

March 2026



THE  
*Cresset*



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

# *Bottisham Community Library Association*

## 2026 National Year of Reading

March 5th is World Book Day where each child in the country is given a £1 book token to spend. And there are £1 books in the shops to spend it on. Don't forget each child can borrow for free up to 12 books from the library. At Bottisham we have a growing collection of junior non fiction/factual books on many topics, especially space, nature, dinosaurs and history.

**What is the link between Bottisham Community Library and the Public Library Service? We are part of the Cambridgeshire Public Library Service**, featuring on their website but as a Community Library only. A Community Library is run by volunteers, receiving support from the Cambridgeshire Public Library Service. This support is the access to and use of the library computer system with its database of books etc via your free library card or the Library app – and their stationery for the processing of the books. This means that you can use the system to renew your books and look at

what is available in other libraries across the county and beyond. An excellent resource! You have the ability to order books from many other libraries at a cost of 50p or free for children. All very useful if someone is into reading a particular series or writer. Books you reserve are transported to Bottisham Library once a week. We also receive lots of advice from the PLS especially when it comes to Reading Challenges and initiatives. And villagers can access the other library services such as Library At Home and the mobile library.

**Lego Club and StoryTime** will be on Saturday March 14th at 10.30. Younger children will enjoy our collection of Duplo.

The date for the **Mobile Library** visit to Bottisham is Thursday March 26th and to Lode is Wednesday March 11th.

**Start Reading!**

**Bottisham Library**  
**CRAFT MORNING**  
Saturday 28th March • £2  
10.15-11.45

Spring  
Floral  
Rings

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for a frog  
(Pretend frogs provided!)

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and butterfly  
crafts

March's saying is "In like a Lion, out like a Lamb". Don't know about that yet, but at the time of writing both Lion and Lamb would be feeling pretty miserable with the current dull weather.

There is a word they use in Scotland for this kind of weather, that is not used or known down here so well, and that is 'Dreich'. It is a widely used Scots word describing weather that is gloomy, damp, cold, and miserable. You will often hear when talking about the day as "It's a proper dreich day today".

But I have tried to look ahead and included the early signs of spring with our cover picture of aconites and snowdrops taken by Neil Winkcup in the churchyard. When you read this, I am sure there will also be daffodils spreading about with tulips to follow. Signs of warmer weather to come.

Last month there was a Parish Council presentation and update on the new cemetery. Too late in the month to include the outcome in this issue, but the results will be published as soon as they are available. One thing I note from the letter that came round about the meeting, was the surprise to me that we discover at this stage that there is a potential cost for this of £1m pounds! I will be interested to find out how that figure was arrived at.

On to other things in the magazine this month. Gerry Daish's article concentrates on the pheasant family. I never realised they were so numerous, but when I think about it, there is no time I am out driving in the car, that I don't see one or almost hit one as they run across the road in front of me. I have to admit, there have been several times in the past that I have arrived home with a fatality in the boot to pluck. One was the result of one flying headfirst into my windscreen at 70 mph. on the A1! That was a very expensive dinner!

Another particular occasion was when I put a 'dead' pheasant in the boot of my car on my way to an appointment one morning and when I got home that night I opened the boot to get it out to find it sitting up and glaring at me. Obviously, it was not 'dead' at all but had just been stunned. True story!

The Social Club has a lot of activity listed for the coming months. Some regular activities every week and other ones, one-off events. It is a very welcoming place with lots going on.

Other clubs and societies give us their latest activities and news including the Airfield Museum Group who outline all the varied activity they have planned for this summer. This includes three Classic Car shows and a re-enactment weekend. The additional land they have acquired will certainly allow them to broaden their horizons and the helicopter flights are clearly continuing to prove popular.

Finally, if you see me down at the shops with my clipboard, I will be doing a quick survey about the readership of our magazine. I hope you will spare me the minute that it will take. Should have the results next month.

**Ps. Remember the clocks go forward at the end of the month.**

**Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 March.**

*Please send material to the editor at [BottishamCresset@gmail.com](mailto:BottishamCresset@gmail.com)*



## *News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham*

The Venerable Dr Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge, conducted his church visitation of Holy Trinity at the end of January. Accompanied by my fellow churchwarden Louise Jacobs and myself, he spent around half an hour looking around the church noting various displays on our notice boards and kitchen information sheets as well as observing various physical aspects of health and safety including our arrangements for fire safety. Following this we spent around a further hour over tea going through his detailed questionnaire and answering questions on this. At the end of the day, he seemed very happy with what he saw and heard. Although at the time of writing we have not officially heard the outcome I remain optimistic that it will be very positive.



