

November 2025

THE 
Cresset



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

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I am writing this from North of the border where we are taking an Autumn break. That is one thing that is good about the internet. I can carry on with the Cresset work uninterrupted. But then that in itself is a bit of a double edged sword.



Having said that, editing our village magazine is no great burden and it has its benefits in that I get to know about things, before anybody else does. However nowadays its roll is changing and must continue to change, with the immediacy of the likes of “faceache” aka. facebook etc. satisfying the younger ages.

Many folk, including the older generations like to see it in print and also to retain it until the next issue as a reference for information about services and trades available locally. Need a plumber, look in The Cresset. Need an electrician, load of logs or a carpet fitter, ditto.

I have edited your magazine for some 25 years and thoroughly enjoy it, but I am looking to pass the baton to somebody new in the near future. If you would be interested in taking on this role then do let me know. My wife, Rhona and I (she is Hon. Treasurer) find the two roles work perfectly in tandem and would suit a couple sharing a desk. (My bit is much tidier than Her’s!)

So to this month’s offering. Lots of information about what the various Clubs and organisations are up to and a packed offering from the Social Club on what they are doing, up to the end of the year.

Gerry Daish gives us his usual great read which this month focuses on a Raptor which many of us may have seen flying or hovering over fields locally, the Kestrel. Even if you are not a birdwatcher Gerry’s articles are always full of information and details which are bound to raise your interest in the subject.

Our Local Councillors are quite rightly concerned about the future structure of our local authority. Personally, I think the proposal that we should join with Peterborough to be a retrograde step. To join an authority which has historically been haemorrhaging monies means our costs will go up. But then maybe having less pressure on housing development would have its advantages.

Scams now and Graham Watson wrote to me with details of a scam he received. Be aware of somebody claiming to be a BT Engineer and looking to repair a fault that he had found. Graham knew he had no fault and gave him short shrift.

Finally, our cover this month is a picture taken at Anglesey Abbey of a specimen tree in the process of changing its Autumn colours. Stuart Field caught it with all three! Like it was on fire! Enjoy November with. St. Andrew’s night (Haggis neeps and tatties mmm!) And stay safe with the fireworks. More to come next month with Christmas getting closer.

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

Autumn has now settled in and over the past four weeks we have seen some fantastic changes of colour in our hedgerows. We had our highly successful Harvest Festival in church with a splendid display of flowers and autumn leaves thanks to our flower arrangers. Sarah Maxwell led a super service attended by over sixty adults and ten children- the largest congregation for this service for a number of years. Another highlight was the organ playing of Wayne Marshall - we particularly enjoyed his improvised variations on the tunes of a number of harvest hymns at the end of the service.



Another reminder of the harvest season came when we visited Hilton Park for our monthly service there. The service table was splendidly decorated with harvest produce and a background cloth reminded us of the autumn colours. Once again, a record number of attendees were present - eighteen people being the largest number we have ever had at a single service. A team predominantly from the church in Bottisham but also from Swaffham Bulbeck visit Hilton Park and Oaklands once a month. The service is a simple one especially designed for the residents there. Hymn singing is always very popular, and it is amazing how even those with dementia can remember the words of the hymns and some of the prayers they learnt as children. Just four team members take turns leading the service, which has a different simple theme each month as well as a short homily.

In the past two weeks we have had to have the cabling for the sound system refixed after the glue used to fix the cables invisibly around the arches (the only method allowable at the time of installation) became unstuck in the heat of the summer and left one cable dangling dangerously low. We also had an electrician working for one and a half days rectifying the items which needed attention following our Quinquennial report on our fixed electrical appliances and circuits.

Our service pattern for November includes on the 2nd a special service for All Saints Day when we will remember past loved ones in prayer while by lighting small candles. This will be a Holy Communion service led by our Vicar, Rev Max Osborne and will start at 10.30am. Names of loved ones you would like to be remembered can be given to me at the start of the service or sent to me in the days beforehand. On 5th November our on-line C by C, a short contemplative service, led by Sarah Maxwell will take place at 8.00pm on Zoom. On Sunday 9th November members from the congregation from Bottisham will go to Quoy for a simple lay-led Remembrance Day service there, starting at 10.50am, during which the names of those from Bottisham who lost their lives in the two World Wars will be read out. Our Morning Prayer service for November, led by Sarah Maxwell, will take place on the 16th at 10.30am.

Our Regular Baby and Toddler Group each Tuesday continues from 9 -11am. All parents, grandparents and carers are welcome with their children to enjoy chatting together, with

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games and toys for the children and refreshments for all. The Peaceful and Prayerful Art Group, led by Ruth Blundell, now takes place in Lode Church for the Winter months on Friday afternoons 1.30pm-3.30pm for the first four Fridays of the month.

Our final 'Coffee & Cake Concert' of the year will take place at 10.30am on Saturday 6th December. The theme will be 'A history of our Christmas Carols'. I will act as raconteur and 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 singing. Suggested donation: £5. Free for children.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our services or activities.

