



December 2025

THE
Cresset

A Merry
Christmas
to all our
readers

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



Bottisham ***Christmas Festivities***

Wrap up warm & join all at the 'triangle'

Saturday 6th December from 4pm

Childrens Christmas story time - 4:00pm

Christmas tree light switch on - 5:30pm

Bottisham Primary School Choir - 5:40pm

Carol singing around the village

Meet Santa & his friends

Christmas stories - Bell Pub "Snug"

Face painting & treat bags

Hot chocolate, Mulled Wine (boozy & non-boozy!)

Tea, coffee, squash. Cakes & bakes for all

Music songstress Kirsty Beckett

Soulful tunes by Quattro Del Soul

Ho Ho Hosted by Bottisham Parish Council

Huge Thanks Go To:

Urban Tree Forestry at Bury St Edmunds

The Bell, Bottisham Scouts, Co-Op, Dreams & Wishes,

Kirsty Beckett, Bottisham Primary School,

Tonic & Timber and Quattro Del Soul

Firstly, may I wish all our readers greetings of the season. I hope this month proves to be everything you hope it to be.

The word tradition probably gets used more this month than any other. “A Traditional Christmas!”. Well, what is that? The Christmas that we celebrate now is not that old. It is a Victorian invention. And even that is being superseded by the commercialised marketing exercise we get now.

But vaguely through the years we have managed to keep a trace of what it really is all about and what used to be the sole focus of the event, that is the religious celebration of Christ’s birth. Whether you follow that route or simply take the secular view, I trust you will enjoy it.

Last month saw the traditional Armistice events in the village. I say it in the plural because it ended up that there were three events instead of the one. This, the result of a mix up over timings and days. Next year the event will hopefully be held at the village sign and flagpole on Wednesday 11th November 2026, at the traditional time of the 11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month. That will allow people to also watch the service at the cenotaph or attend the local church services on Sunday 8th November. ‘Traditionally’, the national cenotaph service and parade is held on the second Sunday in November. This mainly to allow for closing down the centre of London.

This month see lots of Christmas activities in and around the village. Some were advertised last month when they started, like events at Anglesey Abbey. But there are more this month.

The Social Club step up a gear with Carol nights featuring Newmarket town band and special Christmas draws. A Children’s party and New Year’s eve sees food, drink and music for all.

I mentioned before about the ‘traditions’ of Christmas. Well, the Church will be holding another of their successful ‘coffee & cake’ mornings with Stuart Field telling “The history of Christmas Carols”, which will I am sure, explain better than me, that development in full.

Other Items of interest is another of Birdman’s excellent reads, this time about the Sparrowhawk.

The Parish Council tell us of what they and everybody hope, will be as successful a celebration of Christmas as it was last year. At least the weather has to be better. It couldn’t be worse!

They have included a brief survey to get your views on the New Cemetery plan and how it should look and be used. They will also be putting them out door to door. Returns to the collection points in the Coop or by personal collection.

As always at this time I want to thank all those people who help make The Cresset work as well as it does. From the distribution team of stalwarts led by Ian Cole, who distribute and deliver the magazine to every house every month. To the regular contributors who provide us with the interesting articles and reports for us to read. From all our advertisers who help us pay the bills to my dear wife who deals with them all and looks after the books.

(continued on page 2.)



(continued from page 1.)

It looks like it is going to be a busy and enjoyable month. Do have a very merry Christmas and I will wish you a Happy New Year when it comes i.e., Next month.

Finally, can I remind everybody that the deadline for copy for the January Cresset is brought forward to Friday 12th Dec. this leaves us a tight schedule to get the print done before the printers shut down for their Christmas/New Year break.

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).



As we enter shops and garden centres stuffed with baubles and glitter from October onwards it is sad to reflect how few know that at Christmas time we are celebrating the birth of Jesus. However, this is the time of year when Christians do think about Jesus Christ as we celebrate his birth and this will be reflected in the services and activities in the churches throughout the Benefice during 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 7th at 10.30am led by the vicar and our Carol Service will take place on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm led by Sarah Maxwell, there will be no Morning Prayer on this day. Our Christmas Holy Communion will take place at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve Wednesday 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 Concert 6-7pm on Thursday 11th December and Julie Bristow will be bringing her choirs for a concert on December 13th at 7pm. 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.

Now the clocks have changed, and the nights are drawing in we can enjoy the church floodlights from afar. Many have commented to me how much they enjoy seeing the church lit up as they come home along the Newmarket Road. I am reminded that the LED lights were generously funded by Rank Brothers Ltd through Peter Rank whose father kindly installed the original floodlights many years ago. We also thank the Parish Council who contribute to this village amenity by kindly funding the electricity costs of the floodlights. The church and village owe a debt of gratitude to them and the Rank family.

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. In November the vicar took a short service of Holy Communion at Hilton Park while on December 10th our service will take the form of a Carol Service in both residences. If you would like to join us, please let me know.

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The Bottisham congregation joined those from Quay in St Mary's Church Quay for a simple Service of Remembrance on November 9th when the names of the fallen from Bottisham in the two World Wars were read out.

Our final 'Coffee & Cake Concert' of the year will take place on Saturday 6th December. Coffee and Cake will be served at 10.30am and the concert will begin once everyone is seated. The theme will be 'A history of our Christmas Carols'. I will act as raconteur and reflect on how even before Christianity the Celts sang songs and danced during the Winter Solstice. Over the centuries these songs became hymns sung in Latin then gradually Christmas celebrations, as we know them today, were initiated by Prince Albert, the German husband of Queen Victoria. These emerged into the traditional carol services of today which first took place in Truro Cathedral in Cornwall in 1880 nearly 40 years before the famous service in Kings College Chapel. I will also play my violin, Sarah Maxwell will sing and Richard Ayres will accompany us on the organ. There will also be the opportunity for attendees to join in the carol singing. Suggested donation: £5 to include coffee and cake and support the church building fund. Free for children.

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 or Christmas events.

Stuart Field, Churchwarden

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Wed 3rd Dec	8pm	C by C, a contemplative service , online via Zoom
Sun 7th Dec	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion , Bottisham
Thur 11th Dec	10.30am	Holy Communion , Lode
Sun 14th Dec	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion (BCP) , Swaffham Bulbeck
	10.30am	Christingle Family Worship , Swaffham Prior
	3pm	Carol & Crib Service , Quay
Thur 18th Dec	3pm	Carol Service , Lode
Fri 19th Dec	10am	Nativity and Crib Service , Lode
Sun 21st Dec	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Holy Communion , Quay
	4.30pm	Carol Service , Swaffham Prior
	6.30pm	Carol Service , Bottisham
		Carol Service , Swaffham Bulbeck
Wed 24th Dec	6.30 pm	Holy Communion , Bottisham
	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion , Swaffham Bulbeck
Thur 25th Dec	8am	Holy Communion , Quay
	10am	Holy Communion , Swaffham Prior
Sun 28th Dec	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion , Swaffham Prior

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.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOTTISHAM

COFFEE & CAKE CONCERT

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 10.30am

Stuart Field, (raconteur and violin), Sarah Maxwell (Soprano), Richard Ayres (Organ)

The History of our Christmas Carols

Come along and sing your favourite Christmas Carols.