As Christians we are now entering the period of Lent where we remember the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent fasting and being tempted in the wilderness prior to his crucifixion. It is a period of self-examination and spiritual preparation, when Christians traditionally give up luxuries or alcohol and give the money saved to charity. Lent commences on Ash Wednesday (February 18th) and ends on Maundy Thursday 2nd April. See the Anglesey Service list for special services on these days. Whilst not widely recognised outside Christian circles, we often hear the phrase ‘What are you giving up for Lent?’, which of course reflects its origin. In many churches Lent Courses are held both in person and on-line to help people reflect on the original meaning and significance of Lent.

It is Mothering Sunday on 15th March and on this day Sarah Maxwell our Authorised Lay Minister will be leading a Morning Prayer Service reflecting this. Mothering Sunday traditionally represents a day honouring the ‘Mother Church’, the church where one was baptised and so became ‘a child of the church’. The tradition dates from Medieval times. Historically people visited the church in which they were baptised and received their first Holy Communion. However, it has grown in popularity in response to the original American celebration of ‘Mothers’ Day’ and now is usually celebrated by children honouring their earthly mothers with gifts of cards and flowers. The distribution of flowers following church services today has become the norm.

Our service pattern for March includes Holy Communion at 10.30am on Sunday 1st March led by our vicar Max, and, as already mentioned, Morning Prayer on 15th March led by Sarah Maxwell which will reflect on Mothering Sunday. Sarah will also lead the online C by C service at 8pm on Wednesday 4th March.

You are very welcome to attend our services or those elsewhere in the Benefice, which are listed later in the Cresset.

*Stuart Field, Churchwarden*



**Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.**

*Please send material to the editor at [BottishamCresset@gmail.com](mailto:BottishamCresset@gmail.com)*

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## *Bottisham WI*

Our speaker in January was Ann Meade, one of our members, who spoke about her work as a volunteer at The Cambridge Cancer Help Centre, based in Great Shelford. Ann explained how she first became involved, who the Centre supports and how it does this through a wide variety of activities. She also told us about the most common types of cancer and stressed the importance of getting early diagnosis where possible. At the end of her talk Ann introduced us to some deep breathing and relaxation techniques to help reduce stress and anxiety.

Ann’s talk was most enjoyable and informative and left us with a greater appreciation of the valuable work undertaken by the staff and volunteers at the Centre.

On Tuesday 17th March at 7.30pm we shall be holding our AGM. All members are encouraged to attend as we review the past year and look forward to the coming year.

We meet monthly, in the Poppy Room at The Bottisham Sports and Social Club starting at 7.30pm. Do get in touch or come along if you’d like to know more about what we do. All welcome!

*Jennifer Clark*

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## *Services in the Anglesey Benefice*

<b>Sun 1 Mar</b>		<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Bottisham
<b>Wed 4 Mar</b>	<b>8pm</b>	<b>C by C, a contemplative service</b> , online on Zoom
<b>Sun 8 Mar</b>		<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
		<b>Holy Communion</b> , Quy
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship and baptism</b> , Swaffham Prior - with Beavers
<b>Sun 15 Mar</b>		<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT/Mothering Sunday</b>
	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
		<b>Mothering Sunday</b> service, Quy
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Swaffham Bulbeck
		<b>Morning Prayer for Mothering Sunday</b> , Bottisham
<b>Sun 22 Mar</b>		<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
		<b>Holy Communion BCP</b> , Swaffham Bulbeck
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Swaffham Prior
<b>Sun 29 Mar</b>		<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
	<b>9am</b>	<b>Online service</b> on Zoom
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Lode
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b> , Swaffham Prior
<b>Each Thursday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> , Lode

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Please check the Church notice board for any changes to these details; or email [admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk), which is also the address to request the Zoom link. You are very welcome to attend any of these services.

Vicar: Revd Canon Max Osborne - [max9@btinternet.com](mailto:max9@btinternet.com); 01223 481187 (Rest day: Tuesday)

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### **JOHN CARLTON**

Wendy, Glen and their family would like to thank everyone for their kind words, messages and cards, following the sudden loss of John. A very dear Dad and Father-in-law, and a much loved and adoring Grandad and Great Grandad. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who attended the service and helped make it a true celebration of his long life. Our grateful thanks also go to all the amazing staff at Queens Court, together with the staff at Bottisham Medical practice.

