

May 2026

ISSUE: 580
£1 when sold

LODE STAR



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM LODE WITH LONGMEADOW

<https://lode-pc.gov.uk/lode-star-magazine>

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Please could items for inclusion in the **June 2026** issue of **Lode Star** reach one of these addresses or be emailed to

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Editorial Highlights May 2026

Issue: 580

Welcome all to our May 2026 edition. This merry month sees us enjoy two Bank Holidays: the Early May on May 5 (Reach Fair) and the Spring Bank Holiday on May 25. Two long weekends to recharge the batteries!

Fran's heroic redevelopment of the Guildhall continues apace: this month's report features work on the roof, including the hope that the largely dry weather holds until the rejuvenated building is watertight.

The Peaceful and Prayerful Art group's location has changed. The group will now be meeting at the Holy Trinity church, Bottisham. Please check dates in their revised poster.

Lode Tennis club is reinstating Club Nights where members can just turn up and enjoy a game with whoever else turns up. Jeff Kempster has written a short piece covering this innovation.

New, though actually rather old, is a piece on Hatley's Farm. Mike Hatley has delved into the farm's financial records to reveal what agricultural labourers and some skilled craftsmen were earning back in the day. A fascinating insight into yesteryear. This article highlights how wages and salaries, in real terms, have evolved through time. Lode Star would like anyone with comparable records to hand to add to our understanding about working life on a farm over 75 years ago.

May 10 ushers in the first Classic Car etc show of the season at Bottisham Airfield Museum. A guaranteed great day out!

Easter Gift Day raised in the region of £1000 for St James' Church! A fantastic effort.

An important message from Jonny Edge, our County Councillor: there are funds available for villagers struggling with the cost of living – in particular heating oil. Don't suffer in silence, seek assistance. Charlotte Cane, our MP, in a similar vein, reports on her efforts to ease the pressure on hard pressed families. She is lobbying hard for cuts in the taxes we pay on fossil fuels and in the costs of essentials.

As ever there are many other articles of interest this month. Please read, enjoy and let the editorial team know of any topic you think should be covered by Lode Star.

Nick

The purpose of LODE STAR is to serve the whole parish by circulating information free to every household in LODE and LONGMEADOW eleven times a year

Opinions expressed in LODE STAR are not necessarily those of the Editors

Lode Parish Council News

The Council met at Fassage Hall, where we heard from two village residents during the Open Forum. One resident brought up the Chapel renovation plan, asking about access rights and easement, while another asked about a post for the speed sign, and a possible bus shelter on Quy Road. During Matters Arising, we looked into a deal for discounted defibrillators, and potential funding from East Cambridgeshire for local infrastructure, and for inclusive play areas.

During the District and County Councillor reports, we talked about the need for road repairs near Willow Farm and near Vicarage Farm, plus the delivery of new bins.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Parish Meeting and the playground opening at the Fassage Hall, from 14:00 - 16:00, on Saturday, 9 May. There will be tea and cake. We'd love for village groups to send their activity reports to the Parish Clerk so we can discuss them at the meeting.

On Community Matters, we discussed parking on verges, plans to fix a cemetery trellis this autumn, and repairs to the Longmeadow noticeboard.

*Ellis Weinberger
Lode Parish Council*

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East Cambs District Councillors' Report

Changes to Bin collection.

Delivery of the new bins is proceeding, and you should have received, or about to receive, two bins: one for general waste and the other for food waste. The new service is due to start in June, once all the bank holidays are over, and a regular routine is established.

Full information will be given with the arrival of the new bins. Information can also be sought from the Council web-site.

Change to Group sizes

One Lib Dem member has left the party and decided to form a group with the Conservatives; the Conservative and Independent Group has 15 members, and the Lib Dem and Independent Group has 13 members.

Operational Services committee 23 March 2026

Not an exciting meeting, as the agenda contained a number of housekeeping reports: the ECSS business plan for next year, the Community Safety Partnership six-monthly report, End of Year Reports on Service Delivery and the Plans for next year, Quarter 3 2024/25 Budget Monitoring Report (which predicts an underspend of £229,000 on operating costs and an overspend of some £3.7m on capital mainly for buying black bins and for the Mepal Crematorium) had been deferred from the preceding year.

The new bin collection arrangements were on course for a June start.

The proposed Mepal Crematorium rules and regulations were presented, discussed, and accepted.

Finance & Assets committee 26 March 2026

Two items of housekeeping were discussed: the ECTC Business Plan for the next year, and End of Year Reports on Service Delivery and the Plans for next year.

The proposed Mepal Crematorium fees were presented, discussed and accepted, even though no benchmark for them was presented.

Two new funds were created, one for Local Infrastructure, the other for Inclusive Play and Open Spaces. Information about these funds will be provided to Parish Clerks.

Surgery

On Tuesday 19 May at Passage Hall, Lode, from half past six to half past seven, and to be followed by socialising at The Shed, Lode Road, Lode.

Cllr Charlotte Cane MP, 07976 607512, charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk

Cllr John Trapp, 07942 685599, john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire County Council Report

In a time of international concern, I want to start this month by concentrating on those needing additional help.

Help with oil and heating costs

The council has received £708,000 from the Government which is ring-fenced to support households struggling with the cost of domestic oil heating. The money has been added to the council's Crisis & Resilience Fund, and applications are being administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

Applications to the fund opened on Monday 30 March. The link to apply is at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/crisis-payment>

This fund is intended for Cambridgeshire households on low incomes who are reliant on heating oil and who need to top up their tanks as a matter of urgency.