Suggested donation £5 (children free) including coffee & cake
towards church heating & building funds

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Saturday 13th December, 6pm

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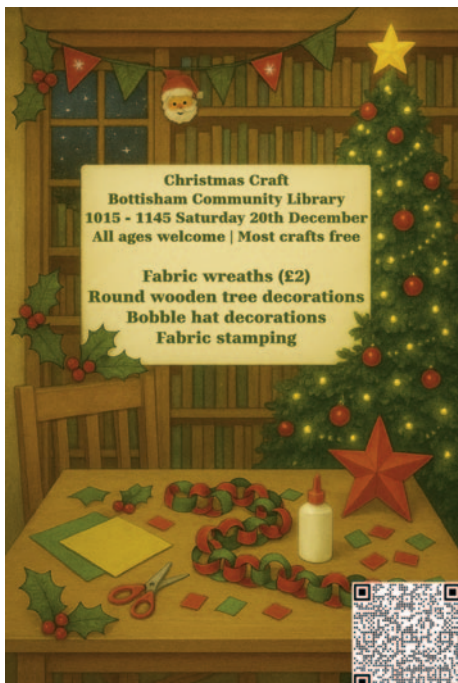
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bristowjulie6@gmail.com - 07793025326*



Christmas Craft
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1015 - 1145 Saturday 20th December
All ages welcome | Most crafts free

Fabric wreaths (£2)
Round wooden tree decorations
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Fabric stamping



Parish Council Report

The next full council meeting will be held by on Monday 1st December 2025, 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, agendas and minutes and Councillor Details are available from the Parish Council Noticeboard and from the website: www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES - The Parish Council would like to warmly invite all residents to join us for our Christmas Festivities at the Triangle on Saturday, 6th December, from 4pm onwards.

For many, it is a favourite time of the year when all ages and backgrounds can come together as a community - and this year promises to be extra special. Our wish list went in early, and Santa is coming along with some of his friends! We'll also have music, drinks, some games, face painting, and plenty of festive treats to enjoy.

We know Bottisham is bursting with brilliant bakers, so if you fancy whipping up something festive, please contact me or Nadene to arrange delivery. We'd love to showcase your wonderful creations - and we can't wait to try them!

Our carolling around the village returns again this year. If you'd like to lend your voice, please meet at 3:4 pm at either:

- **The Bottisham Sports and Social Club, or**
- **The Bell Pub car park on Bell Road**

We had an amazing turnout last year - let's fill the village with song once more!

Huge thanks go to Nadene for organising the event and the ever-popular Advent Windows. A map of window locations will be available on Facebook, the Parish Council website, and the noticeboards.

We can't wait to celebrate with you all and hope the weather is kind to us this time. **Let's make it a magical start to the festive season!**

NEW CEMETERY - LODE ROAD - We are pleased to report that works to secure the land for the new cemetery are now almost finalised, and a tender process has begun to seek quotations for the build costs.

Over several years, the Council has been carefully setting aside earmarked reserves for this project. However, to complete the work, it will be necessary to obtain an additional loan to complement existing funds. It is anticipated that an application will be made to the Public Works Loan Board in the New Year. Financial reviews indicate that no increase in the Parish precept should be required to cover loan repayments, should the application be approved.

As part of this process, we are keen to hear residents' views on the project and the use of public funding. To gather feedback, the Parish Council has launched a public survey, available both online and in paper form in this edition of The Cresset. Completed paper surveys can be returned to the Co-op collection box, or you can request collection by calling me on the number below. There are also additional printed copies by the survey box at the Co-op.

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 7

The deadline for submitting responses (either paper or online) is 16th January 2026.

The online link is: https://bit.ly/Bottisham_Cemetery_Survey

Residents are also invited to attend a drop-in information session at the Sports & Social Club on Saturday, 10th January 2026 (2–5 pm) to discuss the project with councillors. In the meantime, further information about the project can be found on the Parish Council's website.

BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING - The Parish Council has now formally approved its budget for the 2026/27 financial year.

Each year, the Council must determine the level of Precept required from the District Council to fund local services and projects. After careful consideration, councillors agreed to a modest uplift to cover normal running costs and anticipated inflationary increases from our suppliers.

This uplift equates to just 3.14p per Band D equivalent household per week - a small adjustment that helps us continue caring for our village and delivering valued services for residents.

A copy of the 2026/27 budget is available on the Parish Council's website or on request from the Clerk.

PLANTING AND "BOTTISHAM IN BLOOM" - As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping Bottisham beautiful, we've used more of our Pride of Place grant to purchase daffodils and crocuses, and we've also been kindly donated a number of snowdrops from Anglesey Abbey.

We're so grateful to the residents and Bottisham Village College students — who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards — for their help planting bulbs around the village. Their efforts will bring colour and cheer to our verges and green areas come springtime.

We're now looking for more volunteers to help with further planting on Sunday, 7th December (weather dependent). Whether you're green-fingered or just fancy joining in, we'd love to see you — it's a great way to meet neighbours and give something back to the village. We are looking to meet at The Triangle at 12 noon, but please email me to let me know you can join us. **Let's make Bottisham Bloom!**

GET INVOLVED - We're so proud of the way our community continues to grow, bloom, and come together - whether it's through festive celebrations, planting projects, or helping shape Bottisham's future.

If you'd like to find out more about the Parish Council's work, or if you're interested in joining us, please do get in touch. We're a friendly team of local people who care deeply about Bottisham - and we're always delighted to welcome new faces, ideas, and enthusiasm.

For any further information, or to share your thoughts, please contact me at:

clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk 07369 248998

We hope to see you soon - whether at the Christmas festivities, out planting bulbs, or simply around the village we're all proud to call home.

Sam Chambers-Turner, Clerk to the Council



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District Councillors' Report

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - The Leader of the Council is still pursuing Option B (with East Cambs joining Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough) for the Local Government Re-organisation. Cambs County Council has debated the options, and plumped for Option A (with East Cambs joining Cambridge City and South Cambs).