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# Parish Council Report

**The next full council meeting will be held by on Monday 2nd March 2026, 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](http://bottisham-pc.gov.uk).

## HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

As discussed in the previous edition of the Cresset, we are continuing through that time of year when potholes are unfortunately all too common. Thank you to those residents who have taken the time to report defects using the Highways reporting tool. Reporting issues directly ensures they are logged and assessed as quickly as possible.

*Highways defects can be reported via:*

- Cambridgeshire County Council website:  
<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb>
- Telephone: 0345 045 5212 (during office hours)

If a defect requires immediate attention, please report it by telephone or contact the Police on 101 outside office hours. If it is safe to do so, photographs greatly assist officers in assessing and prioritising works.

## TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS (TTROS)

We have been made aware of the following planned works in Bottisham:

- Arber Close (end section) – 16th / 17th March – Manhole repairs
- Footpath works during March on:  
Peacock Drive, Arber Close, Bell Road, Bradfords Close
- Lode Road (Nos. 18 and 26) – 30 March to 10 April 2026 - Manhole repairs and associated highway works

There may also be additional works during late March and early April.

As with all roadworks, access will be maintained to affected properties.

Residents are encouraged to check **one.network** for the most up-to-date information on road closures and traffic restrictions. Please note that the Parish Council does not control or authorise road closures; these are managed by the relevant highways' authorities and utility companies. Works descriptions are not normally published by utility companies (for example, Anglian Water), so details shown online may be limited. If and when we hear about road closures we will do our utmost to post these on our Parish Council website: [www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk)

## NEW DEFIBRILLATOR

The Parish Council was approached by Bottisham Sports and Social Club regarding difficulties in sourcing replacement pads and batteries for their ageing defibrillator. It was noted that pads were often unavailable and could take months to replace, and suppliers have indicated that parts are likely to be discontinued shortly.

*Continued on page 9*

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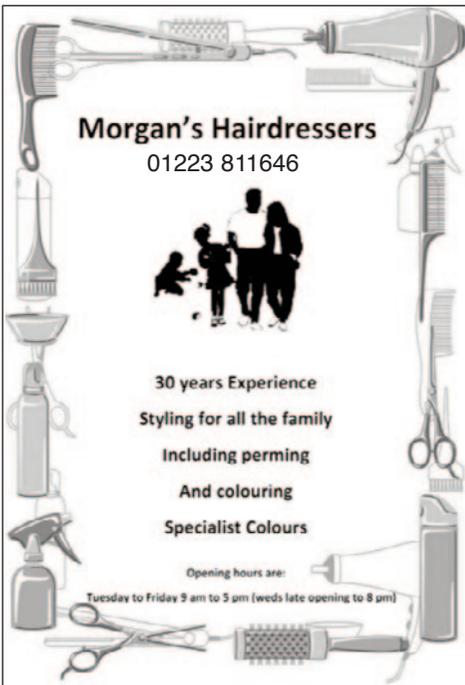
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***Continued from page 7***

At our February meeting, the Parish Council resolved to purchase a new defibrillator unit and assume responsibility for its ongoing maintenance.

The new unit will be very kindly housed in the existing cabinet at the Sports and Social Club, ensuring continued public access to this vital life-saving equipment.

We are very fortunate to have two fully accessible 24/7 public defibrillators in the village:

- On the side of Bottisham Pharmacy at The Triangle
- At Bottisham Sports and Social Club

In addition, defibrillators are also located, during respective opening hours at:

- Bottisham Medical Practice
- Bottisham Village College
- Bottisham Primary School

These life-saving devices are an important community asset, and we are grateful to all organisations involved in hosting and supporting them. I'm sure we don't have to say but early access to a defibrillator can significantly increase survival chances in a cardiac emergency.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Bottisham Parish Council is pleased to report that we have secured £2,500 match funding from East Cambridgeshire District Council to support and complete our Neighbourhood Plan activities.

This will enable us to finalise and seek sign-off of the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan in March. Regulation 14 is the formal six-week pre-submission public consultation stage, during which residents, businesses and statutory consultees are invited to comment on the draft plan before it is submitted to the District Council.

Following this stage, we will submit the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to the District Council and progress towards examination and, ultimately, a public referendum. We estimate approximately 12 months to completion.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the working group who have driven this significant project forward on behalf of the community.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)**

You may recall that we previously advised residents about the Government's proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and encouraged you to respond on the option you support. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is now formally consulting on 4 different proposals for new unitary councils in our area.