Stuart Field, Churchwarden

KATH ROUTLEY

Many thanks to everyone for your kind thoughts and messages following the passing of Kath and the donations to the British Heart Foundation in her memory.

Regards Frank and Family.

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sun 2nd Nov	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion for All Saints' Day - Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Wed 5th Nov	8pm	C by C, a contemplative service , online via Zoom
Sun 9th Nov	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.50am	Remembrance Service - Quy (with Bottisham)
		Remembrance Service with Scouts etc -
		Swaffham Prior
Sun 16th Nov	9am	Remembrance Service - Swaffham Bulbeck
		Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Morning Prayer - Quy
		Holy Communion - Swaffham Bulbeck
Sun 23rd Nov	9am	Morning Prayer - Bottisham
		Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) – Swaffham Bulbeck
		Holy Communion - Swaffham Prior
Sun 30th Nov	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Lode
Each Thurs	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.

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

ALL ARE WELCOME

Upcoming Advice Surgeries

Charlotte Cane MP

OCTOBER:

Thurs 02, 2pm-4pm - **Ely**

Thurs 09, 3.30pm-5.30pm - **Stretham**

Fri 24, 11am-12.30pm - **Online**

NOVEMBER:

Fri 14, 12.30pm-2pm - **Online**

Fri 21, 2.30pm-4.30pm - **Ely**

Fri 28, 3pm-5pm - **Stetchworth**

DECEMBER:

Thurs 04, 1.30pm-3.30pm - **Sutton**

Fri 12, 4pm-5.30pm - **Online**

Thurs 18, 10am-12pm - **Ely**

JANUARY:

Thurs 08, 9.30am-11am - **Online**

Fri 16, 11am-1pm - **Isleham**

Fri 23, 3.30pm-5.30pm - **Ely**

FEBRUARY:

Fri 06, 9am-10.30am - **Online**

Fri 13, 11am-1pm - **Milton**

Thurs 26, 2.30pm-4.30pm - **Ely**

MARCH:

Thurs 05, 3.30pm-5pm - **Online**

Thurs 12, 10am-12pm - **Ely**

Fri 27, 1pm-3pm - **Mepal**

BOOK HERE:

bit.ly/bookasurgery

**Times are subject to change*



Parish Council Report

The next full council meeting will be held by on Monday 3rd November 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 and Councillor Details are available from the Parish Council Noticeboard and from the website bottisham-pc.gov.uk.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, Bottisham will be raising the flag in honour of those who have fallen before us. Councillor Keith Morrison will be conducting a short act of remembrance at the flagpole opposite the church. The suggested meeting time is 10.50am for anyone who wishes to attend. The flag will remain in place until after the Kings birthday on 14th November.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES EVENT

For the second year running, the Parish Council will be placing a Christmas tree on the triangle. We are hoping (storms withholding – even storm Darragh didn't stop us last time!) to celebrate the event on Saturday 6th December from 4pm onwards on the triangle, with a selection of different offerings including face painting, live entertainment, Santa, storytelling and refreshments. We are also planning carol singing around the village. Anyone who wishes to be involved with the signing or any other aspect, please contact me using the details below to register your interest. More details of the schedule of events will be posted on the noticeboards and other prominent places throughout the village in the coming weeks and the Community Facebook pages.

BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE ARTWORK COMPETITION

The Parish Council held a presentation evening at the Village College for finalists of the artwork competition for the bus stop on the High Street. As previously mentioned, there were over 300 entries which were taken down to nine for judging by MP Charlotte Cane, County Councillor Jonny Edge and the Parish Council Chair Nadene Cundell.

The nine finalists and their families were invited to attend the evening, along with members of the college teaching staff and governors. It was an opportunity for the finalists to see their artwork displayed alongside the other entries for the first time. Members of the public will have the opportunity to view the finalists' work at the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council in April. MP Charlotte Cane made the presentations on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council were overwhelmed with the high standard of work submitted by all the students, and we would like to thank everyone who that took part. The winning design will now be transferred to the appropriate medium to be placed on the back wall of the bus stop in due course.

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 07369248998.

Sam Chambers-Turner - Clerk to the Council

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Cambridgeshire County Council Report

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

We step ever closer to councils agreeing which proposals to submit for the government to consider for the local government reorganisation of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on 28 November. Each council is only able to recommend one proposal and then the government will decide and consult on how they want to proceed early next year.

The County Council continue to support the submission of Option A, which combines East and South Cambridgeshire with the City. Many local councillors, our parishes and I though not content with the process we've been pushed into, also support this option as the only one viable for our area. We're working together to submit a joint statement directly to government ministers to make clear how disadvantaged this area will become if aligned with Peterborough rather than Cambridge; as well as sharing our disappointment that this process has not been able to address Newmarket's relationship to many of our daily lives.

QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY 2025

The results of the County Council's third annual Quality of Life survey have now been published.

- **Happiness is at its highest point** since tracking began (84%), but loneliness (30%) and mental health struggles (28%) remain high, particularly with younger age groups.
- **Residents remain concerned about the cost of living and jobs and investment**, with 87% of residents reporting they personally feel concerned. Just under two thirds (62%) also report concern over the level of investment and jobs in their local area. This has been steadily increasing year on year.
- **A sense of community and pride of place continues to be strong.** Residents continue to feel safe in (85%) and have a sense of belonging to (76%) their local communities. Around half (48%) of residents are involved in their local community in some way.
- **Residents' views on Cambridgeshire County Council's performance are also the most positive they've been.** Residents continue to trust the Council to make decisions (52%) and deliver value for money (47%). This is higher than national averages.

More details of the survey and findings are available online.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/quality-of-life-survey/qualityof-life-survey-2025>

KINGSWAY SOLAR

With the Stage 2 consultation now live, I am working closely with colleagues, landowners and residents across the affected area to fully scrutinise the proposal. The consultation closes at 11:59pm on 29 October.

Apart from those in Brinkley, the main direct impact on our division is the power line corridor from the west of Brinkley, east of Six Mile Bottom with 50m high pylons to the Swaffham's before linking to a yet non-existent substation in Burwell.
<https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/documents/>

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Bottisham ward surgery - Cllr John Trapp (district) and I will be holding a surgery in Brinkley on 30 October, 18:30 to 19:30. Any Woodditton residents are welcome to join if wanting to talk about County Council matters.

Cllr Jonny Edge, 07974 348141, jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



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District Councillors' Report

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The political leadership of East Cambridgeshire District Council has now launched a campaign in favour of Option B, with East Cambridgeshire along with Huntingdonshire and Fenland being run from Peterborough. Neither Peterborough nor Huntingdonshire is supporting this option.

If you believe it will be deeply damaging to East Cambridgeshire to cut off our influence over the places where we work, study, and receive health care, and to be run from a city miles away with which most of us have no connection, please respond to their survey at <https://tinyurl.com/eastcams-lgr-survey>

FULL COUNCIL MEETING - A long Full Council meeting on 18 September.

1. New Homes Ombudsman: the Lib Dems proposed that the Council should require its Trading Company to join the scheme which gives people moving into new build homes the right to take complaints to the New Homes Ombudsman. This was rejected by the Conservatives, on the grounds that it wasn't compulsory, and that the Trading Company had joined an inferior scheme, which didn't give access to the Ombudsman.
2. Ely junction: the proposal that the Council should continue to press the Government to invest in upgrades to the rail network north of Ely, to open it up to more rail journeys for passengers and freight was passed.
3. It was pointed out that four years ago, the Conservative group had promised an army of uniformed volunteer traffic wardens — that has now shrunk to, possibly, part-funding one PCSO; the illegal and inconvenient parking continues in the villages and Ely.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT AND REPLACEMENT - East Cambridgeshire District Council Chief Executive John Hill will be retiring at the end of this year, and the Council has set in motion plans to fill the vacancy.

Of the three members of the recruitment panel, two are Conservative despite both groups being equal on the council.

STREAMLINING INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING - The Government is consulting on removing the requirement for statutory consultation as part of the process for determining large national infrastructure projects such as the solar farm at Sunnica, or the incinerator at Wisbech. This proposal is set out in Government's Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

The consultation can be found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-streamlining-infrastructure-planning>

AFFORDABLE HOUSING - A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

Lib Dems on the Council's Finance & Assets Committee voted against plans to hand over £72,000 of affordable housing funds to East Cambs District Council's own company, East Cambs Trading Company, for use at Arbour Square Ely. The money came from developer contributions that must be used to create extra affordable housing. However, ECTC had already signed binding contracts to deliver all twenty-seven houses on this site as affordable housing for social rent.

Lib Dem Councillors said this means the grant does not secure a single additional house— it simply gives taxpayers' money back to a Council-owned company that has already

Continued on page 13

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committed to deliver the scheme. Local residents in housing need are being denied the extra houses this money should have provided.

OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 29 September.

- The Council's recycling rate is lower for the last two quarters than the equivalent periods a year ago.
- The Council has admitted that on most days the street cleaning service operates below the minimum number of staff.
- It was noted that residents had received letters about the forthcoming changes to the waste collection service, and that there will be follow-up communications.

POLICE SURVEY - Cambridgeshire Constabulary have created a short survey to understand how people currently report crimes and how the police can improve the process. It only takes 10–15 minutes, and as a thank you, you'll have the chance to win a £100 shopping voucher in a prize draw.