The Full Council will have debated this on Thursday 20 November; the ECDC submission will be sent to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Homelessness together with the submissions from the other Councils. This will be considered by the Minister, and a decision will be made soon.

Parish Councils in this ward have signed a letter to the Minister informing them of our desire to join with South Cambs and Cambridge City Council.

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - The Operational Services committee will be deciding on prohibiting car parks and other open spaces to be used for drag racing, stunts and other car manoeuvres at their next meeting.

STREET SWEEPING - Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a statutory duty to provide clean streets, footways and open spaces that are in public ownership. All towns and villages are divided up into “zones” with the busiest being cleaned more regularly.

<https://eastcambs.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/clean-streets>

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY FUND - The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund will be open to applications between 31 October and 12 December 2025. Community groups are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to £1,000 to spend on new or existing projects designed to improve the quality of life for residents.

Information about the grant including eligibility criteria and application guidance can be found on the council's web site. <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-wellbeing/grants-and-community-projects/community-fund>

SURGERY - There will be no surgery in December. Do remember that residents can contact us by telephone (07976 607512, 01223 812120) or email (charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk, john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk) whichever is preferable.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp

Planning Notes

a) New applications:

25/01151/LBC (PP-14337322) - 1 Bradford Cottages Lode Road Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DJ. Replacement windows and door to front elevation, garage doors repainted to match and replacement tiles to porch, hall and hearth.

25/00034/DISA (PP-14451134) - The Vicarage 86 High Street Bottisham Cambridgeshire CB25 9BA. To discharge Condition 4 (biodiversity improvements scheme) of decision 25/00034/FUL dated 9 July for proposed single storey side extension, two storey and single storey rear extension and front porch extension with new windows and doors.

25/01204/FUL (PP-14454942) - 1 Tunbridge Lane Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DU. Single storey side extension.

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Charlotte Cane MP Reports

As the year draws to a close and we gather for festive events across our villages and towns, I've been reflecting on what makes Ely and East Cambridgeshire so special - our sense of community, our compassion, and our determination to look out for one another. That spirit has shone through in everything from local campaigns to doorstep conversations this autumn.

In November, I joined my constituent Lisa Smart, from Cottenham, outside 10 Downing Street to deliver a petition with over 15,500 signatures calling on the Government to save vital hospice beds at Arthur Rank Hospice. Lisa's daughter received end-of-life care there, and her powerful story shows just how much this service means to families across Cambridgeshire.

The petition is part of a joint campaign I launched alongside Liberal Democrat Cambridgeshire MPs Pippa Heylings and Ian Sollom to reverse an £829,000 funding cut. Without that funding, nine of the hospice's 23 beds face closure – meaning more than 200 patients could be left without access to specialist care each year. Everyone deserves compassion, dignity, and peace at the end of their lives. We must not let a funding failure take that away.

In Parliament, I've been urging the Government to deliver fair funding and real reform for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In Ely and East Cambridgeshire, 4% of pupils have Education, Health and Care Plans — higher than the national average. Our schools do incredible work, but they need the Government's support. Every child deserves the chance to thrive, with properly funded and accessible support close to home.

I continue to press the Government on fuel poverty, after uncovering official figures showing that 9.6% of households in our constituency — that's 4,487 homes — were living in fuel poverty as far back as 2023. Shockingly, Ministers have yet to publish the data for the past year, even as families continue to struggle with soaring energy costs. I am urging the Government to publish the latest figures, to end fuel poverty and tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

Whether it's meeting residents on the doorstep, attending local events, or holding my three monthly surgeries, I'm always here to listen and help. Since being elected, I've now closed over 9,000 cases where residents have come to me for advice or support.

As your local champion, I'm here to stand up for you – and I'll keep doing just that.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who keeps our community running through the darker months — from NHS staff and carers to utility workers, emergency services, and transport teams who work tirelessly through the holidays.

Wishing you a peaceful and happy festive season, - Charlotte

P.S. This is just a snippet – to keep up with everything I'm doing, sign up to my newsletter at bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte.

*Charlotte Cane, MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire
charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk | 020 7362 1601*



Fassage Hall is a community facility located on the edge of the recreation ground next to the children's play area in the village of Lode.

It has a 12m x 6m main hall, lobby, well equipped kitchen, patio area, toilets.

The recreation ground is also available to hire and there are sports changing facilities in a separate wing of the building and accessed through a separate entrance.

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Bottisham Adult Learning Association

Starting on 15th January 2026

"FROM STAGE TO SCREEN"

A 5-week course presented by Stephen Poulter

Learners will be introduced to a wide range of movies which have been adapted from stage drama and musical theatre.

Starting with Shakespeare's plays and including a variety of 20th century's greatest dramatists.

The course starts on Thursday 15th January, last session on 12th February

**BALA courses are held in the main hall at
Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club in Downing Close CB25 9DD starting at 10.30am.
We provide biscuits but ask you to bring your own drink.**

The cost of the course is £25 with an extra £5 for non-members. New members are always welcome.

Any enquiries to Bottishambala@btinternet.com. - Helen Cole

Village Litter Picks 2025/26

We need your help!



We have a wonderful small group of volunteers who regularly help out, but we need more volunteers to get around more of the village every month, so if you can spare an hour and a half on a Saturday, please do come along.

**Fresh air, friendship and looking after our wildlife
*Bring your gloves and join us for refreshments afterwards***

Starting Location	Date	Month
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social (earlier time 9am!)	6	December
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	17	January
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	28	February
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	14	March
Bottisham Village College (sports centre car park end)	18	April
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	16	May
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	20	June

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am (except December)

Ways to keep in touch with updates:

- ✓ Join the [Bottisham Village Litter Pick WhatsApp Group](#)
- ✓ Visit either the [Bottisham Events Facebook Page](#)
- ✓ Visit the [Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page](#)

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News from 1st Bottisham Scout Group

Following our summer article where we were thinking we may have to close the Scout Group due to lack of volunteers; we have some good news to report at last.

A wonderful group of parents and volunteers stepped forward to run the Cub Pack (with some help and guidance from a nearby local Scout Group). I can't thank them enough. Having spoken to them, and seen them in action recently, they appear to be really enjoying the new challenge. They have lots of exciting activities organised and are even planning a camp for next year. I hope you will join me in wishing them well. Perhaps we will hear from them in future articles.

I am also delighted to report that a villager has stepped forward to take on the Treasurer role. Again, I can't thank her enough. We are currently getting all the paperwork set up and she will then take over the role. A huge thanks goes to David our outgoing treasurer for everything he has done and who kept the role 'going' for many months while we desperately searched for someone new.

