

April 2023

THE 
Cresset



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



Bottisham Coronation Celebrations

SUNDAY 7th MAY 2023

Holy Trinity Church Flower Festival - All Weekend

Coronation Celebration Service - 10:30am

Bottisham Air Museum - 10:30am - 4pm

'Big Lunch' Picnic with Live Music - Dirt Hills

**Vintage fairground, Hot Dogs, Ice Creams,
Cream Tea with Gin Fizz! - Queen's Court**

Social Club Celebrations incl.

Afternoon Tea Party all ages 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Children's Entertainment - 4.30pm

BBQ and Morris Dancers

Evening Entertainment with Pam Daish



**Mark the Date in your Diary Now!
See you there.**



kc3coronation@gmail.com

Clocks have gone forward and spring has officially started. However as I write this it is still freezing cold with a bitter East wind. Perhaps by the time you read this it will be more spring like.



Busy time coming up this month and next. Lots of preparations being made to celebrate the King's Coronation. If you want to get involved in the event organising, then step forward. You can email kc3coronation@gmail.com. Or any of those taking part. Many hands make light work.

There are several organisations involved contributing many parts to the one event. You can see a summary of most of the events in the summary notice on the inside cover. Then there is more detail throughout the magazine of what is being planned. They include Queen's Court, The Church, The Social Club and Red 2 Green to mention a few. There will be more detail in next month's Cresset but do make contact with these groups if you want to get involved. If not, get ready to come along and celebrate on the day.

Other matters now. A resident wrote to me asking for there to be more consideration when putting bins out, ie. not putting them in the middle of the pavement especially down main pathways like the High Street where children in pushchairs, the elderly in wheelchairs etc., struggle to get past and also not to put them out for example on a Friday morning on the High Street when the bin is not collected until Monday morning. If they are not going to be around to put the bin out the night before or early Monday morning, then perhaps they could ask a neighbour or wait until the following green/blue bin?

This month's magazine now. Our cover picture is one of the Church looking resplendent under the new LED floodlights. Hopefully it also shows the last of the snowy winter weather. Credit for the picture must go to Neil Wincup, one of our Parish Councillors.

There is notice that there are vacancies on the Parish Council as people are standing down at the next election. It would be good to have enough people come forward for us to actually have a PC election, rather than there not being enough and new people then being seconded. Not the ideal situation.

Bird Brain, this month, focuses on the humble house sparrow and educates us with more knowledge than I, for one, ever thought there was to know about the sociable noisy little bird. Walking along, one can come across a large bush which seems to be almost shaking with the loud chatter coming from within.

I can't begin to reflect the feeling of frustration and anger at the brashness of those avaricious developers who will not accept the decision of not only the planning authority, but the Secretary of State as well, and continue to press to develop their Care home and further housing on the green belt in the conservation area of our village. We are already going to have to absorb the

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

next phase of development next to Oxmeadow with the 50+ houses there. That is a further 100 houses to be serviced in a village where everything from the Doctor's surgery to the sewage works are already stretched to the limit and beyond.

Where are the limits?

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Let's hope the old saying stays true and the weather this month will bring the warmer weather. We must be due it.

Have a great month and by the way, **HAPPY EASTER.**

Your Editor

News From Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

Annual Thanksgiving Gift Day Easter 2023

Due to Covid lockdown for two years and then our support for Ukraine last year, we have not had a church Easter Gift Day for three years. With the ever-increasing cost of keeping the church running, we very much hope you will feel able to contribute whatever you can to our Easter Gift Day this year. Over the next couple of weeks, a letter and Appeal envelope will be delivered to every household in the village. Please give as generously as you feel able.



As we prepare for Easter I am delighted to tell you that our Palm Sunday Holy Communion Service on April 2nd will this year be led by the Archdeacon of Cambridge, the Venerable Alex Hughes. Alex is very personable and I am confident will preach an excellent sermon – it would be lovely to see you there. Palm Sunday commemorates the day when Jesus, riding on a donkey, entered the gates of Jerusalem with the crowds waving palm leaves. Our service on May 7th will be led by Bottisham resident Revd. Keith Morrison. This service will be a special celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. The church will be heavily decorated for a flower festival and we would love to see you at the service or over the weekend to admire the flowers. Please contact Carolyn Bangs 01223 811159 or Jane Morris 01223 811163 to donate a Lily for Easter, maybe in memory of someone, or flowers or money to support the flower festival (see separate notice elsewhere in the Cresset).