To receive this support, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Live in Cambridgeshire.
- Be reliant on heating oil to heat their home and/or water.
- Have 150 litres or less of oil remaining at the time of application.
- Be in receipt of or eligible for one of the following means-tested benefits:
 - Universal Credit
 - Pension Credit
 - Income based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

If funding allows, the council hopes to expand the scheme later to households on incomes just above the threshold for means-tested benefits, or with exceptionally high energy needs.

Eligible households can apply for up to £400 of support. The level of support awarded may fluctuate with the price of oil. The target for payment to be issued is 48 hours from the time that all required evidence is received.

For residents whose household income is above the level for means-tested benefits, other support is available. The council funds Citizens' Advice Rural Cambs to deliver an income maximisation service.

<https://www.citizensadvice.ruralcambs.org.uk/>

Holiday voucher values

Following the Government's withdrawal of the Household Support Fund, replaced by the Crisis & Resilience Fund with lower levels of funding, the council has agreed holiday voucher values as follows for the coming holidays.

Holiday Period	Weekly Voucher Value	Total Voucher Value
May Half Term (25 – 29 May)	£10	£10
Summer (21 July – 1 September)	£10	£60

The Crisis & Resilience Fund is expected to support all those facing ‘financial shocks’, not just children eligible for free school meals.

Highways

The approach to the Six Mile Bottom Road junction in Brinkley is scheduled to see improvements in the middle of May. This will hopefully see an end to the recent increase in near misses at this junction.

If all has gone according to schedule, the following roads should have received treatments in April:

- Bottisham: Arber Close, Bradford Close, Peacock Drive and Tunbridge Lane
- Dullingham: Brinkley Road (Kings Head to Eagle Lane), London Road
- Kirtling: All main roads.

Surface treatment is scheduled in mid-June on the B1063 from Newmarket, past Cheveley and Ashley out to the Suffolk border beyond Silverly; and on Moulton Road, Cheveley.

Maintenance Officers are breaking through the winter backlog on potholes. We should start to see a noticeable difference over the coming months. For anyone interested to find out more about this year’s road conditions, Highways & Transport Committee chair Cllr Alex Beckett has written a very informative article which is well worth a read at <https://notesfromalex.substack.com/p/why-are-the-roads-so-bad-rightnow>

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

MP’s Report

Keep Ely and East Cambridgeshire Moving

Many residents have contacted me recently about the rising cost of everyday life – particularly the price of getting around and heating their homes. From filling up the car to travelling to work or keeping warm, pressures are building fast for families and businesses across Ely and East Cambridgeshire. That’s why I’m calling for urgent action to help keep our area moving.

I'm pressing the Chancellor for an immediate 10p cut in fuel duty, which would reduce prices at the pump by around 12p per litre. In a largely rural area like ours, where many people depend on their cars, this would make a real and immediate difference. Alongside this, I'm backing a wider package of measures to reduce transport costs, including cutting bus fares to £1, reducing rail fares by 10%, and lowering the cost of electric vehicle charging by cutting VAT and tackling unfair network charges.

I'm calling for these measures to be introduced for an initial three month period, with the option to extend them if high prices persist. People need help now, not later.

I also continue to campaign for fairer support for off-grid households. Over a quarter of homes locally rely on heating oil or LPG rather than mains gas, leaving them especially exposed to volatile global prices. I'm therefore calling for an immediate three month VAT holiday on heating oil and LPG, and for the introduction of a proper price cap, similar to the one that already exists for gas, to protect rural households from extreme price spikes.

In the short term, I want residents to be aware that a £53 million Government support package for vulnerable households reliant on heating oil or LPG is now available. Applications opened on 1 April, and eligible households may be able to receive up to £400 in support. (More information here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/crisis-payment>). The fund is limited, so I would urge anyone who may qualify to apply as soon as possible. I encourage those not eligible but in need of support to seek advice from Citizens Advice.

I know that for so many, this relief won't be enough, or it will be too little, too late. After the Council's funding allocation, I wrote to the Chancellor to urge her to reconsider the funding formula in light of skyrocketing prices, and offer more support for all. I will continue pressing the Government to go further and act decisively to support households across Ely and East Cambridgeshire during this challenging time.

P.S. Have you signed my petition calling on Government to fund long-term fixes for our peat soil-affected roads? These roads are failing twice as fast and costing far more to maintain. Back my "Fix Our Soil-Affected Roads" campaign—please take 30 seconds to add your name: <https://bit.ly/fixoursoilaffectedroads>

Charlotte Cane MP

Bottisham and District Gardening Club

At our March meeting Mick Corbett came to enlighten us on the way fresh produce arrives on the supermarket shelves. He has spent 40 years in the industry with some of the biggest food retailers and producers. He is responsible for food safety and legality which means ensuring that Red Tractor, GAP (Global Agricultural Produce) and LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) standards are adhered to. British produce is always sourced when it is in season, but we now demand salad throughout the year and strawberries on Christmas Day so he also has to respond to customer demand. Much of this produce is grown overseas when the British season ends, which entails him travelling to warmer climes to ensure that workers' welfare and ethical standards are maintained. Tomatoes are now all grown under glass with production moving to Spain and Morocco during our winter. As gardeners we always swear by the taste of our home-grown produce, but food grown in this area can be on the shelves within a day and growers are always looking to improve varieties for taste and longevity.

Although supermarkets take their environmental responsibility seriously, a constant complaint is the amount of packaging. This has been a difficult issue to address, as some customers insist on pressing and squeezing every fruit or vegetable they consider purchasing, resulting in a lot of produce being spoiled

and wasted. Cucumbers are a classic example; without their plastic sleeves their shelf-life is greatly reduced. Much as we would like to see fewer plastic bags, the thought of customer contamination is not a pleasant one.

