us and we can help look into it. Failing that you can check online or ask at the CAB.

As a team at both the care home and the Communities Scheme we aim to make later life as positive as possible so please if you are interested in any aspect of our services get in touch:

For Queens Court Residential / Residential Dementia Care,

contact on: 01223 81190 or on queenscourt@mha.org.uk

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Non-Members are always very welcome

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM THE CLUB WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER?

Monday 16th December – Newmarket Town Band and Christmas Draw

Listen to the band playing your favourite Christmas songs. It's big draw night, lots of prizes to be won. Draw tickets on sale now. Free entry – A collection for Queens Court Christmas fund on the night.

Sunday 22nd December - Children's Christmas Party - 4pm until 7:30pm End of term party for you and the children. Entrance - Members children £3 - Nonmembers children £4

Friday 27th December - Open Mic Night Music by our talented locals. Entrance Free

Tuesday 31st December - NEW YEARS EVE PARTY with Rendition Pop, Rock, Disco, Blues, Souls & Motown covers from the 60's to now. Entrance is £10 members, £15 nonmembers. Tickets are on sale at the bar now!

Christmas Opening Times

24th December Midday until Midnight 25th December Midday until 2pm 26th December Midday until 6pm 27th December 4pm until 11pm 28th December Midday until 11pm 29th December Midday until 9pm 30th December 5pm until 11pm 31st December 5pm until 12:30am 1st January Midday until 6pm



Please refer to the website. <u>www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk</u> for the latest information. If you wish to be updated with the latest news, please email <u>bottishamcsasc@gmail.com</u> 31 Downing Close, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DD Tel. 01223 812063

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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

We held our AGM on the 22nd October and elected Julie Bard as our new Chairman. Other members of the committee remained largely the same with Coral Hatley, Treasurer, Margret Coles, Secretary, Julia Green, Speaker Secretary and Peter Bullock, Mary Edwards, Cindy King and Nora Watson forming the rest of the committee. Subscriptions have been kept at £20 per annum and we welcome visitors to any of our meetings for a fee of £3.00. Once the business was over we opened the wine, got out the nibbles and tried our hand at a quiz followed by a game of bingo. Thanks to Cindy and Julia for organising the quiz and keeping the post AGM activities under control.

Now is the time to prune those overgrown shrubs and don't forget to protect your outdoor pots for winter. Whether it's the plants that won't withstand a frost or the pots which may succumb to cracking. Leaves are everywhere at this time of year and there are two schools of thought; to clear or not to clear. No question that paths and patios should be cleared as they can become slippery, but when it comes to borders it's your choice. The most enjoyable task as the year draws to a close is planning for the next season.

Our next meeting is on the 10th December when we will hold our Christmas Social.

Happy Christmas - Margret Coles

Red to Green

HELLO FROM RED2GREEN!

Another month has passed, and it has been a great time for celebrations. Over the past couple of weeks, we've been welcoming in the cold weather with warm food, and crafts and creating a cosy environment for everyone. Reminder to join us this winter on December 10th from 11am at Swaffham Bulbeck Church for carols and a Christmas fair.

The leaves are falling and we are getting them cleared away, leaving room for our pots and plants space to grow. Our team have been hard at work clearing the grounds of leaves and caring for our cold-weather plants. Our made to order planters and hanging baskets are always available too. A perfect Christmas gift for the green-thumb in your life.

We have trays of winter pansies, 6 for £2.50 as well as a winter classic, the primrose. Our primroses come in small and large pots. Have a garden blooming with colour this winter. The Community Garden is open Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 4pm. Come along for all your floral and vegetable needs.

It's a busy time of year. Not only are we building up to Christmas, but it's been Halloween, Bonfire Night, and Diwali. This has inspired our team to do crafts with our groups. Our team is using lots of skills and creativity to create Halloween tealight jars, moving zombie decorations, glitter fireworks pictures, and even quizzes about Guy Fawkes and what bonfire night is all about. It's exciting for us and our clients to make the festivities accessible to them and our wonderful clients.

Join us every Tuesday at Swaffham Bulbeck Pavillion from 10:45am for our Coffee Mornings. That's the 12th, 19th and 26th of November. Come along and have a coffee and cake with us. This is a little reminder that there are many ways to get involved through volunteering, fundraising, and even job vacancies for anyone looking to get involved with our clients and the local community.

The Christmas carol service is on December 10th at Swaffham Bulbeck Church at 11am. Come and join us for a sing, followed by a Christmas Fair at the Granary Barn afterwards. Hope to see you there!

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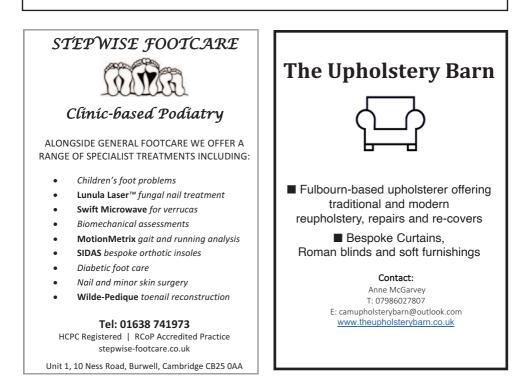
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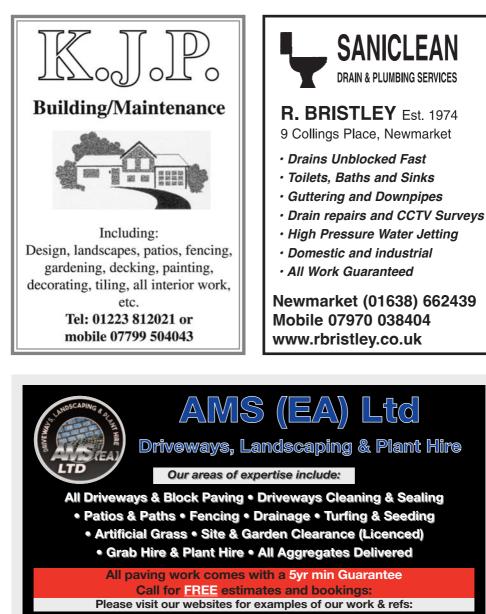
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ALAN SHARP

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Useful Information

Bottisham Website:	sham-pc.gov.uk
Parish Council Chairman Ion Ogborn ion ogborn@bottisham-nc gov uk	07486 372780
Parish Council Clerk: Sam Chambers-Turner, clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk	07369 248998
Holy Trinity Church: Vicar: Rev. Max Osborne max9@btinternet.com	01223 481187
Churchwarden: Stuart Field	01223 604019
Roman Catholic Priest: Monsignor Eugène Harkness. Parish of St Philip Howard.	01223 211235
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Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information	811372
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Bottisham Scout Group: Group Contact: Linda Jones	
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Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club: Nora Watson, nora@gandnwatson.uk	
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