The consultation runs until 11:59pm on 26 March 2026. You can respond by completing the online survey on GOV.UK (search: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LGR consultation 2026). If responding in writing, please clearly state which proposal you are commenting on and email your response to: [lgrconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk](mailto:lgrconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk) This is your opportunity to help shape how local government will be structured in the future — we strongly encourage residents to take part.

***Continued on page 11***



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*Continued from page 9*

## **NEW CEMETERY**

The Parish Council wishes to thank all residents who took part in the recent survey regarding the proposed new cemetery. This was followed by a public engagement session on 21st February 2026 in the main hall of Bottisham Community and Sports Club. As presented at that meeting, the predicted expenditure for the project is now significantly higher than originally budgeted, which raises concerns over affordability. In addition, local burial rates reflect the national trend, which is declining as more people opt for cremation as their preferred choice. The Parish Council is therefore in a difficult position and must carefully consider the future of this long-standing project, which has been ongoing for many years. Further updates will be provided as discussions progress.

Bottisham Parish Council remains committed to keeping residents informed and involved in matters affecting our village. If you would like to attend a meeting or become involved in any current projects, please do come along.

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](mailto:clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk) or via phone 07369248998.

*Sam Chambers-Turner - Clerk to the Council*

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# ***District Councillors' Report***

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## **AUDIT COMMITTEE 20 JANUARY**

East Cambridgeshire District Council's draft statement of accounts will be amended and published without committee scrutiny.

It was approved for sign-off during a meeting at which members highlighted "multiple significant issues". The decision was taken by the committee's three Conservative members and sealed by the chair's casting vote.

It means the committee will not meet again to review a corrected version of the accounts before they are published.

## **OPERATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 26 JANUARY**

- Roll out of the new Waste Collection project remains on budget and on track. Further information will be sent to all residents to prepare them for the change. It was noted that discussions on collecting waste from flats and shared bins were ongoing, and that the operating crews were being consulted on the changes which was sadly lacking when the collection rounds were last changed.
- The Committee approved the RECAP Waste Strategy; a joint document produced by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership. Unfortunately, we are still locked into a contract for dealing with waste which is no longer suitable for us.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

There is a public consultation on this issue with a closing date of 26 March - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough>

*Continued on page 13*

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#### **FINANCE AND ASSETS COMMITTEE 29 JANUARY**

- The East Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Report was presented and discussed. Some members felt that it had not enough detail; reports will be submitted bi-annually in the future.
- The revenue budget for the next year was presented, but there was little debate as the major discussion will be at Full Council on 24 February.
- The contingency budget for the Mepal Crematorium has been fully committed since more subterranean structures were encountered despite assurances that full ground surveys had been done before the project was costed. There was some concern that this was a fixed cost agreement with the construction company, and that we should not be giving more money. With the Chair's casting vote, it was agreed that an additional £300,000 should be made available for the project to go ahead. No other option, e.g. reducing some of the facilities, was presented to the committee.

#### **GREATER CAMBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY**

There is a consultation about the powers and area of responsibility for the Cambridge Growth Company. As with the GCP, this company is likely to have a significant impact on our area. This consultation closes on 1 April - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge>

#### **SURGERY**

The next surgery will be on Wednesday 25 March at the Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion from half past six and socialising at the Black Horse in the same village an hour later.

*Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP ([charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk)) and  
John Trapp ([john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk))*

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## ***Planning Notes***

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#### **New applications:**

25/01350/FUL. The Old Garage 56 High Street Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DA. Change of use of units 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to class E commercial, business and service - part retrospective.

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#### **LORRAINE AUSTIN**

**6th January 1957-31st January 2026**

Lorraine Austin died suddenly at home on 31st January. She had lived in the village for many years and had been an active member of the Bottisham WI, for over 20 years. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her husband John, their family and all Lorraine's many friends.

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## **FASSAGE HALL, LODE (CB25 9HB) AVAILABLE TO HIRE FOR YOUR SOCIAL, BUSINESS OR SPORTING EVENT**

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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## Charlotte Cane MP Reports

When I'm out and about across the constituency, two concerns come up time and again – police response times in our rural communities, and the future of Arthur Rank Hospice.

The Home Secretary has set out plans to reform policing, including a proposed target police response time of 20 minutes for rural areas. Many residents and local businesses tell me how frustrating it can be when help takes too long to arrive after a 999 call, and I fully agree – it should never have reached this point. Setting clear targets is a step in the right direction.