We will be having a plant stall on the Triangle in Bottisham on Saturday 9 May from 10am to 12 noon in conjunction with Bottisham Library and Lode WI.

Our next meeting will be a trip to the garden at Histon Manor on 26 May.

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





Coffee & Cake Concert

SATURDAY 2 May 10.30AM

CAMBRIDGE VOCAL CONSORT

A small vocal ensemble performing music from the 16th and early 20th centuries, including madrigals, folk songs and lute songs.

Come and enjoy a coffee, tea or juice, cake and then the concert which will last around 45 minutes

Suggested donation £5, in aid of the church building fund – children free



PEACEFUL & PRAYERFUL

at Holy Trinity Church Bottisham

art group For Adults

Art Materials Supplied

The First Three Fridays Every Month

1.30pm - 3.30pm

or bring your own art project

Enjoy Art together All Skill Levels Welcome

BOTTISHAM TRIANGLE SALE

Saturday 9 May 2026

10 – 12 noon

**Bottisham & District
Gardening Club
Plants and Produce**



**Bottisham
Community Library
Books and Jigsaws**



**Lode
Women's Institute
Cakes and Buns**



**Help to support your
local groups**

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please contact **Gill** on **07889 195373** or email **lodestar.mag@gmail.com**

Quarter A5 portrait mode: £50 pa, Half A5 landscape: £90 pa, A5 portrait: £180 pa

Village Freecycle

As a reminder, everything is offered for free and nothing is expected in return.

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone/text (07980 423210) or e-mail (junthompson44@gmail.com) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow).

Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues.

Offers:

- **Large upright vacuum cleaner (Hoover) - in good working order, hardly used. Contact Gill 01223 811539**

Wants:

- **Digital projector (with HDMI port) & large portable tripod projector screen (ideally 2.4m wide) needed for a course presentation by BALA at Bottisham Sports & Social Club. We would also consider a loan - the projector and screen are needed on Thursday mornings for September to December 2026 (actual dates to be confirmed). Contact Robert on 07785 110434**
- **Lift wanted/offered from Swaffham Bulbeck to Addenbrookes for work (usually Tues, Weds, Fri, to arrive at Addenbrookes 7am and leaving 8pm). Please contact Jane 07800 934585 for more information.**



**Burwell and District Flower Club presents
a floral demonstration
by Rachel Borenkova:**

“Let’s go to the flower shop”

**May 13th at 7.15pm
at the Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell**

Visitors welcome £8

Jumble Sale April 2026

This is the first time that we have ever had a photo taken as it is so busy, so thanks go to Coral for this picture. The sun shone and the church, porch and grassy bit outside were awash with all the jumble. Thank you to everyone who brought us such good stuff. It means that the same shoppers come back time and time again clutching their cash and vast carrier bags. It was super busy with a long queue at the beginning but lots more people coming over the stretch of the afternoon. I must tell you about the team that sets up. There is masses of stuff, and over the period of a few hours this group of about 20 wonderful volunteers, carry, sort, arrange, rearrange and the chaos is transformed into a very well organised arrangement of departments rather like John Lewis! It's brilliant.



These same people then sell as much as possible on the Saturday afternoon, and finally clear up at high speed where waiting cars arrive and more wonderful helpers come to transport the remains back to a large shed. Thank you to all of you.

The amount raised was £1300 which is a very useful sum of money and we have decided to spend it in the following way

St. James' Church £800. It costs £18,000 per annum to keep the church open for use each year, so this goes towards whatever is needed.

Bottisham Library £100. This is run by volunteers but they still need to pay rent and other expenses to the village college.

Lode Star magazine £200. Printing costs have gone up sharply, so extra money is needed to help pay for this.

Convoy 4 Ukraine £100. They take 4x4 ambulances with equipment and medicines to support injured soldiers returning from the front line. The next convoy will drive to Ukraine in September.

East Anglian Air Ambulance £100. They are having to move from Marshalls, so expenses will be incurred for this wonderful service.

I hope you are happy with our reasoning. Thank you to all our loyal customers and amazing helpers, from the jumble team.

Fran

Memories of Hatley’s Farm (Lode Farm) in the 1930s.

What follows is a memoir about Lode Farm as told by Mike Hatley, enhanced by details from the old farm accounts. Lode Star would warmly welcome any reminiscences prompted by these fascinating data from a distant world.



Many of the following details are taken from the account books of that era. In the front of the 1936 book is the note which states that the wage certificate for 1936 reference workers insurance, the eight workers were paid £716-15-0 (£716.65).

Wages for week ending April 10th, 1936.

E Cornwell	- £2-0-4	
F Bull	- £2-0-4	(£2)
R Hiner	- £1-12-4	
R Watts	- £1-12-4	(£1.60)
G Free	- £1-12-4	
W Lord	- £1-19-4	
J Free	- £0-16-9	(£81p)
H Hatley	- £0-12-6	

(For context, a £2 weekly wage in 1936 would equate to approximately £140 today or about £7000 pa. Poverty wages!)

Harry Hatley would have been 15 years old, and it was the accepted thing that you would work on the family farm in any spare time that you had as I did from the time that I was about 11 years old (more of this later).

On April 10th, 1936, there is an entry for F. Cornwall for spreading 7 rows of manure at 3/- (15p) per row = 21/- plus 1/8 as half insurance.