One of our assistant Scout Leaders will be stepping down at Christmas and we are now looking for help with the Scout section. These are children and teenagers aged 10.5 to 14. Adam will continue to lead the section but we are looking for someone (or a group of people) to assist. The Cub and Beaver sections are also keen to add to their teams so please do think if this is something you could help our community with. You don't have to volunteer every week, and no previous experience is necessary.

We are also still looking for people to join our Trustee Board to help make decisions about the hut, health and safety, funding, grants, and fund-raising ideas etc. It really isn't onerous - we would love to get several more people on the committee. Contacts for all the above are detailed below. We do also have room in all sections for children to join Scouting.

So hopefully over the coming months we will have more good news to report and will be able to start letting you know about some of the activities and fun each of the sections have had. Again, a huge thank you to those who have come onboard.

Linda (Jones) Chair, 1st Bottisham Scout Group Trustee Board

General enquiries: lindakinglouis@aol.com (Linda)

Scout Section: scouts@1stbottishamscouts.org.uk (Adam)

Cubs Section: cubs@1stbottishamscouts.org.uk (The cub team)

Beaver Section: beavers@1stbottishamscouts.org.uk (Jonathan)

Copy deadline for next issue is 12 December.

Please send material to the editor at
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Following a close look at the Kestrel last month, let us compare the other common raptor likely to be seen locally – well, anywhere really – the Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*), or, to recognise the international name – Eurasian Sparrowhawk. Actually it is the only raptor that you might see in your garden because its main prey comprises small birds and, when it launches an attack, it will spring from the cover of hedges, bushes, fences or buildings. Sparrowhawks will use this method to take birds as large as Wood Pigeons, but finches and tits congregating around bird feeders are particularly susceptible to this kind of ambush. There's a Sparrowhawk at the Lackford Lakes Nature Reserve (Suffolk Wildlife Trust) that regularly clears the feeders near the visitor centre with its sudden appearances from behind the building!



So how do we tell Sparrowhawk from Kestrel? As you may remember, the Kestrel is a slim falcon with pointed wings, giving it a rakish appearance, and it hovers habitually over open land. The Sparrowhawk is a thicker-set bird, muscular and powerful, with rounded wings and it never hovers. In fact, the behaviour of the two species is quite different. A Sparrowhawk's (non-hunting) flight features a few wing flaps followed by a short glide... just think "flap flap glide, flap flap flap glide" when you see a smallish bird of prey overhead! It's a different story when it's hunting though. With a roughly 10% success rate, it appears to arrive out of nowhere, at high speed, to pluck an unfortunate passerine from the air, and take it to ground, 'mantling' the prey with its wings, completing the kill whilst holding the victim down with its talons. I have seen this spectacle in my front garden and its not for the faint-hearted, but you wouldn't want a Sparrowhawk to go hungry, would you?

Plumage wise, the Sparrowhawk will appear either mainly blue-grey (male) or brown (female and young), with a lighter, barred chest, an obviously hooked bill, yellow legs and a piercing yellow eye. As with all birds of prey, the female is larger than the male, but please don't be seduced into thinking you may have seen a Goshawk in your garden. (Photographs of Sparrowhawks are sometimes misidentified as 'Gos' because the plumage is so similar. However, even the smallest Goshawk is much larger than the largest Sparrowhawk, and the 'Gos' is a rare, secretive, woodland bird.)

Incidentally, the female Sparrowhawk, on average, takes prey two and a half times heavier than that of the male, and she will consume around a third more meat than the male – up to 70g per day versus up to 50g per day. It is thought that Sparrowhawks account for up to 50% of the deaths of certain species, e.g. Great Tits, which are most easily spotted by dint of a striking plumage. Not that Sparrowhawks have any difficulty in seeing their targets: with eyesight up to eight times keener than humans' they can spot a passerine from a mile distant.

A few years ago, an incredibly rare American Robin turned up in Lincolnshire after being blown across the Atlantic, attracting the attention of hundreds of birdwatchers from far and

(Continued on page 23)

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The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.



Monday December 15th **The Penguin Lessons (12)**

Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £6 which includes free refreshments.
If you would like to reserve seats, please email richardjbowler@outlook.com or phone 01638 666810.

(Continued from page 21)

wide. Many were still setting up equipment or still en route to the site, when a Sparrowhawk swooped down from a nearby building and devoured the unfortunate traveler right in front of the assembled throng!

Sparrowhawk numbers have fluctuated over the decades. The use of pesticides in the 1950s and '60s caused a build up of toxins in the food chain, resulting in Sparrowhawk egg shells becoming very thin and prone to breaking during incubation. Numbers understandably recovered after the banning of organochlorine pesticides but, over the last 30 years, the population has suffered a moderate decline and the Sparrowhawk is now 'Amber' listed in the UK Birds of Conservation Concern. At the last count in 2016, a total of 31,000 pairs were recorded in the UK. Interestingly, in Europe, numbers are apparently stable and the bird is of 'Least Concern' but, sorry, I can't find the reason for the difference. (Anomalies are often dismissed as due to non-specified 'climatic changes'.) There are estimated to be c. 1.5 million Eurasian Sparrowhawks globally, so the species does not appear to be in any danger.

I guess it's pretty obvious why the Sparrowhawk is so named – derived from the Middle English 'sperhawk' and Old English 'spearhafoc', and adapted by the Vikings as 'sparrhaukr', but it is also known by a number of different colloquial names in the UK, including blue hawk, hedge hawk and spar hawk. The bird, in fact, belongs to the family Accipitridae (from the Latin for hawk) and the scientific name 'Accipiter nisus' has an amusing origin: according to Greek mythology, Nisus, the king of Megara, was turned into a sparrowhawk after his daughter, Scylla, cut off his purple lock of hair to present to her lover, Minos, who was Nisus' enemy. Bizarre!

Stop Press

The Autumn influx of rarities continued in October and early November with the Orkneys, Shetlands and Isles of Scilly grabbing most of the spoils. However, an incredible White-Throated Needletail (a type of Swift) turned up at Bempton Cliffs in Yorkshire. So rare, it was misidentified as an Alpine Swift (also rare) at first, until a number of stunning photos revealed it to be the even rarer species! Yorkshire also enjoyed a visit from a Black-Faced Bunting; then Suffolk joined the party with its first ever Brown Shrike at Hollesley, and Woods Mill nature reserve produced a Red-Tailed Shrike in West Sussex. It's all happening folks...more next month!

In the meantime, may I wish all readers a happy and peaceful Christmas.