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CIR_Cambs_Constabulary/

SURGERY - There will be no surgery in November. 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.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp

Planning Notes

a) New applications:

25/01070/VAR (PP-14375642), Site South Of 2 Parsonage Barns Bottisham Cambridgeshire. To Vary Condition 1 (Approved Plans) of previously approved 23/00017/FUL, dated 8 November 2024 for erection of outdoor covered storage area and extension to existing building to form staff welfare facilities and associated works

b) Planning Applications approved by ECDC:

25/00715/FUL, 2 The Old Garage 56 High Street Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DA. Change of use from Class B2 (General Industrial) to Class E(e) to facilitate the operation of a local veterinary practice.

25/00810/FUL (PP-14198006), 119 Lode Road Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DJ. Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension in its place. Convert garage into habitable room.

25/00825/TEL (PP-14217443), Anglian Water Services Limited Sewage Works Tunbridge Lane Bottisham. Installation of digital communications mast.

25/00257/FUL, 2 Thomas Christian Way Bottisham Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB25 9DX. Part single and part two storey side extension.

25/00399/NMAA (PP-14293940), 12 Peacock Drive Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9EF. Non material amendment to previously approved 25/00399/FUL for single storey rear extension and two storey side extension to provide improved access through property together with ground floor shower and toilet facility.

25/00964/TRE (PP-14300110), 89 High Street Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9BA. T1 Sycamore at rear of property - Remove deadwood (over 25mm diameter and 100mm in length).

T2 3x Hornbeam - Reduce height (by 2m) and spread (by 1.5m)

T3 5x Silver Birches - Trim to give a 2m clnce to building

c) Planning Application refused by ECDC:

25/00779/FUL (PP-13952142), 74-76 Beechwood Avenue Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DB, Demolition of a pair of semi-detached dwellings and construction of four dwellings, access, parking and associated infrastructure



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.

See website for further details— <https://fassage.lemonbooking.com>

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East Cambs District Council - Stakeholder Update on Option B for LGR

As you will be aware the council is nearing the point at which it must submit a business plan to the Government as part of Local Government Reorganisation.

There are 5 options on the table, and all of them have benefits and disadvantages for different areas across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

East Cambridgeshire District Council has been contributing to the development of all business cases, and we currently believe that Option B provides the best solution, and we are concerned that Option A provides the least best solution for our area. We aim to consider all business cases at Full Council on 20 November 2025.

You can read more detail on all the options on our website, but the purpose of this email is to provide you with more information about Option B and why we are favouring this over Option A.

Option A would see East Cambridgeshire join with councils in Greater Cambridge, and

Option B would see East Cambridgeshire become part of a larger unitary authority, joining forces with Huntingdonshire, Fenland and Peterborough councils.

We recognise the obvious choice for many people and organisations in East Cambridgeshire is Option A – after all Cambridge has the wealth, affluence and prestige associated with it.

However, at East Cambridgeshire District Council we honestly believe Option B is the best for our residents.

It will mean they pay lower Council Tax, inherit less debt and have more say in services that are provided locally. Crucially Option B won't sacrifice our beautiful district to become a housing site for Cambridge.

East Cambridgeshire is a special place and we want to keep it that way, not play second fiddle to Cambridge.

We are keen for as many people as possible to have their say. If you have any questions, or would like more information please visit our website or email lgr@eastcambs.gov.uk

Village Litter Picks 2025

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	8	November
Bottisham Community, Sports & Social	6	December

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am

Ways to keep in touch:

All events, once a month on a Saturday, starting at 10:00am

Ways to keep in touch:

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

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OPENING HOURS

Monday to Thursday 5pm to 11pm
Friday 3:30pm – 11pm
Saturday 12 noon to 11pm
Sunday 12 noon to 9pm

Non-Members are always very welcome.

If you would like to join the membership fee is just £20 per year plus a £1 share in the first year.
Members benefit from reduced prices over the bar and cheaper entrance for events.

Regular events

Happy hour or hours! Every Friday from 3:30pm until 7pm

£1 off every alcoholic drink.

Everyone is welcome, table tennis and other games available for the children too.

The Friday Meat Draw follows Happy Hour at 7:30pm

£80 pounds worth of prizes each week.

Every Saturday Morning from 10am until midday is Sausage Saturday

Pop along to the Poppy Room for a bacon or sausage bap with refillable tea/coffee for only £2.50 - nonmembers are very welcome.

Last Friday of each month is 'Open Mic' night.

Your chance to entertain or just listen to the local talent - Entrance is free to all.

WHAT ELSE IS ON?

Saturday 8th November - Race Night in aid of the Poppy Appeal

Entrance free, place your bets, buy a horse.

Saturday 22nd November - Sissy Lea is back - If you like drag then this is for you!

8pm start - **ENTRANCE IS FREE**

Saturday 29th November - Bowling Club Quiz night

7:30pm start - £5 per person, tables of six.

Monday 15th December - Newmarket Town band and our Big Christmas Draw

Sing along to your favourite Christmas Songs - **ENTRANCE FREE**

Saturday 20th December - Children's Christmas Party with AJ's Disco

4:30pm - 7:30pm **ENTRANCE FREE**

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY - See the New Year in with 'The Jjarrs'

Live music, food, decorations and lots of fun.