J. Free, Senior	9 acres wheat hoeing for £4	May 8 th 1936
D Elbrow	8 acres beet hoeing at £2 per acre	May 29 th 1936
J Free, Senior	on beet and mangels, 5 rows at 2/- per row (10p per row)	June 5 th 1936
D Elbrow	80 rows of beet hoeing at 9d per row £3-0-0	June 10 th 1936
J Free, Senior	57 rows of Mangels and beet at 2/- per row	June 12 th 1936
J Free, Senior	17 acres, shocking barley at 2/- per acre Total 34/- (£1.60)	July 7 th 1936
D Cornwall and J Free	On thatching 13 stacks £10 plus 1 day as cowman 5/- (25p)	Sept 18 th
J Free, Junior	Birthday October 25 th 1936 – 16 years old. Wages £1-0-9	Oct 30 th 1936
F Bull	Injured by engine March 8 th 1937 – away – paid in full He was also away March 26 th and paid in full, also still away April 2 nd and still paid £2-1-8 1/2	March 19 th 1937

Moving on 11 years to April 11th 1947, wages recorded for this week:

F Bull	£4-18-3 1/2
W Lord	£4-18-3 1/2
J Price	£4-2-3 1/2
C Manning	£4-2-3 1/2
J Cox	£4-2-3 1/2
W M J Hatley	£2-11-0
Lionet Bull	£4-2-3 1/2
R Wright	£5-3-3 1/2
J Brand	£3-17-3

(Again for context, £4 per week in 1947 would be approximately £200 today. Or £10000 pa.)

W Lord and G Free – thatching 3 haystacks and 1 shed - £7 – July 18th 1947

W Lord and G Free – started thatching Thursday 28th August 1947 – four stacks - £9 (three corn and one hay).

Moving on again to July 30th 1954, wages for this week:

W Lord (Bill)	£7-1-0
M W J Hatley (Morris)	£6-5-0
J Brand (John)	£6-5-0 (£6.25)
A R Nocton (Arthur)	£6-5-0
R Meen	£7-12-0 (5 days holiday pay)
B Chapman (Brian)	£5-14-2
J Walsh	£6-5-0
M Heggerty	£7-12-0 (£7.60)
Michael Hatley	£2-3-9 (I was 15 years old)
Clive Cornell	£1-17-6 (Clive was 15 years old)

Total wage bill for this week was £65-5-3

(A £7 wage would equate to around £250 today, roughly a full State Pension in 2026.)

Clive and myself were joined by Peter Rust on the farm on August 20th 1954 and his wages for the week were £2-2-6 (£2.25). Michael Barrett started work on the farm on May 20th 1955 and his first week's wage was £4-17-0 (£4.85). Finally on wages, the total weeks wages for April 22nd 1955 for 12 men was £73-10-4 (£73.51).

My last week's work on the farm before I left to go to agricultural engineering/blacksmiths college at Thame near Oxford was on April 16th 1954 at the age of 15 and I worked 40 hours for one and tuppence per hour at a total of £2-6-8 (£2.34).

I have converted some of the money paid into today's decimal currency to show you what it was like living in the past before and after the second world war.

Hopefully there will be more in future in Lode Star magazine.

Mike Hatley.

Guildhall Newsletter

The roofs are now off and the site tidied up again after the old brittle slates and some concrete tiles were removed. The house is now exposed to the elements but as rain is in very short supply this is not too much of a concern. However, the carpenter made a special cover for the electricity



supply so that it is protected, as he said that it was important that he could use the kettle! The work that is going on high up is wonderful. New wood is replacing the odd rotten beam. One bedroom ceiling has been raised as it is a small room, to give a feeling of spaciousness. Clever idea. A few old beams in the bedrooms are to be left exposed to give character, and now the tedious and lengthy job of putting insulation between the rafters is being carried out. After this, further insulation goes on with a membrane and then new battens on top which hold the insulation in place. The slates are then hung on the battens. This double insulation is called a warm roof.

Upstairs the wooden walls have been built with new rooms emerging with names like bathroom, bedroom 1 and so on. Very exciting. The joiner is coming to measure the staircase which is made offsite and installed when complete. I have discovered the difference between a carpenter who works on site and does the structures and a joiner who works off site and makes things that are installed at a later time.

I watched a programme on TV recently about the restoration of Notre Dame in Paris, and the complexity of the work was extraordinary. Even the scaffolding looked like a spider's web. What was even more amazing was they used hand tools to do the work. It must have been a huge slog for the workforce. At least nowadays we have the advantage of wonderful power tools, though I did wonder how on earth they lifted the wooden beams up high without the use of lifts and cranes all those years ago. It was an amazing programme and worth watching.

Lode with Longmeadow Women's Institute



The Annual General meeting of Lode Women's Institute took place at the Passage Hall on Wednesday 1 April 2026. This was the last meeting of Carole Faulkner's presidency; after serving for eight years in the role, she felt it appropriate to hand on the baton. The members thanked her for her amazing service and unanimously voted Sue Kempster as their new President. Congratulations Sue for your future term of office!

The meeting required a significant amount of business, but the presented reports reminded all of the vibrant and diverse year the Lode WI had undertaken. A healthy financial position has been maintained effectively by Denise and a full and engaging programme organised by Lesley, Sue and Carole entails informative and engaging speakers and events. Head Office continues to organise amazing trips and wider opportunities for the district which Lode WI members take full advantage of.