TTFN - Gerry Daish

A sparhawk proud did hold in wicked jail
Music's sweet chorister, the Nightingale
To whom with sighs she said: 'O set me free,
And in my song I'll praise no bird but thee.'
The Hawk replied: 'I will not lose my diet
To let a thousand such enjoy their quiet.'
From "Idylls of the King" by Alfred Lord Tennyson



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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

October is the time for our Annual General Meeting when our Chairman reported on the year's activities and our Treasurer on the finances. The current committee and office-holders were all re-elected for the following year. They are:-

Chairman – Julie Bard

Treasurer – Coral Hatley

Secretary – Margret Coles

Speaker Secretary – Julia Green

Committee Members – Peter Bullock

Mary Edwards

Cindy King

Nora Watson

After the formal part of the evening we indulged in a game of bingo, which is always fun as many of us are not conversant with the calls, but we muddled through with help from Julie. The evening concluded with a quiz which was won by Joyce Fletcher. We have an interesting and varied programme to look forward to next year and details will be published in next month's Cresset, so look out for the January issue and do come and join us. In the meantime we wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Our next meeting will be our **Christmas Social on the 9th December**. Please note that this will be in the afternoon at 3 p.m.

We normally meet at 7.30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Poppy Room at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club. Membership is £20.00 a year and *non-members are welcome to any meetings for a charge of £3.00.*

Margret Coles

Letter from a Reader

I would like to ask the readers and Gerry Daish, who always writes great articles about our bird life. "Where have all the blackbirds gone."

I noted in the spring a few dead blackbirds in our garden, they looked in perfect condition. I understand there is a virus that has affected blackbirds this year.

Of the one pair that had fledglings, I witnessed three magpies who killed both of them while the parents were trying to feed them.

Over the last two months I have not seen any or heard them during the dawn chorus either in Bottisham or down White fen.

I would be interested to know if other readers have noticed this.

Steve Allen

AND GERRY WRITES

Hi Steve

Yes, the decline of the blackbird population is noticeable. There are a number of factors, but the big culprit seems to be a mosquito-borne virus called Usutu. Research is continuing and the British Trust for Ornithology is monitoring numbers.

Simon Barnes has written about this in the Daily Mail <https://tinyurl.com/Blackbird-losses>

I wondered if trichomonosis (see Cresset May 2025) might also be a problem but I can't find any reference to it in BTO information. But I'm sure that other threats, like the paving of gardens, artificial lawns, the use of 'pest' control, domestic cats, and the appetites of urban sparrowhawks, don't help!

M&P

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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

New Appointment Booking System

Thank you for your patience as the Practice develops the new booking system. Appointment booking is now open online via Accurx triage system from 8am Monday to Friday. Each appointment request is reviewed by a GP and you will be contacted with the most appropriate appointment. This improves access to our appointments and makes the system safer as all requests are reviewed by clinicians. Saving our time (which means more appointments for you!)

A SMALL PLEA FROM THE STAFF: if you request an appointment please have your phone on to receive a call or answer a text. We have a significant number each day who request an appointment and then don't respond to calls or texts to book the requested appointment. This is wasting a lot of time! We are responding rapidly to appointment requests often within minutes if it is urgent and then are left in limbo if there is no answer.

BOWEL CANCER SCREENING: if you receive a screening kit in the post please complete it. This detects possible signs of bowel cancer before you have symptoms. We have on average 5 patients a week who do not complete the screening, these then have to be processed by a GP wasting clinical time.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS: For full month of October 87appts DNA equates to 13.67hrs of clinical time wasted.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. Please remember to ensure you order your repeat prescriptions in good time and enough to cover you over this period.

Basic Life Support: Following our CPR training session for patients, do you know where the defibrillators are located in your village?

NEXT MEETING: 29th January 2026 when Dr Keith will speak. 6.30pm at the surgery. If you are interested in joining our meetings please contact our chairman Steve Gilson s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or contact reception.

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.

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Public Transport Matters

It's a bit of a mix of information this month, culled from my experience of using our local buses over the past 6 months since some of the routes and timetables changed.

There have been lots of benefits from the new bus services that started in May, but they're not always obvious, so it's worth me spelling out some of them here.

Firstly, one benefit is that we now have a later last bus of the day into our villages, but this last bus comes from Newmarket rather than from Cambridge. So the last bus into the villages is the T4 and leaves Newmarket Guineas Bus Station (NOT Newmarket High Street) on a Monday to Saturday at 18:40, and arrives at Swaffham Bulbeck at 19:16, Lode Crossroads at 19:20 and Bottisham (opposite Bell Road) at 19:24.

Secondly, that also means that there is a later last bus from our villages towards Cambridge, as that last bus from Newmarket goes on to Addenbrookes Hospital Bus Station, where it arrives at 19:57. Even at that time of the day there are three buses an hour making the trip from Addenbrookes Bus Station to Cambridge Railway Station and on to the City Centre. So that makes for quite a straightforward transfer at Addenbrookes. I'll write more about buses at Addenbrookes and the Biomedical Campus in a later 'Public Transport Matters' article.

A third benefit is that buses now link Bottisham with Lode Crossroads hourly, from which there is only a short walk to the wonderful Anglesey Abbey.

And lastly, the T4 bus timetables enable a lot of new leisure walks to be explored in the countryside in and around our lovely villages, because the bus now gives direct travel between Bottisham and the Swaffhams, Burwell, Reach, Lode and the Wilbrahams.

Recently, I also used the hourly Stephensons 12 bus to do a circular walk along the wonderful Devils Dyke footpath, getting the 12 bus from Bottisham to the July Lodge bus stop near the July Course roundabout where the Dyke crosses the A1303. After walking along the Devils Dyke footpath you can then leave it where it crosses the old railway line cutting and then walk along another footpath into Swaffham Prior, or you can carry on along the Devils Dyke to Reach. Both Swaffham Prior and Reach are served by the hourly T4 bus, and both villages have pubs where breaks can be made (though check the websites or Facebook pages for the Red Lion in Swaffham Prior and the Dykes End in Reach to check they're open on the days and times at which you want to walk)

John Austin, 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

Copy deadline for the next issue is 12 December.

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It's what we do

Welcome to our last museum Newsletter for 2025. A grateful thanks from all of us here, to all those who supported the museum this year. Our visitor numbers increased again over last season, making 2025 a record year for the museum.

The museum held a number of events in 2025, including three classic car shows, three Falconry experiences, two airfield walks and of course the ever-popular Bottisham At war/Forties weekend with the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfires providing a spectacular appearance.

The museum also hosted private functions, car and motorbike club events, veteran's groups and school trips. Groups from two museums in the United States visited us, as well as a number of local history societies from closer to home. We even hosted a Tournament of Medieval knights. Many people enjoyed the helicopter rides which took place on Wednesdays between April and October this year, operated by Adventure001.com.