Free Entrance - Buy your ticket for £1 and get £1 off your first drink.

Please refer to the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk for the latest information.

NAAFI Break

First Wednesday of every month from 10am to 11am,
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Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd November 2025

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Having received some positive feedback on my Crow/Rook comparison a couple of months ago, and having entered the world of Raptors last month, I think it's time to look at two common birds of prey that are probably misidentified more frequently than just about any other species! The Kestrel and the Sparrowhawk may both be predators, and of a roughly comparable size, but the similarities largely end there; they are not even members of the same family, the Kestrel being a Falcon (smaller relative of the Peregrine) and the Sparrowhawk... well, the clue is in the name!



Let's start with the Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), one of my favourites from childhood because the emblem of the RSPB's Young Ornithologists' Club was a hovering Kestrel and I wore the badge proudly from the age of seven until I became an adult member. Kestrels enjoy a revered status around the world as a messenger, protector, seer and bringer of freedom, power and vitality. The species, including a total of 11 subspecies, is widespread in Europe, Asia and Africa, as well as occasionally reaching the east coast of North America. Fortunately, for the purposes of identification, only *F.tinnunculus* is to be found in the UK, and it is present, all year round, in almost the whole of the British Isles.

The male Kestrel is a handsome bird, brownish in colour and featuring a chestnut brown back and wings, with black wing-tips, a blue-grey head with a dark facial 'tear' mark, a light, speckled breast and a black terminal tail band. The female can be distinguished quickly to the practiced eye through the generally paler colouring and lack of grey head and black wing-tips. At rest, Kestrels have a fairly upright stance and can often be seen sitting atop a telegraph pole or perched on a wire surveying their surroundings for passing consumables. The shape of the bird – particularly noticeable in flight – is key to identifying it as a falcon, rather than a hawk. The Kestrel is a slim, streamlined bird, with pointed wings and a longish tail, ideal for achieving a sudden, fast dive; as opposed to the Sparrowhawk which is a slightly more powerful creature, with a muscular build and thicker, rounded wings, affording it speed and agility for its preferred mode of hunting which relies substantially on surprise.

The field vole accounts for the majority of the Kestrel's diet. It will also take mice and shrews and occasionally snakes, worms and insects. It might also take a small bird in, say, more urban areas where voles are scarce. Its main method of hunting is to hover above its target area, flying into the wind, using its tail and wings to hold it in position with its head absolutely still. Eyes will be fixed on the ground looking for movement or other evidence of prey, before dropping rapidly, with folded wings, onto its victim.

Whilst a Kestrel will sometimes soar over its territory, it is this hovering behaviour, often over arable land or roadsides, that is most commonly observed and gives rise to its colloquial name, "Windhover". So, whenever you see a (relatively) small bird of prey hovering, it is never a Sparrowhawk, always a Kestrel! And chances are, it will be over an

(Continued on page 23)

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St James' Church Lode
7th, 14th, 21st November
Fridays 1.30pm - 3.30pm

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watercolour pencils / paints / pastels

Newmarket Community Cinema

The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.



Monday November 17th - My Old Lady (12)

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)

area where the grass is long – prime rodent habitat. In fact, one of the reasons that Kestrels are drawn to roadsides is that rodents and mini-beasts are attracted by litter thrown from cars. (Not that I am condoning littering in any way!)

The Kestrel's eyesight is about eight times keener than a human's and it can even see ultra-violet light, which is invisible to the human eye. Why is this useful? Because urine reflects UV light, meaning that Kestrels can detect urine trails around rodents' burrows. And the highly developed retina enables a Kestrel to see a creature as small as a beetle from 50 metres away!

Kestrels are among the few birds who don't build nests. Instead they either use nests abandoned by other species (especially Corvids), or find cavities, such as holes in trees or rock faces or farm buildings, and lay their eggs inside. They may nest around the edges of woodland but rarely venture into woods because their efforts to find food would be hampered by foliage. Normally four to five eggs are laid in April or May. The chicks hatch after a month and spend a further five weeks in the nest before fledging.

Sadly, the UK's Kestrel population has fallen by half since 1970. Secondary poisoning (i.e. consuming voles and mice that have eaten poison intended for rats) is thought to be the main problem, but agricultural intensification reducing field vole numbers and loss of nesting sites are also considered contributing factors. Anyway, the Kestrel is now on the UK's 'Amber' list of Birds of Conservation Concern.

Many readers of my generation will be familiar with the acclaimed British film, 'Kes', which depicted a working-class town in 1960s Yorkshire where a troubled teenage boy discovered a focus in life after finding and training a young Kestrel. It was based on the novel 'A Kestrel for a Knave' by Barry Hines, (in medieval England, the only bird a knave – male servant / man of low class – was legally allowed to keep was a kestrel) and this work has often been used in the curriculum as an educational text. Whilst I am not a fan of keeping any bird in captivity (other than 'rescues'), this is a wonderful story. So, for the uninitiated, please do read the book or watch the film... you won't be disappointed!