Over the past month we have said a sad farewell in a full church to Daphne Baigent who for many years organized the church flower rota. We welcomed family and friends of Emma Dean and Andrew MacKay who tied the knot at the beginning of March surrounded by family

Contents

Services in the Anglesey Benefice.....5	Public Transport Matters.....27
Parish Council Report.....7-8	Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA).....33
Planning Notes.....9	Bottisham Village College pupils plant trees in honour of the Queen's Green Canopy33
County Council Report11	Red2Green37
District Councillors' Report.....13	Anglesey Group Mothers' Union....41
Bottisham WI.....15	Bottisham and District Gardening Club.....41
Bottisham Community Library Association.....15	Bottisham Bird Brain.....43 & 45
News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group.....23 & 25	East Anglian Air Ambulance55
Bottisham Airfield Museum.....25	

and many friends with young children, who again filled the church. Whilst most parishioners do not worship regularly in our church it is occasions such as these that we are so grateful that we have such a splendid building in which we can hold these important events.

If you walk through the churchyard on a Thursday afternoon you may see a young man tidying up. He is volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. If you go into the church at weekends, or just walk by, you may hear the organ playing even though there may not be a service taking place. This will be a talented boy who is studying the organ at school and we have allowed to use the church organ at weekends to encourage him to practice.

A meeting was held towards the end of March of the Parochial Council Members of all five churches in the Anglesey Benefice, to agree the Benefice Profile for the appointment of the new vicar and to discuss progress towards a replacement for Vicar Sue.

I am pleased to report that a team from Bottisham and the wider benefice are continuing the monthly service at Oaklands and Hilton Park, which Vicar Sue initiated and we will continue to offer as part of our outreach services to the local community.

We look forward to seeing you on Palm Sunday

Stuart Field, Churchwarden

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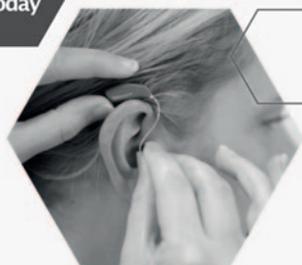
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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Sun Apr 2nd		PALM SUNDAY
	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Bottisham
	4pm	Village Worship - Quy Village Hall
Wed Apr 5th	8 pm	C by C (a short contemplative service) – online via Zoom
Thu Apr 6th		MAUNDY THURSDAY
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Lode
Fri Apr 7th		GOOD FRIDAY
	9am	Open Air Service - Quy
Sun Apr 9th		EASTER SUNDAY
	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion – Swaffham Bulbeck
Sun Apr 16th	9am	Online service on Zoom
		Morning Prayer - Quy
	10.30am	Holy Communion , Swaffham Bulbeck
		Morning Prayer – Bottisham
Sun Apr 23rd	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) - Swaffham Prior
Sun Apr 30th	9am	Online service on Zoom
	10.30am	Holy Communion - Lode
Every Thur	10.30am	Holy Communion - Lode

You are very welcome to attend any of these services!

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.



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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



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Parish Council Report

BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY OPEN FORUM.

A very successful Community Safety Open Forum was held on a really cold snowy evening on 8th March. Thank you to all those who ventured out - we had a surprisingly full room, despite the weather. The event was hosted by the Parish Council, with support from East Cambs Community Safety Partnership. There was a broad panel with representatives from our schools (BVC/BCPS), ECDC, police, County and District councillors. The audience led the discussion, with a broad range of issues raised including illegal parking, road safety and anti-social behaviour.

Positively, it was noted that there has been a significant reduction in antisocial behaviour from recent coordinated action by the police/BVC, facilitated by the Parish Council. Localised action can and is having a positive impact on our village.

Representatives from a street that has recently set up a neighbourhood watch scheme also highlighted how it has helped in tackling antisocial behaviour in the vicinity. We don't have many neighbourhood watch schemes in Bottisham. Perhaps your street would like to start one? Together you can make a difference and create a safer, more secure neighbourhood. If you want to find out more look up: <https://www.cnwa.org.uk/east-cambridgeshire>.

Some very good ideas for taking things forward came out of the evening and the East Cambs Community Safety Partnership, working with the panellists, will develop a plan for Bottisham in the next few months. An interim report that will be published in due course in the Cresset and we hope to be able to make some comment at the Annual Parish Meeting (see below). There will also be an opportunity for more extensive face-to-face discussion and feedback on progress on Tuesday October 17th. Please do put this date in your diary.

PROPOSED RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Many residents have been concerned about the the new revised planning application for a retirement village at "Land Rear Of 163 To 187 High Street Bottisham".

Parish Council discussed this application at the March Council meeting. We are opposing it as, in our view, it has still not been demonstrated that there are very special circumstances justifying such a development on Green belt - with a similar facility being built only 7 miles away. There are also 50 affordable homes being built off Bell Rd that will satisfy our needs for such residences for many years. Further, Bottisham Medical Practice already services two large care homes in the village, plus a high dependency unit, placing a heavy demand on local GP resources. This development would place a significant and unacceptable extra further strain on medical resources, to the detriment of other residents.