However, when I speak to our local police officers, they are very honest about the challenges they face. Covering a large rural area with limited staff and resources makes meeting these targets extremely difficult. If the Government is serious about improving response times, it must also provide the funding and resources to make this achievable. As these proposals are rolled out, I will be calling on Government to equip rural police forces like ours with the additional resources needed for faster response times.

I also want to update you on our ongoing campaign to protect Arthur Rank Hospice. Alongside fellow Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrat MPs Ian Sollom and Pippa Heylings, I recently met with Care Minister Stephen Kinnock and the CEO of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board Jan Thomas to press the case for restoring funding to hospice beds.

After funding was withdrawn last year, a powerful public campaign saw more than 16,000 people sign a petition to save the nine vital beds which are under threat. Thanks to incredible community support, enough money was raised to keep them open for another 12 months. This breathing space is invaluable, but it must now be used to secure a long-term solution.

We have urged the Minister and the ICB to take an evidence-based approach when assessing end-of-life care needs locally, as we firmly believe the case does not justify closing these beds. Arthur Rank must remain a cornerstone of compassionate care in our area, and we will be meeting the ICB again in two months to follow up.

Finally, I've now helped with over 12,000 individual constituent cases where residents have come to me for support, advice, or information - if there's ever an issue I can help you with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

*Warm wishes - Charlotte*

**P.S.** This is just a snippet – to keep up with everything, sign up to my newsletter at [bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte](http://bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte)

Charlotte Cane, MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire [charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk) | 020 7362 1601

*Photo: Charlotte on shift with Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) in the autumn.*

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# *Cambridgeshire County Council Report*

## **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE -**

The government has launched a public consultation on how local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough should be reorganised—a decision that could shape our area for the next 50 years. Only Option A keeps us aligned with Cambridge; every other option places us under a Peterborough facing authority. It's vital that local residents speak up to show why this would be the wrong fit for our communities. You can respond to the consultation here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough>

Leaders in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire support staying together, while East Cambridgeshire District Council's leader is advocating for us to be tied to Peterborough, Fenland and Huntingdon, which does not reflect the strong views residents in our area have already shared. Ultimately, ministers will decide—so this consultation is our opportunity to make our voices heard.

All 12 parish councils in the Woodditton division, along with neighbours in Burwell, have already written jointly to ministers. Now we need as many individuals as possible to respond and support the option that best reflects our communities' needs.

Cambridgeshire County Council has submitted the business case for Option A, the only proposal offering a cohesive approach for the whole region.

Option A may mean a modest council tax rise of around £17 a year for a Band D household and may revive long standing development proposals, such as in Six Mile Bottom. But ensures we have a seat at the table to shape development in our own interests—something far less likely under a Peterborough led authority, where we would be a small voice in a large, distant authority with limited influence. It would create a predominantly rural authority centred on Cambridge, giving our communities stronger influence and a structure that better reflects how we live. Please don't miss your opportunity to help shape out future as you believe it should be.

**HIGHWAYS** - The Liberal Democrat administration has added £20m for next year's highways budget now standing at £73m. The drive is to help move Cambridgeshire back to a proactive and preventative position, rather than the reactive state we've been in for the past decade or so. The overall funding gap is still considerable, so it will take a bit of time with this level of additional investment to move us to a sustainable place. We along with others continue to push government for better and fairer funding for our area.

For those wanting a wider understanding on this, please refer to <https://substack.com/home/post/p-178301363>

**WHAT CAN I DO?** - Although we have a council officer inspecting our roads weekly, please don't assume they can identify ever last pothole. If you see a concern on roads or pavements, please use the 'Report It' site to make sure it is not missed. This only takes a few minutes, but be sure to take a photo and capture the location. <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb>

*Cllr Jonny Edge, 07974 348141, [jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)*

## NAAFI Break

First Wednesday of every month from 10am to 11am,  
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Monday to Thursday	5pm to 11pm
Friday	4.00 pm – 11pm
Saturday	12 noon to 11pm
Sunday	12 noon to 9pm

### **Happy hour or hours! Every Friday from 4:00pm 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 - £100 worth of prizes.**

### **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 - non-members are very welcome.

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

Your chance to entertain or just listen to the local talent - FREE ENTRANCE to all.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March - Bob & Clive's Motor City Roadshow**

The sounds of Motown & Soul - FREE ENTRANCE - 8pm start

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Raffle and Family Disco**

AJ's disco and a chocolate raffle, what more could you want?

FREE ENTRANCE - 4:30pm start

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Duck Racing**

The bowling club are fundraising, and the event is 'Duck Racing'!