STOP PRESS

Early Autumn 2025 has been an extraordinary period for rarities visiting the UK! A record-breaking influx of Glossy Ibises involving hundreds of birds occurred in September. I managed to scoop one of these on a visit to Cley, Norfolk, and the following day a Red-Necked Phalarope was showing well for me at Titchwell. (I missed the Pallid Harrier at Cley, though!) Later visitors included a Red-Flanked Bluetail at John O'Groats, an Isabelline Wheatear in Durham, a Brown Shrike in North Yorkshire, a Lesser Grey Shrike in Norfolk, and a Lesser Yellowlegs in Cambridgeshire (Etton-Maxey Pits) as well as a smattering of Yellow-Browed Warblers, Wrynecks and Hoopoes... none of which were seen by me, sadly! Ah well, one lives in hope...

TTFN - Gerry Daish

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Billy Caspar in 'Kes'



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Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Despite its grand name Histon Manor is a private house with an 11 acre garden which few of us had heard of, so we were delighted to have Katherine Mann give us an insight into the history. She admitted she was not a gardener and her background was in media and design, which left us wondering why on earth she would take on such a large project. They moved into the house in 2018 and the garden was overgrown after two years of neglect, but it had the footprint of the 1920s layout and was divided into several garden rooms. Lots of hard work lay ahead, clearing beds and restoring planting. It includes a moated island which features a sea of snowdrops in the Spring but access was a problem and replacing the unstable bridge was a major expense. Her horticultural knowledge may have been wanting but her vision could not be faulted. They now host Open Gardens and use the grounds for weddings and the house for filming and photo shoots.

Our next meeting is on 25th November when we will hear about Wicken Fen, Past Present and Future. We meet at 7.30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club. Non-members are welcome for a charge of £3.00.

Margret Coles

Make Sure You're Protected This Winter

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough urging anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines to make sure they've had them this winter. Each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria:

- **RSV vaccine** – for anyone who is pregnant, aged 75-79, or anyone who turned 80 years old from 1 September 2024.
- **Pneumococcal vaccine** – for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).
- **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 75+; those aged between six months and 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment; and people who live in a care home for older adults.

For some people who have got used to have their COVID-19 and flu vaccine together in winter, this might mean a change for them as the COVID-19 vaccine age criteria has changed from people over 65 to people over 75.

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

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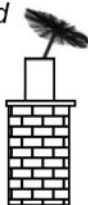
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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

THE WAY YOU ACCESS MEDICAL CARE IS CHANGING

From the 1st of October 2025 we have improved how you access care at Bottisham Medical Practice.

You can contact us with an issue from 8am (Monday to Friday).

You don't have to join the morning queue on the phone to contact us. We recommend contacting us via the NHS App or our website with any admin or clinical query.

We will also be available on the telephone and in person for you to contact. Reception will need to ask you the same triage questions which are on the online form.

All requests for care will be triaged by a clinician and we will get back to you with the most appropriate support.

However you contact us, your request will be handled in the same way to ensure fair and equitable access to all.

To locate the online form visit our website <https://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk>

Then click on "contact us online". You will be asked for your name and date of birth and then message us your query.

At the time of writing we are one week into the new system which has received very positive feedback in terms of speed of response and appointments given.

Why has the system changed? Total triage means those in most urgent need are prioritised and patients are directed to the most appropriate clinician for their problem which is not always a GP. Patient continuity is possible, but you may have to wait to see the GP of your choice. Triageing all requests means everyone is treated equitably whether you phone, turn up at the door or use online access.

The next group meeting will be in early January, at the surgery, details to be advised.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Group

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
Model Railway items HO/OO, Track, buildings and scenic materials.	Var.	811792
Garden Shed available for free but you must dismantle and remove it please. Needs some repair and a repaint. 83"W,60"L, average 74"H.	Free	811792
Miele C3 Cat & Dog Vacuum Cleaner	£20.00	812199



Wednesdays

At Bottisham Sports & Social Club!

7:30pm

Relaxed social gatherings!

Book Club

Every 1st Wednesday of the Month

Baking Club

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month

Wool & Wine

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month

Board Games

Every 4th Wednesday of the month

All events, start at 7:30pm, at the Club, Members and Non-Members welcome, late-comers welcome, discover new hobbies and join your neighbours in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

Ways to stay connected with updates:

- ✓ Visit the Bottisham Events Facebook Page
- ✓ Visit the Bottisham Community Group Facebook Page

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At our September meeting we welcomed Christine Wiseman who has volunteered since a child with Save the Children.