Ann and Fran gave an informative report on the most recent of these, their trip to learn more about the Fens. They were addressed by a member for Landscape Reallocation who spoke of the concern for Cambridgeshire as a 'hot spot' for emissions, owing to the loss of water in the area. All is not lost however, as there was hope for a readjustment in the way the drainage ditches could be maintained in the future. The suggestion is that the steep sided ditches be stepped on one side to create small ledges, where planting could be established to attract insects and wildlife as well as produce a root system which could retain water runoff. It was acknowledged that the current ditches would need to be a little wider, resulting in a small loss of land for the farmers, but the hope is the benefits to the environment would outweigh this loss and would be looked on favourably by the farming community.

Our speaker for the evening, Marion Leeper, who is a well-known professional storyteller in Cambridge, entertained us with a creative story she had written. After a visit to the Cambridge Folk Museum she used a photograph she was offered with a scant note on the reverse telling of a name, address and the name of a taxi company – King and Harpers. She and her husband began a research mission to gain as much factual information as possible. Marion then fired up her own imagination and wove a story of Winnie Cobb, 'The Story of the First Woman Taxi Driver in Cambridge'. Lesley Trigg offered a vote of thanks for her presentation, which was followed by delicious refreshments provided by Julie Sale and Tessa Shrubbs.

The winner of the monthly competition cup was announced – well done Brenda Millington Paul and the raffle was won by Lee Robertson. Carole began the competition tally by winning this month, sharing a picture from Cambridge.

Our next meeting will be held at the Fassage Hall on Wednesday 6 May at 7:30 pm where Pam Daish will once again lead us in an uplifting sing-a-long, if this appeals to you why not come along and join us? You would be most welcome!

Lee Robertson

Notes from our Patch

Simple Ways To Save The Planet

Be a community player. We are so lucky to live in a village; for me, being a part of the community is one of the greatest joys of living in a village. But how do we preserve it? Do we too often rely on the same people doing the work to make things happen? Here is my short guide to being a community player....

1. Live in your community. If you work away and need two homes, then throw yourself into the community when you can.
2. Support your local businesses - shops, pubs, restaurants,
3. Support local events - plays, Fetes, quiz nights: coming up Reach Fair, The Shed Quiz Night. Without support organisers won't have the resources to put more on.
4. Join a local club. There are lots, from gardening, yoga, dancing, art, mother and toddler groups, church groups and many more. Again, numbers are important to make them work. If there is something missing that you would like to do, start up your own group!
5. Volunteer - this could be at a charity shop, delivering Lode Stars, helping in a community garden. This could be a little further afield in places that serve our villages, such as Bottisham or Newmarket. Find something you enjoy and meet likeminded people.
6. Become a member of a committee. Every group needs a committee to operate and are always glad of members.
7. Join the Parish Council. If you are a young person reading this, I particularly urge you to consider this, as councils are often short of young voices.

A big thank you to everyone who already puts in time - you may not always feel it, but you are very much appreciated. To anyone who has yet to put a toe in the water, welcome aboard! Being part of your community is transformative and satisfying.

And on a more personal level, avoid plastic, use glass for storage rather than plastic, recycle plastic containers, grow some veg, buy local grown where possible, hard isn't it? I am guilty of numerous plastic purchases and shudder each time I read where our fruit and veg come from, PERU, I really must stop buying blueberries from Peru, but they are delicious.

Meanwhile in the garden:

So, drought, slugs, downpours, ferocious drying winds, same as last year but different? And as last year, undeterred, I am carrying on regardless, convinced that we'll have record breaking crops and divine floral displays this year. I hope. Gardeners must be a totally unique group: ever optimistic, never fazed by disasters, ready to try newfangled ideas, but always mindful of lessons learned from Grandad and occasionally Facebook!

Rant over, jobs for May, endless: sowing, planting, weeding, earthing up, more weeding, mulching, watering, set slug marmite traps, finish planting maincrops, earthing up potatoes, continue to harvest and feed rhubarb. I hope to grab a few quiet moments to enjoy the sun and walks across the Fen.

Chris, Northfields

On Anxiety

This is not a subject I would have mused about six years ago, before the COVID pandemic. Yet now, talking to friends and family or listening to the media and watching TV, anxiety appears to be a defining feature of these current turbulent times.

It can be defined as a feeling of unease or foreboding, uncertainty as to where we are going and what is to come. War in Ukraine, war in Iran. Rapid global warming and the climate crisis. These things are devastating in themselves but it is their unexpected aspects that drive our anxiety.

The 24 hour news cycle available on every phone, laptop et al., does nothing to ease our anxiety levels. Bad news provokes clicks and drives advertising revenues. As I was growing up there was the radio and the newspapers as sources of shock. That was it. Now we have wall to wall coverage through every medium available.

There is also anxiety caused by the rapid pace of change. Technical change seems to be accelerating. Currently the surge in AI is a generator of uncertainty and the associated anxiety. Can we trust the images we see on the screen? Computer manipulation has gone beyond the cropping of photographs to exclude certain individuals; or the adding of new images seamlessly merged with an old one: now a totally false image can be created that to the untrained eye looks real. The way we consider our world is swiftly changing, perhaps making us less trusting, more cynical and definitely more anxious.

Another manifestation is seen walking around Cambridge or Newmarket. It is evident that people are locked onto their world via their smart phones. Seeing the world through a screen produced by third parties means minds are bombarded by stimuli aimed at persuasion of the viewer. It is easy to see how anxiety levels can be raised and exploited.

Identity is also changing. Male or female will no longer cover gender identification. As cultures collide, definitions of race or religion are being challenged. Old certainties are withering in bewildering ways. Culture wars are promoted by some political movements. Our environment, in all senses, is turbulent.