Annual Parish Meeting - 16th May

This will take place at the Bottisham Sports & Social Club on Tuesday 16th May at 7:30pm. We will follow the successful format of previous years with a short formal session, followed by an extended opportunity (with the bar open) for informal discussion with councillors and representatives of public organisations that serve our village. I urge you to come along and take part in this community event and make your voice heard.

Continued on page 8

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Two long standing parish councillors have decided not to stand for reelection in the 4th May elections. This leaves us with 3 vacancies that we wish to fill at the election.

If you are passionate about your community and want to help make long-lasting changes that will make a real difference, then please consider becoming a councillor. It is a role that is surprisingly fulfilling as you see decisions you make really impact your community for the better - and is actually very interesting, as you gain a greater insight into what is going on in the village and wider community.

We need people from all backgrounds and experiences, who reflect the community, to put themselves forward for election. So please don't discount yourself. If you feel that this is a way in which you might be able to support your community please email the Clerk (clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk.) and we would be pleased to discuss further with you what is involved.

Jon Ogborn, Chair of Bottisham Parish Council

Planning Notes

a) New applications:

23/00205/OUN Land Rear Of 163 To 187 High Street Bottisham - Development of a retirement care village in class C2 comprising housing with care, communal health, wellbeing and leisure facilities; and C3 affordable dwellings (comprising up to 30 percent on-site provision), public open space, play provision, landscaping, car parking, access and associated development.

23/00138/FUL 115 High Street Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9BA - New doorway to front of house with new open porch, side door partially blocked with insertion of new window, rear window partially blocked up creating new window.

23/00179/FUL 22 High Street Bottisham Cambridge CB25 9DA - Relocate front door, replace and alter windows and doors, replace corrugated plastic roof to plain tile, install photovoltaic panels and internal alterations.

23/00265/FUL Bottisham Airfield Museum Wilbraham Road Bottisham - Proposed demountable steel and fabric blister hanger shaped shelter (retrospective)

b) Planning Applications Approved by ECDC:

22/01345/FUL - Swynford Manor London Road Six Mile Bottom - Construction of a pergola for outdoor wedding ceremony use, and hard and soft landscaping



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BOTTISHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

TUESDAY 16TH MAY 7:30PM - 8:15PM

AGENDA

Welcome. Parish Council Report Activities and Achievements over last year.	CLlr Jon Ogborn Chair Bottisham Parish Council
County Council Report	CLlr Alan Sharp
District Council Report	CLlr Charlotte Cane
Update on Community Safety Open Forum	Various speakers
Summary Introduction to Informal Session	CLlr Jon Ogborn Chair Bottisham Parish Council

The social club bar will open & refreshments available after 8:15pm. Take this opportunity to chat with speakers & members of Bottisham Parish Council and local schools. You can ask anything from planning, new developments, the local environment and the new cemetery etc.

For more information email: clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk

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County Council Report

CONGESTION CHARGING & NEWMARKET ROAD ACCESS

We await the result of the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) consultation on implementing a £5 congestion charge between 7am and 7pm on weekdays across the Greater Cambridge area, which is due to be released in the middle of the year.

By the time that you read this, the latest consultation on another proposal in terms of Newmarket Road access and widening bus lanes and footpaths with more bus lanes and the relocation of the Newmarket Road Park & Ride will have closed.

MILL ROAD BRIDGE

On the 7th March, Liberal Democrat and Labour members of the Highways & Transport Committee voted to close Mill Road bridge to all traffic except for buses, taxis and blue badge holders. I led our team in opposing that decision until we had received data on the effect that the closure would have upon Cherry Hinton Road and Coldham's Lane together with side streets off Mill Road, that will be subject to extra pollution and traffic. Despite some Labour members agreeing with the concerns that I raised, they still voted in favour of closure, so were obviously being told to vote a certain way.

COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET

The ruling administration on the County Council voted through a 4.99% for Council Tax from April 2023. This was made up of 2% ringfenced for adult social care and a general increase of 2.99%.

This increase is imposed despite cutting winter gritting budgets, verge cutting and weed killing on verges and maintaining the highways maintenance budget at the same level, despite the huge increases in construction costs, which means that is a cut to services.

We opposed those cuts and proposed a smaller increase of 4% and maintaining the winter gritting and verge cutting budgets, together with using available reserves to put more money into highways maintenance, but this was voted down. Potholes need to be fixed quickly and safely, not have the budget cut!!

SWAFFHAM HEATH ROAD/ A1303 CROSSROADS

Work is expected to start soon on a staggered junction at the Swaffham Heath Road/ A1303 Crossroads, which is long overdue and has been a bad accident blackspot. I look forward to seeing this being the reduction in accidents at the junction.

HIGHWAYS

Please continue to report potholes online. However, if you are unable to report online or repairs seem not to be happening, then please contact me and I will get the issue reported and repairs actioned as soon as possible.