The charity was founded in the UK in 1919, with its goal being to improve the lives of children worldwide. As a global movement, in 2024 Save the Children directly supported 41.2 million people in 93 countries across the world. Their work includes nutrition (food and clean water), health (family planning, immunisation, maternity care), learning (Children's books, reading clubs and teacher training), children's rights, re-uniting families, and creating safe spaces (for play, talking and learning). The charity uses local people where possible for the work they do with branches all over the world fundraising to support these initiatives.

Christine gave us the following examples:

In 2024 1.5 million people were reached in Gaza, enabling them to have safe water to drink and safe spaces to go. The 2025 ban on aid entering this region has meant that the work has been suspended but is ready to go back in when this is possible.

In South Sudan between 2017- 2023 Save the Children were able to reunite 7,000 children with their families.

Much of the work is done in the UK, with a focus on helping with childcare costs and tackling the link between poverty and low achievement. Crisis grants are available which can provide mattresses, cot, fridge, food vouchers and book packs. There is always a need for fundraising, with online donation available as well as Save the Children Charity shops and local activities such as coffee mornings. Christine was thanked for a very informative and thought-provoking talk, followed by refreshments.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 20th November at 2.30pm at the Passage Hall, Lode, where we shall be joined by Rev'd Max Osborne.

All are welcome to join us.

Alison Martin

Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

“GEMSTONES”

A 5-week course presented by Jason Middleton

- Pearl: A Famous Gemstone • An Introduction to Gemstones
- Diamond: Gemstone of Distinction • Gemstones and Jewellery of the rich and famous
- Hallmarking, Jewellery metals and Gemstone Science

The course starts on Thursday November 6th, last session on 4th December

BALA courses are held in the main hall at Bottisham Community Sports and Social Centre in Downing Close CB25 9DD starting at 10.30. 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



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Bottisham Airfield Museum Group (BAMG)

On the Sunday 5th October the Museum held its third classic car and bike show of the year. After the tail end of storm Amy caused damage to the hired portable toilets on the preceding Saturday and made marking out of the show field by our volunteer team something of a challenge in the high winds, we wondered if anyone would turn up. But I am happy to report that by 10AM cars were pouring in, and a total of 160 classic cars had arrived by the end of the day making another successful event. This was our last major event of 2025.

Our final helicopter flights day for this year was Wednesday 15th October. But if you didn't get a chance to fly this year, don't worry as flights start again on Wednesday 22nd April 2026. For more details and booking, see the website www.adventure001.com.

The Museum and the Flying Tractor Cafe will be open until Sunday 9th November 2025, when the museum holds its Remembrance Day commemoration and so ending our season. I hope to include some of the event dates for 2026 in the next newsletter.

The Museum has enjoyed a great season, but we do need more volunteers to help on maintenance works over the winter and to staff the Museum and Café on Wednesdays and Sundays in the new year. Please contact the museum if you are interested in joining us on info@bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk, or leave us a message on 01223 813952.

Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer

Bottisham Community Library Association

NOVEMBER

We have now got back our access to the Public Library computer system. Unfortunately we have lost access to the ancestry.com software etc but hope it will be possible to access them in the future. However if you want to access a computer in the library you can now log on to any of the College computers and print off anything via the College printer/copier on the opposite side of the main entrance door.

The charges per sheet are as usual:

A4 - 20p

A4 colour – 75p

A3 – 1.25

The Book of the Month for November is the second in the Impossible Creatures series called 'The Poisoned King' by Katherine Rundell. She is a wonderful writer for children (and adults). Look out for her other books in the Library – 'The Explorers', a survival story set in the Amazon jungle, and 'Rooftoppers', with Sophie's adventures across the Victorian rooftops of Paris!

Lego Club and StoryTime will be on Saturday November 15th at 10.30. Younger children will enjoy our collection of Duplo.

The date for the **Mobile Library** visit to Downing Close, Bottisham is Thursday, 27th November, in the morning. And the visit to Lode will be Wednesday November 12th.

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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?

A huge thank-you to everyone who participated in, supported and donated to the Red2Green Sponsored Walk 2025! We're thrilled to share that we raised an incredible £2,000, and we're so grateful to everyone who made it possible. A special thank-you goes to The Black Horse for their ongoing collaboration and to the Minster Tavern Ely for their generous contributions. It was a truly wonderful day, filled with sunshine, laughter, and a great sense of community as staff, learners, and friends came together. We're already looking forward to next year's walk!

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Mark your calendars! Our Christmas Carol Service and Fair will take place on Monday 1st December 2025. In Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Church

- **Carol Service: 11:00 – 11:35am**
- **Christmas Fair: 11:35am – 2:00pm**

We'd love for you to join us for a festive morning of carols, followed by an afternoon of refreshments, crafts, and raffle fun. If you'd like to run a stall at the event, please get in touch via info@red2green.org or give us a call on 01223 811 662.

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 01223811662.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 November.

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

Have you thought of advertising your business in **The Cresset?**
Email the Editor for details: **BottishamCresset@gmail.com**



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STAY FIRE SAFE IN YOUR KITCHEN

More than half the fires crews attend in the home start in the kitchen.