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May - Emma & the Dinosaurs**

They are back and ready to play - FREE ENTRANCE - 8pm start.

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Our Big Summer Fun Day**

Singer, Bands, Children entertainer. Morris Dancers, Face Painting, BBQ and much more

SAVE THE DATE

### **Other events planned throughout the year**

Roy Orbison

Halloween Disco

Beat the Intro Quiz

Newmarket Town Band & Big Draw

NYE with the return of the fantastic 'The Jjarrs'

Please refer to the website. [www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk](http://www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk) for the latest information. If you wish to be updated with the latest news, please email [bottishamcsasc@gmail.com](mailto:bottishamcsasc@gmail.com)  
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## *Bottisham Bird Brain*

My next bird is not a frequent visitor to gardens, unless you happen to enjoy a particularly large plot adjacent to fields or woodland, but it is ubiquitous in the UK despite being an ‘import’ originally, and you are likely to see at least one any day you are out and about. The Common Pheasant is a resident with probably around five million breeding birds as a ‘base’ population. However, the total mass of Pheasants swells to nearly 50 million in late summer after the release of farm-bred birds at the beginning of the shooting season.



As you might imagine, my interest in birds does not include shooting them so let us focus on the birdwatcher’s viewpoint! In my opinion, the Common Pheasant – *Phasianus colchicus* – is an oft-overlooked beauty, well, the male bird anyway. The female is smaller and plainer, beautifully camouflaged for a more secretive life. Male is a proud and handsome, long-tailed specimen, up to three feet in total length, and sporting a rich chestnut and golden-brown plumage with some black markings on the body and tail. The head is a shiny, dark green with red face wattling and, commonly, a white collar of variable prominence depending on its bloodline. By the way, the male Common Pheasant is polygynous (like many Phasianidae) and will often be accompanied by a harem of females. No wonder he’s proud!

The trouble with defining a sub-species precisely (there are 30 sub-species in fact) is that there are very few pure-bred birds these days. The two dominant lineages in the UK are Chinese Ring-neck (*P. c. torquatus*) and the Caucasian (*P. c. colchicus*) – colloquially called the ‘Old English’ – which has a darker, purply-green head and no collar. But, after centuries of interbreeding, you can simply mark ‘Common Pheasant’ on your list if you are counting! But do take a moment to appreciate the handsomeness of our Pheasant which has come to typify the traditional English countryside.

Incidentally, the bird widely considered to be the most beautiful avian species in the world is a pheasant! The Himalayan Monal is a veritable explosion of iridescent blues, greens, reds, oranges, purples, even black and white too, and it is the national bird of Nepal, where it is locally known as the ‘Danphe’.

Our Pheasant is native to Asia, where it is widespread, and also the extreme southeast of Europe in the northern foothills of the Caucasus Mountains. In fact the word ‘pheasant’ ultimately comes from Phasis, the ancient name of the Rioni River in Georgia. The bird was first introduced into Europe by the Romans, evidence of which dates back to the first century AD by virtue of recipes for pheasant meals! Naturalisation in Great Britain seemingly occurred in the 11th Century through the introduction of the Caucasian sub-species. This ‘Old English’ variety became extremely rare here in the 17th Century and, after 400 years of cross-breeding with the later introductions of the Chinese Ring-neck, it is doubtful whether many pure-bred Caucasians are still present at all.

*(Continued on page 23)*

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# Newmarket Community Cinema

The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.



Monday - March 16th  
**The Ballad of Wallis Island** (12)

Doors open at 6.45pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £7 which includes free refreshments. If you would like to reserve seats, please email [richardjbowler@outlook.com](mailto:richardjbowler@outlook.com) or phone 01638 666810.

*(Continued from page 21)*

For all the success of the hardy Pheasant, natural and human-assisted, a slightly troubling aspect is that it competes with other species, especially for food resources. With a diet comprising seeds, grains, roots, shoots, berries, insects, spiders, earthworms, and snails, pheasants can overwhelm other game birds in an area, not only by monopolising the edibles but also by aggression, disease and even nest parasitism! Normally, pheasants 'build' a nest by scraping a hollow in the ground, under dense cover, and lining it with grass and dead leaves, but they will happily utilise something ready-made, including existing nests. With a shorter incubation time, pheasant eggs hatching early can cause a host bird – partridge for example – to abandon their own eggs thinking they are unviable. There is no suggestion, though, that the struggles of our resident partridges – the Red-legged, and especially the Grey – are directly down to interference from pheasants, but I guess it doesn't help! We'll come back to partridges later...