If any resident wants to meet me or call to discuss a particular issue, then please feel free to contact me. I want to hear comments from everyone, as that is the only way that I can truly represent you.

Alan Sharp Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Woodditton Division

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District Councillors' Report

Congratulations to Swaffham Bulbeck, whose Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by the District Council at its meeting on 21 February. This will now be used in assessing all planning applications made in Swaffham Bulbeck.

Elections for Parish Councils and East Cambs District Council will be held on Thursday 4th May. The Government has changed the rules and you will need photographic ID to vote in person at these elections – that's a passport or photographic driving licence or other options listed at –

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id> .

People without the necessary ID can get a Voter Authority Certificate from the Council, by applying at - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>. If you can't use on-line forms, please contact the Council on 01353 665555. If you cannot show photographic ID when you go to vote, you will not be given a ballot paper.

The Council approved a budget with no increase in Council Tax. Charlotte seconded an amendment to the budget which also would not have increased the Council tax but included funding for:

- a new Local Plan, to protect our towns and villages from inappropriate development;
- implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement;
- doubling the Environment Fund; and
- setting up a small grant fund for parish councils and community groups to mark the coronation.

But this amendment was lost.

We are still getting a few complaints from people who have not had their black bin bags. Everyone should have received their black bags. If you have not yet received them, please contact Charlotte or John and we will arrange for them to be delivered.

Our next Councillors' Surgery will be on Thursday 20th April at 6.30pm at Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion. Or you can always contact us directly john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk 01223 812120, charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk 07976 607512.

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Bottisham WI

We finally seem to have turned the corner after lockdown and Covid anxieties. There was a large attendance to hear Amanda Sutherland return for the 3rd time. She had lost over one hundred speaking engagements during the last few years and also suffered a drop in income with the cancellation of weddings so no sales of her wedding fascinators which she demonstrated on her last visit. She used the time in making masks (over 4000) and preparing further talks and coming up with many ideas for (make do and mend).

She is a most enthusiastic speaker and showed us how to convert sleeveless dresses by using scarves threaded through the back or even using leggings with the crotch cut open! It sounds silly but the finished effect was good. She had brought many of her products including brooches and fascinators made from recycled coke cans, gilded leaved necklaces and hand wrist warmers which are especially useful for those suffering from Reynards disease. She also had a rail of dresses that had once been worn in TV productions which were for sale at most reasonable prices.

Four members attended a jigsaw morning in aid of Cambridge Federation funds and before a delicious lunch of soup and muffins came 10th out of 14 tables in doing a very difficult ceremonial parade jigsaw of Buckingham Palace. A good social occasion.

We had a coffee morning in early March hosted by staff at Hilton Park. We met some of their residents and enjoyed a good spread of cakes with tea and coffee. We hope that we may hold a similar event at Queens Court soon. We had held our monthly meetings there up to 2019 and they would be pleased to welcome us back.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 18th April when Jackie Lince from Lode will be talking about Mill Blossom Flowers. - Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room.

Bottisham Community Library Association

Our quiz last month went well, we had the maximum number of tables – 15, the food was much appreciated and the winners well pleased with their wine and medals. We raised just over £500 (best ever result) and it has already been spent on a new matching bookcase for adult fiction.

We have spent time on weeding the large print books which are not as popular as they once were and the surplus have been passed to Hilton Park residents.

We shall be holding another Triangle book sale in the coming months (look out for the posters). If you can't wait until then to buy books, we do have many for sale on display in the library at 50p each. We do need to further release shelf space as both we and the College library have purchased new books recently.

We shall be holding a celebratory event on Saturday 8th July in the library to celebrate that we have run the public library as volunteers here in Bottisham for 20 years. More details to follow. Please make a note of the date.

Please continue to support us. We do have targets to meet concerning new members, numbers visiting the library and the number of books borrowed and we have not yet returned to pre covid figures. Use us or lose us.

Sylvia Overton



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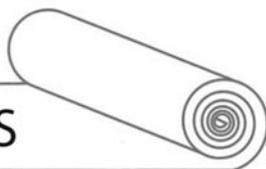


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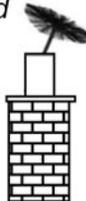
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What's on

8th April - Easter Saturday - Family Snail Racing Event
Bring the children to enjoy the snail racing - 6pm start - Free Entrance

15th April - The Bowling Club Quiz
A fundraising quiz in aid of The Bowling Club

Sunday 7th May - Village Coronation Celebration



12-2pm Picnic on the Dirt Hills
2:30pm-4pm Tea & Cake at the club with outdoor games
4:30pm-6pm Childrens entertainer 'Calamity Jane' at the club
6:30pm-7.30pm Morris Dancers & BBQ at the club
8.15pm Dancing with Pam at the club



Saturday 13th May - Big Band Night with Big Ten
Join us for an evening of Ska music - 8pm start - £5 members £10 nonmembers

Saturday 20th May -The Legionnaires 77 - charity night

Saturday 3rd June - Pam
Music from Pam, come and join an evening of song and dance.