The volunteers are now taking a break from the hosting and guiding visitors to the museum, but many of us will still be working here during the closed season to carry out essential maintenance, redecorate, clean, and prepare new displays and surprises for 2026.

Now some dates for your diary.

The museum will open again on Easter Sunday 5th April 2026. Helicopter flights will start on Wednesday 22nd April 2026, booking is available via the museum website Bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk and Adventure001.com

The Bottisham At War/Forties weekend will be on Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th June 2026.

Again, we will hold three classic car shows - dates TBC - and new events for next year including the tenth anniversary of the opening of our Flying Tractor Cafe on Sunday 27th September 2026.

I would just like to say on behalf of all of us at the museum, *best wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.*

Charles Cook, Museum Volunteer



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Red2Green is a registered charity celebrating 25 years of supporting and promoting adults 16+ with autism and learning disabilities. We are based across 2 sites in Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham; 2 converted barns (Harvey's and Granary) in Park End and our Community Garden on the Bottisham Village College site. We support 90 service-users, 5 days/week, 50 weeks/year.

What have we been up to?

We've had another wonderfully busy month here at Red2Green, filled with spooky Halloween and festive Christmas fun, creative activities and several enriching community outings. The atmosphere has been buzzing with energy and it's been fantastic to see everyone getting involved.

Our CEO, Liz Taylor, was also out and about this month, delivering insightful talks to both Milton WI and the Burwell WI Gardening Club. She shared more about the work we do at Red2Green and highlighted the powerful role gardening can play for individuals with autism and learning disabilities.

We're also thrilled to share some exciting news: Red2Green is now an official Charity Partner of the Minster Tavern in Ely! This new partnership opens the door to a series of fun and community-boosting events. We've already kicked things off with a brilliant Bingo night, our very first one raised almost £400! And the best part is... there's plenty more to come. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming dates and join us as we continue building connections and raising vital support.

Ways you can get involved:

There are lots of ways you can help support Red2Green:

- Volunteering opportunities
- Start a fundraiser in aid of Red2Green
- Visit our Community Garden in Bottisham and buy some plants (Mon-Fri, 9:30-4)
- One-off or monthly donations
- Sign up to our monthly newsletter
- Follow our social media pages and keep up to date with all things Red2Green

For more information about the wonderful work we do at Red2Green, please visit our website red2green.org or if you want to get in touch, feel free to email us at info@red2green.org or call us on 01223 811662.

Copy deadline for next issue is 12 December.

*Please send material to the editor
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East Anglian Air Ambulance



Publicity from and about EAAA has a twofold objective. Whilst keeping people informed we also have to maintain our effort to raise funds to stay operational.

Every tasking, every best chance and every life saved is thanks to your support and donations here's what you helped us to achieve in October.

- 227 tasks by air and by road.
- 2157 patients treated.
- 22839 people taught CPR.
- 2163 new aftercare contacts made.

On average, our crews are tasked to eight medical emergencies and to treat six patients each day. A quarter of the incidents attended are cardiac arrests, closely followed by road traffic collisions. We also attend a wide range of medical and trauma emergencies including, for example, neurological incidents, self-harming, equestrian accidents and other accidental injuries.

Whilst out and about collecting proceeds from our red collection boxes recently, I was confronted by a shop customer who asked, "is that for EAAA?". He then proceeded to tell me that, many years ago, his brother's life was saved by the timely intervention of an EAAA crew. In wintry conditions he had been swiped off his motorbike into a field by a car. It is always gratifying to hear first-hand of incidents such as this - motivation to keep helping.

For more information about how EAAA taskings help save lives, please look at our website - just Google 'East Anglian Air Ambulance'. There are many ways in which you can support our invaluable work - volunteer, write a gift into your will, play our great weekly lottery or join in to an event.

Please do contact East Anglian Air Ambulance to add your support.

Together, We Save Lives.

Michael White



Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

MEETING ON 16th OCTOBER

Our Autumn Social and Bring and Buy sale took place at our October meeting. After our usual short service, we had great fun playing Bingo with kit-kats for prizes and enjoyed choosing bargains from our sale table. £40 was raised towards our branch funds which enables us to pay for the hire of the Passage Hall each month for our meetings. The afternoon finished with refreshments and time to enjoy many conversations!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th December at 2.30pm at the Passage Hall, Lode, where we shall enjoy some Christmas festivities, including making a Christmas tree decoration and sharing some seasonal treats with our refreshments.

All are welcome to join us.

Alison Martin

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Bottisham Community Library Association

December - This month we celebrate 250 years since the birth of Jane Austen on December 16th 1775. And I couldn't let this go without promoting her books. She only wrote six complete books but they have left a big mark on English literature and you will find them in Bottisham Library.

My Book of the Month is Gill Hornby's novel, '**Miss Austen**', a great read for a December night. It is 1840 and Cassandra Austen, Jane's sister, returns to a village rectory where she and Jane spent many days with their friends. The rectory is being cleared for a new vicar and Cassandra is concerned there may be letters there written her sister. She is determined to find them and protect her sister's reputation should there be secrets in the letters.

Lego Club and StoryTime will be on **Saturday December 6th at 10.30**. Younger children will enjoy our collection of Duplo.

See our poster for information about a Christmas Crafts event on December 20th.

The date for the **Mobile Library** visit to Downing Close, Bottisham is unclear for December. And the visit to Lode will be Wednesday December 10th.

Keep Reading!

Bottisham WI

At our October meeting Jacqueline and Helen, both members of Hardwick WI, came to talk to us about their trip to Gambia. They spent a month volunteering at The Lisa Kent Trust Meridian School. The school caters for up to 300 children aged 3-18 years.

Well away from popular tourist areas Jacqueline and Helen experienced many challenges in rural Gambia. The water supply at their compound was drawn from a borehole using solar power so tended to be intermittent as did the internet. They also found the local food quite a challenge with lots of peanuts included in the cooking.

To provide our own Gambian experience they brought a delightful red drink made from hibiscus flowers for us to try. Reactions to the fruity, flowery liquid were quite mixed!

As a trained nurse, Jacqueline is planning to go back to Gambia next year to offer CPR training. In the meantime, Jacqueline and Helen are continuing their fundraising for the charity and brought a selection of brightly coloured Gambian bags for sale.

In December we shall be holding a members' Christmas party, with musical entertainment, refreshments and a quiz.

Do get in touch or come to one of our regular monthly meetings – in the Poppy Room at the Sports and Social Club starting at 7.30p.m. - if you'd like to know more about what we do. All welcome!