Finally, living in a quiet East Cambridgeshire village, we might feel exempt from feelings of anxiety. Particularly if we are retired and on a good pension. But our children and grandchildren face challenges of a kind they can never have expected. They are finding a good education doesn't guarantee a decent job. They are finding housing very difficult to find and even more difficult to finance. Some young families, with both adults working, still have to use food banks to make ends meet.

So this is an age of anxiety but there have been others (two world wars in living memory) and ours won't be the last unless us humans finally blow us all up or, more likely, ignore climate change until the tipping points have passed and the Earth becomes uninhabitable.

The Saint



Anglesey in Stitches



Your free and friendly local crafting group meets in the Black Horse,
Swaffham Bulbeck on odd-dated Tuesdays at 7.30pm.
Contact: Clare Wilkes, clarewilkes@proton.me

BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY

May2026 – The National Year of Reading

This month is the start of the Primary School weekly visits to the library and it's something we look forward to each year. The children really enjoy choosing their own books to take home to read. But they do need a **library card** to take out a book and preferably one of their own. It's really easy to register at the library with your child and they'll receive the card straight away , no waiting and no cost! We have had a lot of disappointed children and a few tears when they realise they haven't a library card so make sure they are registered before the visit.

The Junior Fiction shelves are well used during this time and we are lucky to have an excellent choice for 8 – 12 year olds as the College also has a good stock of popular and exciting writers.

Book of the Month for May is a new Junior Fiction book '**My Soul, a Shining Tree**' **by Jamila Gavin** and tells the true story of a First World War Gunner awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery and a story about friendship and courage.

How does Bottisham Community Library fund the books on the shelves? The Community Library's main purpose is to have books on the shelves to lend to our borrowers – and especially in this National Year of Reading when we want to encourage people to start reading again. We receive no books from the Public Library Service and no funding to buy books from anyone. All the books have to be bought by money we have raised. We do receive donations of books from the community and we appreciate this but we need books for all ages that are paperback, clean, up to date and of good quality – books that you would want to borrow from our shelves. It is a difficult task but we have managed it so far. We also try to ensure you have the opportunity to read books that are up for awards or new books by popular authors.

If we receive duplicate books they go on our 'For Sale' shelves or are sold at our stall on the Triangle. Look out for our latest stall on **Saturday May 9**. All the money raised goes to the library.

Lego Club and **StoryTime** will be on Saturday May 16 at 10.30 . Younger children will enjoy our collection of Duplo.

The date for the Mobile Library visit to Lode will be Wednesday May 13.

Start Reading!

Bird Brain

One of my loyal readers asked me recently if I could revisit the Tit family in this column. I have previously covered the differences between Blue Tit and Great Tit, along with their remarkable abilities to sing, like all songbirds, by virtue of a double-chambered voice-box called the syrinx, which enables them to breath and sing during both inhalation and exhalation!

You may remember how the slightly larger Great Tit (*Parus Major*) emits a two-tone “tea-cher, tea-cher” song, whilst the Blue Tit (*Parus Caeruleus*) typically trills a “tsee-tsee, di-di-di-di” sequence. And it’s good to appreciate how remarkably intelligent these pea-brained creatures are... that they not only learn from their own trials and errors, but also by observation and mimicry, so that a behaviour can transmit ‘horizontally’ throughout a population.

I’ve also examined the Long-tailed Tit, a busy, monogamous, family-oriented bird, an animated and acrobatic individual, pink in the summer and extremely cute-looking all year round.

So, what other Tits might we see in our gardens? There is one other member of the Tit family that you’re likely to encounter locally and, potentially, two others around here, but not common or regular visitors to your feeders. All three have similar, mainly buff, colouring with black crowns so we’ll focus on the differences; and, fortunately, the common one is the easiest to identify!

Coal Tit

Periparus ater is the size of a Blue Tit but not as colourful, with a greyish back, a buff front, black crown and white cheeks and a fine bill for picking the seeds from conifer cones. Check for a thin white wing-bar, too, but its most distinctive feature is a striking white patch at the base of its neck, which stands out from the black head. Any absence of this white patch would render the bird one of the two species below!

Coal Tit is a regular visitor to garden feeders and will often associate with mixed tit flocks in woodland and garden areas. It is a ‘resident’ bird (i.e. present all year round) throughout the UK and enjoys up to 680,000 territories. Unusually, for a small passerine, the population trend is upwards, especially in urban areas where its food sources are supplemented by humans. Its song is slightly similar to the two-note, repetitive chant of the Great Tit, but Coal’s voice is sweeter with less distinction between the notes – more like an actual whistled tune than the harsher Great.

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris is the next most likely bird of similar colouring to be seen in your garden. The body and head are similar to Coal, but very plain (no wing bar) and the absence of the white nape is the first thing to look for. It is not a common bird by Coal Tit standards, with only 41,000 territories, and it is 'red-listed' as of serious conservation concern, but it is at least as intelligent as the (very smart) Great Tit and will visit garden feeders as an alternative to its natural habitat in deciduous woodland. With a well-developed memory, it has been known to hoard and hide seeds in case of future scarcity.

Willow Tit

Poecile montanus is pretty unlikely to be seen in a garden environment, but might well be present in this area, particularly in wooded areas of fenland where it prefers the dampness of young willow scrubs and (ironically) marshy places. Plumage is very similar to Marsh, but a clear view reveals what is known as a 'wing panel' – a slightly lighter patch on the closed wing, formed by light edges to the flight feathers. It's a subtle difference though, and it wasn't until 1897 that scientists realised that they were dealing with two different species! Willow's declining population is also 'red-listed' by conservationists and current numbers are estimated to be only 3,400 pairs.