Saturday 8th July
An evening with a Roy Orbison tribute artist

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

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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Thanks from the Practice: The practice would like to thank patients for their support and understanding over the last few weeks after suffering issues with staff shortages again. The staff have worked incredibly hard over the last few weeks to ensure we continue to provide all of our services to the local community and the partners at the practice feel extremely lucky to have such a dedicated team.

Retirement Village Planning Application: The practice is calling on all local residents to provide support in raising objections to the planning application which has been submitted again for a retirement village in Bottisham. As previously highlighted this will have a huge negative impact on the practice should the development go ahead and the practice would appreciate the local community supporting the practice in raising objections to this development in Bottisham which is already over saturated with care home provision in proportion to the wider Cambridgeshire area. Comments received by the Council after 14th March and before a decision is made will be considered and taken into account.

Write to Mr Andrew Philips, Planning Officer at ECDC, Nutholt lane, Ely, CB7 4EE.
Planning application. Ref.23/00205/OUM

Needing a BP check: Please do make use of the BP machine in the waiting room. It uploads your results straight to your patient record and is reviewed by a clinician. If there is anything of concern the GP will contact you.

Easter Bank Holidays: Don't forget the surgery and dispensary will be closed on those days so please ensure you have adequate medication in hand to cover that period.

HRT and prescription charges: The Government announced a few weeks ago a change to charges for HRT medication. Instead of paying for monthly prescriptions, women will be able to access their HRT by paying a one off charge, the equivalent of two single prescriptions, currently £18.70, for up to a 12 month supply of HRT. This will be done through a Prescription Prepayment Certificate. Once the system has been setup we will contact patients currently on this medication to advise about how to apply for the prepayment certificate.

The Patient Participation Group: We are happy to have new members to join the committee, all patients of this Practice are eligible. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved

continued on page 25

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Continued from page 23

Regular Meetings: Next meeting is Wednesday May 24th 2023 at 1.30pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite.

Annual General Meeting: April 26 at 1pm on Zoom when we hope Dr Shackleton will be free to speak. If you wish to join in please email our chairman as above.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WANTED

This is an opportunity to become part of the volunteer car service who support Bottisham Medical Practice in getting patients to and from their appointments. The volunteer driver duties will involve transporting patients to and from the surgery for their appointments.

All mileage will be paid at the standard rate.

For further details and how to apply, please send an expression of interest to patientsgroup@outlook.com



Bottisham Airfield Museum

I start this time with the sad news of the passing of the museum benefactor David Rayner 94 years old.

Without David's help the museum that stands today wouldn't have been possible. It began after a conversation between Jason our chairman and David, which resulted in David buying the last buildings and land on the old airfield. Using his own money, he refurbished the buildings which were the old farm smokery, a fish and farm shop. David also paid for a number of projects including the mustang refurbishment.

His funeral took place at St Mary's Church Swaffham Bulbeck on Thursday 23rd February 2023, his coffin was conveyed by tractor and trailer, with many members of the museum in attendance.

We will all miss his leadership and good humour, coming to the museum almost every day, even a few days before his passing. We may never see his like again.

We send our condolences to his family.

On a brighter note the museum is nearly ready for our first opening on Easter Sunday 9th April and Wednesday 12th April onwards. Times are 10.30am till 4pm £5 adults and free for children, group discounts are available.

By the time you read this we should have had a visit from a coach party of Americans touring the old USAAF airfields of East Anglia. This is the second party from the States, the first last November which was a great success.

I hope to provide details of the Bottisham at war/1940s weekend event on the 1st and 2nd of July in the next issue.

Charles Cook - Museum volunteer

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Public Transport Matters

I have tried to find something positive to start with as there seem to be negatives at the moment. There is to be a staggered junction on the A1303 where there is a link to the Swaffhams. This should be in the Spring. Megabus have launched a brand new network – megabus.com. England's cap on bus fares is to be extended by 3 months to June 30th. The Greater Partnership is consulting on a Waterbeach to Cambridge Busway. There could be a new Park and Ride at Waterbeach. Work has started on the new Waterbeach station but they are having to check whether the permission to build is still valid.

National Express has seen a rise in passenger numbers due to the rail strike.

The fact that the 12 bus now comes through Bottisham has been useful for the pupils at the village college who live in Cambridge. There are problems for those living in the villages.

So many negatives in my view. I wonder whether so many of the people who make these decisions do use the buses. At least buses will be able to use Mill Road Bridge and enter Cambridge. Delivery drivers will have problems. How will Mill Road shops and cafes get what they need? Fuel is expensive and it will cost drivers more to have to go all the way round to gain access or to enter the city centre if there is a congestion charge.