Jennifer Clark

Copy deadline for the next issue is 12 December.

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



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Celebrate Christmas at Anglesey Abbey

The house will be richly decorated for all to enjoy and the wider estate offers walks around the sensory Winter Garden, festive shopping, tasty treats and wintry adventures in the woodland play area.



THE SNOWMAN™ TRAIL - Come and see if you can spot all 12 Wild in Art sculptures around the gardens, each festively painted with designs from the carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas. From now until 4 January 2026, pick up a trail map in the visitor centre and enjoy a magical, wintry day out with friends and family.

We're likely to be very busy at weekends. If you can, we recommend visiting us during the week for a quieter Snowman experience. We look forward to welcoming you!

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOUSE - The Jacobean-style country house at Anglesey Abbey is beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, with festive displays highlighting Lord Fairhaven's vast and significant collection. Step inside to discover a treasure-trove of history and spot the miniature Snowman toys hidden among the Christmas decorations.

You can also meet Father Christmas in the house – there are just a few spaces left. For more information and to book, please visit the Anglesey Abbey website.



SNOWDROPS - From mid-January to February, the gardens will be full of beautiful snowdrops. The snowdrop collection at Anglesey Abbey boasts over 500 varieties of these delicate white flowers and you can join a specialist tour to learn more about them. Please head to the Anglesey Abbey website to book your ticket.

We will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and open again on Boxing Day. From all of us at Anglesey Abbey, we wish you a very merry Christmas!

nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey

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Bottisham Parish Council

New Cemetery Resident Survey



Bottisham Parish Council recognises its responsibility to plan for the long-term needs of our community, including the provision of adequate burial space. Although the Council is not legally required to provide burial space, we believe it is our responsibility to plan ahead and ensure provision for future generations of Bottisham residents. Our current cemetery will reach full capacity within the next two years, so planning for the future is now essential.

After exploring alternatives since 2012, the Council resolved to create a new cemetery to serve the parish for the next 200 years and beyond. Working with East Cambridgeshire District Council, we have begun the process of acquiring land beside Lode Road through compulsory purchase and have gone out to tender for the required works.

For reasons of commercial confidentiality, tender figures cannot yet be shared. However, the total cost and funding arrangements will be published once the tender process is complete in early January. We anticipate applying for a 50-year loan from the Public Works Loan Board, which we expect should not require an increase in the parish precept. To progress the loan application, the Council must undertake this public consultation, running until from 24th November 2025 - 16 January 2026 inclusive.

Full project details are available on the Parish Council website and will continue to be updated. Residents are also invited to attend a drop-in information session at the Sports & Social Club on Saturday 10 January 2026 (2–5 pm) to discuss the project with councillors.

Our aim is that the new cemetery will be more than a place of burial — a peaceful green space for the whole village, with opportunities for education, biodiversity, and quiet reflection.

We ask residents to share their views through this short survey to help shape how the new cemetery is designed and managed, ensuring it remains respectful, environmentally responsible, and in keeping with the character of Bottisham.

All feedback will be reviewed and a summary of results published once the consultation closes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Bottisham Parish Council

New Cemetery Survey

Survey Closing Date: Friday 16th January at 17:00.

Any after this date will not be considered.

Drop surveys off: Survey box, Bottisham Co-Op.

**Each member of your household (18+) must create an individual survey.
Available online: https://bit.ly/Bottisham_Cemetery_Survey**



Name: _____

Address: *(Optional)* _____

Postcode: *(Mandatory)* _____

YES NO

Do you support the creation of a new cemetery for Bottisham?

☐☐

YES NO

Do you support Bottisham Parish Council applying to the Public Works
Loan Board to obtain funds to complete the cemetery project?

☐☐

Please tell us any concerns or comments you have about the new cemetery.

Are there particular features or considerations you would like the Parish Council to take into
account/consideration (e.g. soft land scaping, planting, environmental design, memorial style etc.)?

Bottisham Parish Council is collecting this information to understand residents' views on the proposed new cemetery.
Responses will be anonymised, used only to inform Council decisions, and stored securely by the Parish Clerk.
Providing your name and postcode helps confirm residency. All data will be deleted once the consultation ends.
Processing is carried out under the Council's public interest powers (Local Government Act 1972, s.214).
For details email: clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk or visit www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk

For more information: Visit <https://www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk/new-cemetery>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Letter to the Editor - "THE DEMOCRATIC ROUTE"

Dear Editor,

I note in the November issue of The Cresset Magazine, (long may it continue by the way) comments from various quarters favouring different options for a new Unitary Authority covering East Cambridgeshire and therein Bottisham.

Whilst we are all entitled to a 'personal' preference, including our cherished Editor, it is East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) that, over many years, has been attentive to the demands, quirks and foibles of East Cambridgeshire. With decades of experience behind it, ECDC advocate a particular direction that it believes will ensure that this village continues as a rural community with an agrarian aesthetic within open countryside. This in essence means not being caught up in the ever demanding pressures to become a housing site, and with that a dormitory village, for Cambridge.

Nevertheless, I understand that our County Councillor, District Councillors and Parish Council don't agree. Instead, they have a bias in favour of a different solution that aligns East Cambridgeshire southwards with South Cambs and Cambridge City. In their estimation this is the only option viable for this area. I would therefore ask, "when has there been a village consultation and where is the evidence to support this conjecture?"

Conversely, there is weighty evidence from within the Bottisham Community that supports a different view to that of our Councillors. This can, I believe, be found in the form of the Bottisham Neighbourhood Plan 2025 – 2031 (NP/The Plan). The Plan was put out for public viewing and scrutiny in March this year. Subsequent impartial analysis considered feedback from residents which indicates that the Plan and its Vision has a clear 'thumbs up' and a mandate to progress to additional scrutiny by public bodies and institutions.

Quoting from the Plan its 'Vision' in part is: "to value, protect and enrich the rural character and separate identity [of Bottisham] as a village within the Cambridge Green Belt; foremost, for Bottisham to remain a village and to ensure any development opportunities respect our heritage, community, Conservation Area, Green Belt, and the agrarian countryside aesthetic, whilst also being sustainable and appropriate to the scale and nature of the Parish".

If we aspire to our village, and its valued rural character and with that the quality of life that we say this brings, to be usurped and morphed into the industrialised and metropolitan housing cravings of Cambridge, then may be our Councillors are right. However, from reading the local input to the NP it is abundantly clear to me that this community is mostly in favour of the ECDC 'Option B' route, which will allow Bottisham to diverge from the planning pressures being wielded on Cambridge to expand eastwards.