So, that's the entire tit family taken care of – with the exception of the Crested Tit, which is found only in the conifer forests of Scotland, and the extremely rare vagrant, Penduline Tit; so you can discount those as possible additions to your local listings. You may also have encountered Bearded Tits in East Anglian reedbeds – the nearest being Lakenheath – but these are not actually tits at all! They are in fact members of their own family of 'Reedlings'.

STOP PRESS

The Black-winged Kite was still lingering around the Ludham Bridge area of Norfolk during much of March; and the aftermath of Storm Dave resulted in the south-easterly winds bringing into the UK a host of early summer visitors including Nightingales, several different Warblers, a very early cuckoo and, incredibly, this year's second Killdeer Plover (see March edition). We seem to be inundated with Chiffchaffs around here now, but I am yet to hear my first Willow Warbler... they must be due any minute, by the time you read this!

TTFN, Gerry Daish

*If you would happy company win,
Dangle a palm-nut from a tree,
Idly in green to sway and spin,
Its snow-pulped kernel for bait; and see,
A nimble titmouse enter in.*

From The Titmouse by Walter de la Mare



Coal Tit



Marsh Tit



Willow Tit

Red2Green

Red2Green is a registered charity celebrating over 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 – Coffee & Plant Sale Mornings and Summer Fair!

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. Please see the details below:

May 11 – Bottisham Community Garden (10:30-12:30)

June 17 – Swaffham Bulbeck Pavilion (10:45-11:45)

July 6 – Bottisham Community Garden (10:30-12:30)

We're excited to be hosting our **Summer Fair** on Saturday 13 June at our Park End site in Swaffham Bulbeck! More details will be announced soon, so keep an eye on our social media and upcoming leaflets for timings and updates.

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



PILATES BEGINNERS/ INTERMEDIATE COURSE

Pilates classes incorporate exercises to help improve posture, mobility, muscular strength and breathing technique.

These classes are designed to help learners develop leaner and stronger muscles, establish core strength and stability and heighten mind-body awareness.

Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club
31 Downing Close, Bottisham
Cambridge CB25 9DD
Tuesday 10.40am-11.40am
The price per class is £11 per session, paid in advance, per half term

To book your place please contact:
Mili Schrama, email
altrlinik@gmail.com
Or phone: 07833 317995
Classes run term time only.



POLO AND PICNICS 2026



TICKETS FROM £5
CAMBRIDGEANDNEWMARKETPOLO.COM
CAM PARK, LODGE, CAMBRIDGE CB25 9HF



Cambridge & Newmarket Polo Club 2026 Fixture List



APRIL		
15 th	Chukkas Start	
MAY		
2 nd / 3 rd	Early May BH tournament	Open
9 th	Drinks Party	
9 th / 10 th	CNPC May Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 2
23 rd / 24 th	The Mavericks Cup	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
JUNE		
6 th / 7 th	The Bolebec Cup	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
20 th / 21 st	The Mansfield Advisors Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
JULY		
4 th / 5 th	Phillip Hellier's Mixed and Ladies	Mixed -4 to 0 / 0 to 4 Ladies 4 and 8
11 th / 12 th	Orminster Cup & Newmarket July Week	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
18 th	EAAA Charity Day	
AUGUST		
1 st / 2 nd	The ROR Campin Cup	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
15 th / 16 th	Warings Furniture Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 2
22 nd / 23 rd	Capilla Polo Ladies Tournament	Ladies
29 th / 30 th	Feedmark Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
SEPTEMBER		
12 th / 13 th	Autumn Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 2

Poisoning

I would be very grateful if people were more careful as to what they put in their bins as our little cat Teaza was poisoned on the morning of 20 April because of some white/pale green powder that had leaked out of someone's bin bag. We have no idea what it was but it smelt very chemically and made her salivate lime green spit.

The vet thinks that she will probably be OK but she is under observation and we had to bath her. If you have ever bathed a cat, you will know how many wounds I now have and how distressed she was.

It is bad enough when people put chemicals on their gardens and kill wildlife but I am sure that chemicals should not be disposed of in black bins, so please stop using them and, if you must use them, take the remains to the tip and let those of us who own animals know so that we can avoid the areas treated. Our cats do not usually go into many other people's gardens but I know cats that do so please just be careful in future - thank you.

Glenis Moore



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All aspects undertaken from Garden Maintenance to Hard Landscaping.**

**Maintenance • Clearance • Tree Cutting • Patios • Pathways
Tree Houses • Brickwork • Ponds • Swimming Ponds**

Contact Lloyd at
Info@lloydsgardens.me.com or 07811 132709
www.lloydsgardens.me.uk

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Group

Vaccinations!

We are administering Covid booster vaccinations from the middle of April. Eligible patients are

1. Those aged 75 and over
2. Care home residents
3. Those 6 months and older who are immunosuppressed

We are also keen to vaccinate those 80 and over against RSV. RSV stands for respiratory syncytial virus. Classically it causes bronchiolitis in babies but can also lead to a nasty pneumonia in older people.

Frailty scoring

Please don't be alarmed if you see we've scored you as moderately or severely frail in your records. We are being encouraged to do this to reduce your risk of falls as target blood pressure and blood sugar readings are different if you're a little more frail than you used to be. Also we need every patient's weight and height measurements. Over the course of the year we will be messaging everyone for this information. Please feel free to come and use our measuring equipment in our pod in reception ahead of us asking you. Reception can then add this to your records.