Below are some simple safety tips to help you stay fire safe in the kitchen:

- Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking on the hob. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – this can easily catch fire.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Don't store items on top of hobs.
- Take care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking, take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk.
- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water.
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.

HELP US KEEP PEOPLE SAFE THIS BONFIRE NIGHT!

Does your village or town have a firework display planned for this year's Bonfire Night?

If so, we want to advertise it in our map of local displays.

We want to encourage families to attend organised fireworks displays to ensure our communities stay safe while enjoying the fireworks celebrations. We hope to include as many displays as possible to offer people the closest options to their home.

Please let us know about any planned firework displays taking place in and around your area for us to include in our map of organised displays.

The map will feature on our website and across our social media channels.

Please send the full address and information in an email to pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk.

COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR OLDER DRIVER WORKSHOPS

We are hosting a series of Older Driver Workshops throughout October and November. These are free sessions designed for those over 65 and currently driving, to help them keep driving safely for longer. We discuss how driving can become more challenging as we get older, and what simple checks we can do at home to keep ourselves fit to drive. This interactive, two-hour session covers the following topics:

- Age-related changes when driving
- Eyesight and driving
- Conducting a vehicle check
- License renewal
- Signs to be aware of
- Alternatives to driving.

Visit our website (<https://bit.ly/4n4hBoG>) to find out more and book your place.

Continued on page 37

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GET YOUR CHIMNEY SWEEPED AND KEEP YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE!

The Service attends around 50 fires a year involving chimneys, most of which could be avoided by following some simple safety tips:

- Appoint a skilled and technically competent chimney engineer. To find your nearest local HETAS Approved Chimney Sweep visit: <https://www.hetas.co.uk/find-chimney-sweep/>
- Keep the flue shafts clear and ensure they are well maintained
- Only use properly treated wood to build a fire
- Always use a fireguard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers
- Make sure embers are properly put out before you go to bed.

We always advise getting your chimney swept at least once a year, preferably before lighting it for the first time when the cold weather arrives. There could be a buildup of debris that's accumulated over the year, which can be set alight when heating the home and could cause a significant fire.

Some will also be looking at using a chimney for the first time, that may not have been used for many years. It is really important to make sure it is swept and inspect the brickwork before lighting it for the first time.

For more information or to get in touch contact us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or on 0800 9179994.
Like us on Facebook for regular updates www.facebook.com/cambsfrs or follow us on Twitter @cambsfrs.

Bottisham WI

At our September meeting Leonard Priestley entertained us with stories of his long and interesting career as a lorry driver and removal man. One of his specialities was moving pianos. Most removal companies don't like moving pianos because of the specialist equipment required. They also have to be dismantled before removal in order to protect the inner workings of the instruments. A most interesting and entertaining talk.

At our November meeting we shall collect items for the annual Salvation Army Appeal. If you would like to contribute items or donations then please do get in touch for more details (Secretary's details are provided at the back of The Cresset in Useful Information).

On Tuesday 18th November our speaker will be Susan Grossey who will be talking about Writing Historical Fiction, blending truth and imagination. Do come and join us if you'd like to know more!

In December we shall be holding a members' Christmas party, with musical entertainment and a quiz. Please note the change of date to Tuesday 2nd December.

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

Jennifer Clark

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 November.

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



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The Snowman™ Trail

Join us for an adventure this winter at Anglesey Abbey with The Snowman™ trail from 8 November 2025 to 4 January 2026. Enjoy a magical day out with friends and family in search of the twelve giant sculptures, each painted with designs inspired by the English carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas.

The Wild in Art trail is inspired by Raymond Briggs' heart-warming picture book, The Snowman. You can pick up a trail map in the visitor centre and make your way around the autumnal gardens in search of each sculpture, creatively painted by national and international artists.



EARTH PHOTO EXHIBITION

It's the last chance to come and see the shortlisted works from the international Earth Photo competition, displayed in The Orchard at Anglesey Abbey until 23 November. Caffé Mobile are open daily in the Orchard throughout the exhibition, selling hot drinks and homemade bakes.

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOUSE

From 17 November to 4 January, the house at Anglesey Abbey will be beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, with traditional festive displays highlighting Lord Fairhaven's vast and significant collection. Children can also continue their journey with The Snowman™ indoors by spotting The Snowman™ toys in each room, hidden among the decorations.



There are still a few spaces left to meet **Father Christmas** in the house – but hurry! Tickets are selling fast. Head to the Anglesey Abbey website to find out more and plan your visit.

And don't miss out: the **specialist snowdrop** tour tickets go on sale this November.

THE SNOWMAN™ © Snowman Enterprises Limited 2025

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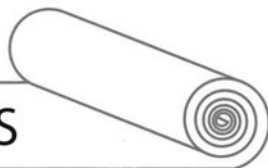


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