It was disappointing therefore, and rather self-important in my opinion, for Councillors to promote 'Option A' as the only possible choice when the most prominent 'threat' cited by this community in its NP responses is the; "exponential growth of Cambridge".

Surely, informed guidance based on collective evidence is the democratic route.

Anthony Jolley

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A to B1102 Update December 2025

As we conclude the year 2025, the A to B1102 Group launches what we plan will be a regular update shared across the Parish Magazines of the communities that we represent.

NEWMARKET ROAD TRAVEL HUB CONSULTATION - Following meetings to hear feedback from all our Parish Councillors on the Greater Cambridge Partnership's (GCP) proposals for a new Travel Hub, the Group collated the feedback to help Parish Councils make their own responses to the Consultation and wrote a feedback report which was submitted to the GCP. We continue to believe that this new site alone will not address the travel and congestion issues commuters face travelling daily into Cambridge; indeed we are concerned that the proposed Hub will make the traffic situation worse. Key concerns include the site not being large enough to cope with the likely increase in Park & Ride demand given the planned increases in the number of homes in its catchment area, difficulties for buses accessing the hub to make the proposed interchange work effectively, a lack of suitable infrastructure for sustainable travel and switching mode of transport (car to bike / bus etc..) and no bus lane from the A14 inbound to enable buses to avoid the daily queues of vehicles entering the City. Our report is available at www.atob1102.org/gcp-newmarket-road-travel-hub-consultation-response/

T4 & T5 BUSES - The Group continues to lobby the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) for further improvements to the T4 and T5 bus service to improve reliability and passengers' confidence to interchange between the services. We are pleased to report that A2B Group are taking proactive steps to improve the reliability of the 6.45am service from Soham by setting up a bus depot in the Ely area, currently the bus has to travel from Royston each morning and A14 roadworks and other problems have impacted service reliability as a result. Our Facebook Group enables us to collate ongoing passenger feedback and share it with the operators.

REAL TIME PASSENGER INFORMATION (RPTI) UNITS ON THE T4 & T5 ROUTES - We are also pleased to announce that following engagement with the CPCA and our Parish Councils, the CPCA has agreed to fund and install 12 RPTI units at locations along the T4 and T5 routes to provide up-to-the-minute information on bus services. Our Parish Councils were each encouraged to consider exploring funding for additional units so that more bus stops can be equipped with units, but at this time, for various reasons, declined to progress this option. The units will be installed over the coming months in the 12 agreed locations by the CPCA's contractor.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS! - Our thanks to all of our residents who have engaged and supported the work of the Group over the last year. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

ABOUT THE A TO B1102 GROUP - The A to B1102 Group exists to raise awareness of the transport changes affecting our area, to help residents stay informed, and to ensure that local voices are heard in decisions about future infrastructure. As a voluntary, non-political group with no commercial interests, we work alongside our parish councils to support their efforts, share information, and represent the villages of Fordham, Burwell, Swaffham Prior, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck, Commercial End, Longmeadow, Lode, Bottisham, Stow-cum-Quy, Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham. Find out more about the group's work at www.atob1102.org

Jonathan Cook, Chairman - A to B1102 Group

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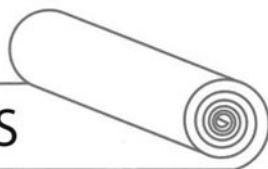


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**Bottisham
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BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Address: 41 Stow Road, Stow Cum Quy, Cambridge CB25 9AD

Email: clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

Telephone: 07369 248 998

Clerk: Sam Chambers-Turner

Chair: Nadene Cundell

Vice Chair: Jon Ogborn

Parish Councillors:

John Austin, Savannah Laurent, Keith Morrison, Steven O'Dell, Rehana Shaker,
Maria Socea, Jawahar Swaminathan

Parish Website: _____ www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk

County Councillor: Jonny Edge: _____ jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

District Councillors: Charlotte Cane: _____ charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk
John Trapp: _____ John.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk

Useful Information

Bottisham Website:	.....	www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk
Parish Council Chairman: Nadene Cundell		
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
Bottisham Surgery: Enquiries and Appointments	.....	810030
Out of Hours only - Urgentcare Cambridge	.....	111
Bottisham Library: Library hours, <i>see advert previous page</i>	.....	01223 812354
Cambridgeshire Police HQ:	.....	01480 456111
Cambridgeshire Police: (NON-URGENT MATTERS)	.....	ring 101
In EMERGENCIES	.....	ring 999
Local East Cambs Policing info: www.cambs.police.uk/Neighbourhood-Policing/East-Cambs		
NAAFI Break: Gary Fairbairn	.....	korum694@gmail.com
Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator: kevin.g.evans@ntlworld.com	.....	01353 614892
Bottisham Pharmacy:	.....	812321
Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club: Secretary Bev Clowes,		
Bottishamcasc@gmail.com	.....	812063
Bottisham Community Primary School:	.....	811235
Bottisham Village College, School:	.....	811250
Evening Classes, Clubs and Youth Club Information	.....	811372
Bottisham W.I.: Secretary - Jenn White • mrandjw@btinternet.com	.....	811600
Bottisham Scout Group: Group Contact: Linda Jones	.....	813040
1st Bottisham Rainbows/1st Bottisham Brownies: Kay Pearce	.....	811055
Girlguiding Bottisham District: Cambs County office • www.cambseastguides.org.uk	.....	01223 813917
Bottisham & District Gardening Club: Secretary: Julia Green	.....	811467
Bottisham Bowling Club: Peter Clowes, Sec., bottishambowlingclub@gmail.com	...	07756 431234
Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club: Nora Watson, nora@gandnwatson.uk	.....	812121
Bottisham Cricket Club: Chairman: Will Allen, Chairman@bottlodecricket.co.uk	...	07713 007757
Bottisham Youth Football Club: Adam Bridgland, adambridgland@hotmail.com	...	07764 488599
Bottisham Local Charities Trustees: secretary - Jonathan Barrett	.....	07920 425154
Bottisham Pool Association: Manager - Jenn Jamieson	.....	811121
Queen's Court Day Centre:	.....	811905
East Cambridgeshire District Offices:	.....	01353 665555
East Cambridgeshire District Councillors:		
Charlotte Cane, 34 Swaffham Road, Reach	.....	07976 607512
John Trapp, 104 Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck	.....	01223 812120
Cambridgeshire County Councillor: Jonny Edge		
Jonny.Edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	.....	Tel: 07974348141
MP for Constituency: Charlotte Cane, MP, charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk		
Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Helpdesk:	.....	0845 3030666
Milton Road Tip: Apr to Sept – Weekdays 9.00am-8.00pm: Weekends 9.00am-6.00pm	860674
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