The ongoing problem remains the fact that the number 11 no longer diverts through Bottisham on its route from Newmarket to Cambridge and back again. Local councillors are all on the case and I have been contacting various people. Ben Richardson of Stephenson's has also tried and I had an email today. However, this morning I achieved the impossible and spoke to someone in the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership who has given me a link to someone who deals with the buses and connections. Fingers crossed! We were told that funds would only cover the 11 until the end of March. Do they have a Plan?

The railways have been causing so many people problems as they try to get to work, the hospital or go on holiday etc. There is a new and improved Bank station in London with more space, a new entrance and better step free access. Work on the Cambridge South station is on track says the Transport Secretary. It will be next to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus with possible links to Birmingham, Stansted airport and Ely as well as London. It will cost £185 million but will only have three drop off and pickup spaces and three taxi spaces. However, rail fares have just increased by 5,9 per cent. The arguments over HS2 continue and I am not going into all the criticisms and suggestions! I am sure it is all on the web. The costs are soaring and the route is still debated including between Birmingham and Crewe and Crewe and Manchester. It was expected to be built in 20 years at a cost of £32 billion. It is classed as a national embarrassment.

The other problem is the East West rail line between Oxford and Cambridge and possibly a new line to Norwich. The local MP says there must be a business case to justify it. It would be in 3 sections – between Cambridge and Bedford and then between Bletchley and Oxford and possibly a new railway station at Winslow.

Heritage railways are facing a fight to survive because of the rising price of coal, steel for the line and electricity to power the stations.

Ways to save on rail fares – buy 2 singles not a return, book in advance and go off peak.

Happy travelling – take care!

Rail info – 08457 48 49 50 24 hour travel information for London – 0343 222 1234

Paddy James

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A Bottisham Coronation Celebration

Bottisham Community Sports
and Social Club.

Sunday 7th May - Village Coronation Celebration

12-2pm Picnic on the Dirt Hills

2:30pm-4pm Tea & Cake at the club with
outdoor games

4:30pm-6pm Childrens entertainer 'Calamity
Jane' at the club

6:30pm-7.30pm Morris Dancers & BBQ at the
club

8.15pm Dancing with Pam at the club





**A
Bottisham
Coronation
Celebration**

**Holy Trinity Church
Celebration Flower Display**

Saturday 6th May – all day

Sunday 7th May – 12noon onwards

**Celebration Church Service 10.30 am
All welcome**

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**Carolyn Bangs: 01223 811 159 carolynbangs143@icloud.com
Jane Morris: 01223 811 163**





A Bottisham Coronation Celebration

Queens Court

COME AND JOIN US!

We are offering a fun packed, family friendly day for our Village, residents and friends to enjoy.

Vintage fairground attractions

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Hot Dogs & Ice creams

Cream teas with optional Gin Fizz!

Entertainment

Our aim is to welcome our neighbours and friends into our space and share laughter and memories with our residents and families on this historic occasion.



Bottisham & Lode Cricket Club

Adult cricket training starts on Tuesday 4th April and will run for 5 straight Tuesdays until May 2nd in Bottisham sports hall from 8.15. Anyone who was 13 before 1st September 2022 will be able to play adult cricket this season.

For those under 13 at this time but who are too old for the dynamos the club is looking to enter a regional under 13's side for this season and is actively looking for players. Training for this age group will be held on Lode recreation ground on a Friday evening from 6.00-7.00 in May & June. Even if you are new to cricket but interested, please come along and join us.



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Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

The Spring Term finished with a very well supported 5-week course ‘Stand and Deliver’ – highwaymen versus the Georgian judicial system. It was a very interesting interactive course well presented by Stephen Poulton.

BALA courses resume in September with a 10-week course on Russian Literature. This will be presented by a very popular and well-respected tutor Marina Burrell. Details to follow later.

Meanwhile we are arranging a summer evening talk to be given by Mike Petty. Date and details to follow for this too.

Thank you to all our members for their support.

Helen Cole

Bottisham Village College pupils plant trees in honour of the Queen’s Green Canopy



In February this year, pupils from Bottisham Village School planted ten fruit trees – a selection of apple, pear and gages – on their temporary allotment at Anglesey Abbey. The trees were sponsored by Ridge Clean Energy and were planted to support the late Queen’s Green Canopy project. They will be moved to the school site when more robust and established.

This unique tree planting initiative was created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022, and to draw attention to the two greatest challenges facing humankind: climate change and the decline in biodiversity. The project has created a living legacy of over one million trees planted in Her Majesty’s name across the nation, serving as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty’s extraordinary service to her country and her people.

As a company, Ridge Clean Energy are committed to improving our environment for the benefit of wildlife and future generations and as such are pleased to work with Bottisham Village College to support this worthwhile project.