**STOP PRESS** - There was great excitement in Hampshire in January when the UK's first 'twitchable' Killdeer Plover for 20 years appeared near Ripley in the New Forest. The bird itself is a buff, black and white wader, like a taller version of the common Ringed Plover, with an additional breast-band (and it has an onomatopoeic name, after its shrill, two-syllabled call which sounds like "kill-deer")! "But why 'twitchable'?" you ask. Well, a 'twitcher' is a different type of enthusiast from a casual or local birdwatcher; he or she, will be inclined to travel the length of the country at a moment's notice to catch a rarity to add to their 'life list' and, to do so, is known as a 'twitch'. So when a bird as rare as a Killdeer spends more than a couple of days in one location – as this one did – it gets 'twitched'! Nearer home, a Ferruginous Duck visited the Ouse Washes and an American Wigeon turned up at Ferry Meadows Country Park in Peterborough... another couple of misses for yours truly: I must get out more!

*TTFN - Gerry Daish*

You said you would kill it this morning.  
Do not kill it. It startles me still,  
The jut of that odd, dark head, pacing  
Through the uncut grass on the elm's hill.  
It is something to own a pheasant,  
Or just to be visited at all.  
I am not mystical: it isn't  
As if I thought it had a spirit.  
It is simply in its element.  
That gives it a kinqliness, a right.

From 'Pheasant' by Sylvia Plath

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## *Letter to the Editor*

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Dear Sir - We are a young family with a toddler and a newborn looking for someone local to help with some housekeeping and meal preparation a few times a week.

If your readers know of, or are someone who would be interested in this position, then do please get in touch.

Many thanks, Christina Beveridge - 07900 834811



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Welcome to our March ~ Spring newsletter. I start with news that the Museum will open for the new season on the Easter weekend, Sunday 5th and Monday 6th April, from 10:30am to 4:00pm and then each Sunday, Wednesday and Bank Holiday Monday until November 8th. Entry to the Museum is £6 for adults and free for children under 16.

The Museum has been successful in acquiring the five acre field adjacent to the Museum buildings that was previously rented and has also licensed a further eight acres of land for events and car parking. This allows us to hold bigger and better events and will also prevent any parking overspill into the village.

We have an exciting program of events planned for 2026. Our popular Sunday Classic Car shows will be held on May 10th, August 23rd, and October 4th. These events are free for exhibitors with one passenger, and public entry on the gate is £10 for adults, under 16s free, including entry to the Museum. New for this year is the 'Wheels Weekender' on June 6th & 7th, an event for just about everything on wheels with music, food, overnight camping and a licensed bar. Prices, details and advance booking can be found on [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk).

The annual Bottisham at War 1940s event will be held on the weekend of June 27th & 28th, featuring WW2 reenactors, period entertainment, food, military vehicles and live music. Discounted advance tickets and weekend camping pitches are available on [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk), or entry on the day is adults £20, seniors £15, under 16s £5.

Other notable dates this year include the 80th anniversary of RAF Bottisham's closure as an operational airfield on May 3rd that we will mark appropriately – details to be announced.

Finally, the Museum is partnering again this year with Adventure 001 to offer helicopter rides on alternate Wednesdays starting April 22nd, and Falconry experiences from Sunday April 12th. For availability and booking, see [www.adventure001.com](http://www.adventure001.com).

If you would like more information on the Museum, or would like to get involved as a volunteer in the Museum, Café or Shop, please visit our website [www.bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk](http://www.bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk).

*Charles Cook - Museum Volunteer*

### **BURWELL AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB**

**Presents a floral demonstration**

*by Julie Richardson*



## **'AT THE MOVIES'**

**Wednesday 11th March 7.15 p.m. - The Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell**

Visitors £8

**At least six designs are created - These are then raffled.**

# M&P

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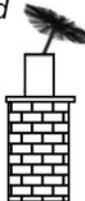
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## ***Bottisham and District Gardening Club***

At our January meeting we were taken back to the heady days of summer with a talk about the gardens of Tresco on the Isles of Scilly by our very own Coral Hatley. Getting to Tresco involved a cruise and a boat trip from the ship as the islands are 28 miles from Cornwall. These islands have been occupied since the Bronze Age and benefit from a Mediterranean climate. They receive 35 inches of rain a year compared to 24 inches in East Anglia and the last recorded frost was in February 2018. Such favourable conditions allow flowers to perform year-round and all the pictures we looked at showed specimens which are much larger than normal. Augustus Smith became Lord Proprietor of the Isles of Scilly in 1834 when the gardens originally formed part of the house and were private. Today the Smith family still manage the gardens. The huge vegetable plots now include some flowers as well as fruit trees and the gardens also contain many interesting items. There are intricate pictures made from shells which the Victorians were fond of and displays of figure heads from the many boats which were washed up on the shore. Some of our members recalled previous visits to Tresco and others hoped to make plans in the future.