Adult Learning

Are you interested in learning something new?

Our full range of courses for the Summer term is now available and you can book a course at any time by visiting our website. www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

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Spring is here! Everything has survived the cold weather and new shoots are coming up. It's time to sow half-hardy flowers such as cosmos, zinnias, and nasturtiums. Be careful to cover them and keep them warm though if we get a bit of cold weather, as they don't like the frost! This is also the last chance to sow your sweet pea seeds for that extra burst of colour in your garden later on.

The hard work of a busy winter cleaning the greenhouse, planting bulbs, and general garden tidying is paying off and now the flowers and veg are taking root.

This April at the garden:

FLOWERS

- All the bulbs are now flowering.
- Pansies and primulas are still flowering until late summer.
- Summer flowers are being grown in the greenhouse.
- Sunflowers seeds have been sown.

VEG

- Early potatoes, garlic, onions, beetroot, broad beans, rhubarb, mangetout and peas are growing in the raised beds.
- Our main crop potatoes will be planted late April.
- Carrots and parsnips have also been sown outside, sweetcorn and runner beans have been sown in the greenhouse
- under cover.
- Tomatoes, cucumbers, chillis, aubergines, and peppers are growing in the greenhouse. Plus the much dreaded
- sprouts are also growing for later in the year.

COMMUNITY POLL

Finally, thank you to everyone who responded to our Facebook poll about what they would like to see from our community garden this year. We are discussing the results and look forward to bringing you more updates soon.

If you would like to hear more about our volunteering opportunities, or receive our monthly Red2Green newsletter, please contact info@red2green.org

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Ros Wright was guest speaker at our February meeting. Ros brought along her collection of crosses from around the world. To begin with she gave us a brief history of how the cross became the Christian symbol and how the early Christians would have used secret symbols. One being the sign of the fish, which has continued to this day. Ros also reminded us of all the different ways the cross is used, for baptism, in decoration such as jewellery, a sign of signature (especially in the past when a person couldn't write) and a sign of love. The collection contained crosses from Vietnam, Tanzania, Spain, Italy, and South America to name but a few. There were many different sizes and styles of cross in the collection traditional Latin, Celtic, Ankh, Orthodox, Jerusalem, Maltese, small replica of the cross of nails in Coventry Cathedral and more. These were made by diverse methods, and in a variety of materials, woods including the ancient Fenland bog oak, glass, metals, cotton crochet, rolled magazine paper, pearl shell, and the traditional palm cross given out in church on Palm Sunday. Some of those made of wood were decorated with various carvings, others brightly painted, and some had a variety of different coloured woods in the one cross. The photograph shows a rolled magazine paper cross (made in Vietnam) surrounded by smaller crosses in the collection.



We wish readers A Happy and Blessed Easter.

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month, at 2.30pm in Passage Hall, Lode. On 20th April we will be partaking in an activity in preparation for the Coronation of King Charles III. You are most welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langran

Bottisham and District Gardening Club

In February we were pleased to welcome Sharka Baxter telling us about the "Forward Looking Gardener". Whilst I was unable to attend I have heard from the others how interesting she was.

She was promoting the idea that we should not expect the perfect lawn, (there are few of these about after last summer's heat and the prolonged cold snap we had recently) and have more wild areas especially if you have a larger garden. This will encourage insects and following on from this more birds. Let plants go to seed and leave seed heads on winter plants which will look interesting in a border. Grow plants that have perfume which will encourage butterflies, bees and other insects. Ensure you have a compost bin for vegetable waste and save over-use of your green bin. Do not use weed killer. I don't know that I agree with her by not bothering with bedding plants. Sounds a good excuse to leave the gardening and let it run wild. I intend to leave the poppies that have self-seeded in my front lawn and look forward to them in flower.

On 25th April we have an evening visit planned at 6.30pm to Darwin Nurseries which promises to be interesting.

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Bottisham Bird Brain

Remember ‘Passerines’ being Sparrow-like birds? Let’s leave the Turdidae (Thrush family) for the time being and return to *Passer Domesticus* – the humble House Sparrow. Many people think that this bird is the commonest species in the UK, simply because it’s so familiar to us... but they would be wrong. The House Sparrow is certainly common, not just in this country, but the world over; however, it is actually our third most numerous, with 5.3 million pairs, behind the Wren (11 million pairs) and Robin (7 million pairs).



Whilst we’re on statistics, it’s worth noting that House Sparrow numbers are down some 10 million pairs compared with the 1960s! Of course, it’s always easy to blame intensive farming methods for any birds’ declines, because of the relative loss of hedgerows, but a more significant change has occurred in the state of our homes over the years. There are fewer cracks and gaps in modern homes and renovated buildings, which would have provided sheltered nest sites in the past. Indeed, how many of us have tidied our roof lines with the installation of plastic trim in our older houses? It’s not all doom and gloom though: there are definite signs of population recovery as this determined little bird uses its natural adaptability to thrive.

The House Sparrow is predominantly a seed eater, with a diet that includes grains and berries too. The thick, chunky bill immediately gives it away as a ‘granivore’, but it is certainly not a fussy bird. It will take a range of insects, caterpillars and spiders and also enjoys bread and other scraps left by humans, particularly anything starchy. You may have noticed how you rarely see one Sparrow at a time when they’re feeding. This is because they are not only sociable generally, but are successful scroungers... that is to say they’ll look out for other birds who have found a food source, and simply join in.

The physical appearance of *Domesticus* is not something I guess most people ponder for long. However, it’s worth a few words, not just to remember how beautiful it is – especially the male – but to ensure we can separate it – especially the female – from other ‘little brown jobs’ with which it may be confused! The male is a smart little chap with his striated chestnut back, black face & bib and white cheeks. The sides of his head are a nice, rich brown but his crown and forehead are distinctly grey. This is important because it’s the only sure way to distinguish it from the much rarer Tree Sparrow, whose crown is wholly brown. Although you are unlikely to find a Tree Sparrow in a Bottisham garden, do always check the head... you never know! And you can sometimes encounter mixed flocks in the winter, especially in farmland areas. The female House Sparrow, in common with many species of all types, is much drabber than the male – a greyer, paler, seemingly slimmer bird than her partner – and is probably the plainest bird you will see regularly. Even the similarly coloured female Chaffinch has a helpful double white wing bar.

The other small, brown, garden bird to be aware of is the Dunnock, often known as Hedge

(Continued on page 45)

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(Continued from page 43)

Sparrow, which is a misnomer because it's not a Sparrow at all, in fact! It actually belongs to the 'Accentor' family (of mainly mountain birds) and I'll perhaps give it a full page another time but, for now, I'll just point out that it is an insect eater – evidenced by its slim, delicate bill – and its brown plumage merges into a bluey-grey over its head and shoulders. And it's more Robin-like in its shape and demeanour than the true Sparrows.

Beware also, when you're abroad, people describing local birds as sparrows. I've noticed, in various parts of the world, that country-folk are very reluctant to say "I don't know" to an inquisitive tourist and it can mean that anything from a finch to a warbler might be confidently identified to you as a generic sparrow! Of course, it might be a sparrow too... Domesticus and its 12 sub-species are abundant in most areas of the world, having apparently first appeared in Neanderthal times – perhaps 200,000 years ago!

Back in the UK, House Sparrows have an interesting approach to family. Firstly, they engage in an unusual courtship known as a 'sparrow party', in which a male begins a display towards a female by prancing around with his tail cocked. Given their sociable nature, it's not long before other males get similarly involved and the female will sometimes become overwhelmed and fly off, pursued (play Benny Hill music!) by a small flock of amorous suitors. Once a pairing is made, a busy Spring and Summer follows. Up to four broods of four or five chicks may be reared – fed by both parents for about 15 days – and the breeding season is tending to elongate among some populations, to the extent that there is some evidence of this species nesting all year round!

I hope this article may cause you to look a little closer at the charming birds with whom we so often share a domicile! By the way, if anybody would like me to write about any particular bird or family that might be interesting or perplexing to you, please just buttonhole the editor or me at your leisure.

TTFN - Gerry Daish

"I wish it were spring, cunningly blowing on the fallen sparks, odds and ends of the old, scattered fire, and kindling shapely little conflagrations, curious long-legged foals, and wide-eared calves, and naked sparrow-bubs."

Craving For Spring - D. H. Lawrence

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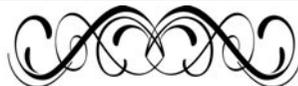
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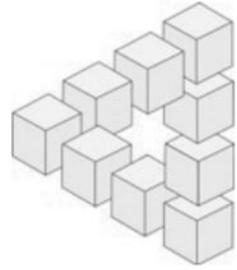
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Given that the space generously afforded by editors is by definition, limited, much more information is readily available via the website.

I continue to be surprised, amazed even, by the multitude of uses to which mobile phones and other devices are now being put. With this in mind, how about going 'on line' at info@eaaa.org.uk to receive updates on missions, patients, supporting events and lots more. Enquiries about our lottery, volunteering, press, other media and fundraising generally can be pursued in this way. Our 'Supporter Team' is on hand, Monday to Friday – 08:30 to 17:00 to answer queries, take donations etc. Please call 0345 669 999 or use the above address. Whilst on the subject of contact, now is the time please, to take part in our Spring raffle – **you could win £3,000!** The Spring Raffle is a hugely important part of the EAAA calendar.

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Michael White



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Distribution: Ian & Helen Cole	812573
Design/Artwork: ONG (Old Newton Graphics) • www.codge.com	01449 675548

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