Our next meeting will be How Fresh Produce Arrives on our Supermarket Shelves by Mike Corbett on the 24th March.

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*

### **BOTTISHAM ADULT LEARNING ASSOCIATION (BALA)**

## **“THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FENS: 400,000 YEARS AGO TO THE PRESENT DAY”**

**A 5-week course presented by Keith Grimwade,  
a retired Geography teacher and past president of the Geographical Association.**

The course will cover geology, geography, history and the drainage of the Fens. It will also consider the impact of climate change, environmental issues and government policy on the future of this unique environment.

**The course starts on Thursday 26th February,  
last session on Thursday 26th March.**

BALA courses are held in the main hall at Bottisham Community Sports and Social Centre 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](mailto:Bottishambala@btinternet.com)

**Thursday 30th April from 10.30-15.00 a study day on the senses presented by Dr Mark Carroll**

This is a free day, including lunch for all existing members at the end of March 2026.

Non members are welcome at a cost of £15 to include lunch and membership fee.

More details in the April edition.

*Helen Cole*



# 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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It's what we do

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.

Coming up. We'll be hosting Coffee Mornings, Plant Sales, and Craft Sales at the Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion and our Community Garden site in Bottisham over the next few months, and we'd love to welcome as many of you as possible. Some dates are still being confirmed, but please see the details below:

March 2nd	<b>Bottisham Community Garden</b>	(10:30-12:30)
April TBC	<b>Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion</b>	(10:45-11:45)
May 11th	<b>Bottisham Community Garden</b>	(10:30-12:30)
June TBC	<b>Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion</b>	(10:45-11:45)
July 6th	<b>Bottisham Community Garden</b>	(10:30-12:30)

**We Are Hiring!** We are looking for Support Workers to join our Red2Green Team. We have a number of vacancies available. Please visit our website <https://red2green.org/job-vacancies> for more information on how to apply.

**Ways you can get involved:**

- 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 [www.red2green.org](http://www.red2green.org) or if you want to get in touch, feel free to email us at [info@red2green.org](mailto:info@red2green.org) or call us on 01223 811662.

## Village Litter Picks 2026

### 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	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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Copy deadline for the next issue is  
14 March.

Please send material to the editor at  
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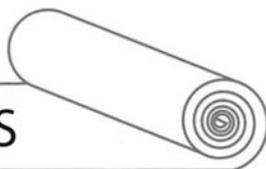


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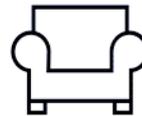
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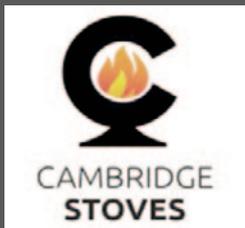
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**Email:** clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

**Telephone:** 07369 248 998

**Clerk:** Sam Chambers-Turner

**Chair:** Nadene Cundell

**Vice Chair:** Jon Ogborn

**Parish Councillors:**

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

<b>Bottisham Website:</b> .....	www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk
<b>Parish Council Chairman:</b> Nadene Cundell	
<b>Parish Council Clerk:</b> Sam Chambers-Turner, clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk .....	07369 248998
<b>Holy Trinity Church:</b> Vicar: Rev. Max Osborne max9@btinternet.com .....	01223 481187
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<b>Bottisham Bowling Club:</b> Peter Clowes, Sec., bottishambowlingclub@gmail.com ...	07756 431234
<b>Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club:</b> Nora Watson, nora@gandnwatson.uk .....	812121
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<b>Bottisham Youth Football Club:</b> Adam Bridgland, adambridgland@hotmail.com ...	07764 488599
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<b>CRESSET Editor:</b> email: BottishamCresset@gmail.com	
Treasurer, Advertising rates and payment: Rhona Walker, 94 High St ...	811402
Distribution: Ian & Helen Cole .....	812573
<b>Design/Artwork:</b> ONG (Old Newton Graphics) • www.codge.com .....	01449 675548
<b>Printing:</b> Falcon Printing Services, www.falconprinting.co.uk, jason@falconprintingservices.com .....	891286

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