ABTRACE we are starting to use a new recall system. The text messages will ask for your date of birth to confirm who you are and will then allow you to book any recall appointment you need eg diabetes review. You may be asked to complete a questionnaire ahead of your appointments eg asthma or heart failure reviews.

Weight loss injections. We have had many enquiries regarding these. NHS funding criteria are very strict and currently we only have 8 patients who are eligible, all of whom have been contacted. As more patients are eligible, as the criteria change, we will contact you. If you are purchasing these injections privately please note it is important to use reliable contraception as their risks in pregnancy are unknown. The contraceptive pill may have its absorption affected by these injections and thus not be reliable. If you're on HRT, patches and gels are recommended as the tablet formulation may have its absorption affected.

Appointments: For the first quarter of this year we had 185 appointments logged as DNA, (Did Not Attend) which equated to just under 60hrs of lost clinical time. We appreciate that circumstances and situations can change at short notice but ask, if you are unable to attend your appointment please let us know so we can reallocate this to another patient.

Accessing the Practice: as you will be aware we have been operating a Triage system since 1 October, currently 11% of our patients are accessing us via the NHS App, 78% via our website and 11% are either attending or telephoning the Practice. By whatever means you contact us, please stay available to take calls swiftly when an appointment may be booked, often within minutes of your request. If you have not heard from us within 4 hours your form may not have been received so please call us.

The surgery will be closed for training from 2pm on 15 May. Use 111 if necessary.

Prescriptions: With 2 bank holidays in May please order by 15 May to collect on 22. Hopefully you will already have ordered by the 24 April for collection on 1 May.

Next Meeting Details: 6.30pm in the waiting room at the surgery, date to be advised. There will be a talk by Dr Shackleton. If you wish to join our meetings or consider joining the committee please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. Or speak to reception.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Group.

LODE & LONGMEADOW FETE 2026

SUNDAY 21 JUNE

on the Fassage

12NOON - 4PM

*** DOG SHOW * LIVE MUSIC WITH 'AKIMBO' * HOT FOOD * ICE CREAMS * CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT WITH PENNYFARTHING (BUBBLES) * POP UP BAR WITH REAL ALE * HOT DRINKS, SAVOURIES AND CAKES * VARIOUS STALLS AND SIDESHOWS * GRAND DRAW * CHILDREN'S TOMBOLA * VINTAGE VEHICLES * 'BOTTLES' IN A BAG' * FRAN'S JUMBLE ***

Make sure the date is in your diary!

Lode Tennis Club

(Membership open to all residents of Lode and Longmeadow)



Return of Club Nights!

We have decided to try again with open club nights on Wednesdays - starting on 6 May from 5pm to 7pm, then from 27 May from 6pm to 8pm.



On club nights people can just turn up and play with anyone else that is there. Normally this will be doubles, and if there are more than 4 people we try and rotate who is playing every few games. We try and encourage people to use the website message board to say if you are going to be there, so that people from a bit further away can find out if anyone is going to be there before making the trip! If you are interested then visit our tennis club website for more details.

You can get all the latest news, contact other Tennis Club members, and get information about the club, by visiting our website at <http://www.lodetennis.net>

Jeff Kempster (Chairman) 01223 812194

**Lode On-Line Archive at <http://lode.ccan.co.uk>
for historic photos, videos and articles**

Anglesey Abbey



Anglesey Abbey: 60 Years with You

This year at Anglesey Abbey, we will be celebrating two landmark anniversaries. It is 100 years since Lord Fairhaven purchased the house and estate, on 5 May 1926 and it's also 60 years since the property joined the National Trust.

Across June and July, we'll be hosting a photo exhibition in the gardens, looking at visitor memories of the past 60 years at Anglesey Abbey. We're asking local people, visitors and followers to send in photos taken between 1966 and 2026, and we will select some to be part of this outdoor exhibition. Whether you have photos from memorable days out with loved ones, or photos that show just how much Anglesey Abbey has changed, or stayed the same, we'd love to see them.

To submit a photo, please fill in the form at
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AA60years>

May Half Term: Butterfly Activity Trail

Saturday 23 to Sunday 31 May

Fly on down to our gardens this Half Term to learn all about butterflies in our family-friendly activity trail. Follow the lifecycle from egg to butterfly, try out all of the activities and earn your wings for a big photo moment!

Recommended for age 3+, but all are welcome. £3.50 per trail, including a prize. No booking needed, ask at the welcome when you arrive. Normal admission to Anglesey Abbey applies.

Looking ahead

Join photographer Phil Morley for a workshop exploring the gardens through the lens of your camera. Phil will be leading hands-on sessions looking at both Landscape Photography and Close-up Nature Photography. Choose between morning or afternoon sessions, or book both for a full day experience.

9:30am-12pm, Landscape Photography | 27 June, 25 July, 26 Sep, 21 Nov | £25
1pm-3:30pm, Close-up Photography | 27 June, 25 July, 26 Sep, 21 Nov | £25.

Both workshops on your chosen date £40.

To plan a visit and find out more about Anglesey Abbey, please visit our website [Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Lode Mill | Cambs | National Trust](#) or follow us on social media.

Highways and Byways

Unlike all but three out of over two hundred Districts in England, East Cambs has not taken on the responsibility to tackle on-street illegal parking, such as on yellow lines and school zig-zags, or outstaying timed parking areas. Cambs Police say that they do not have the resources to do it properly and the District Council does not think it would raise enough in fines to cover its costs. Three years ago, the Council asked the Police how local volunteers might do it. However, the costs and time involved in vetting, training and equipping them with uniforms, vehicles and devices would be significant. Nowhere else has this been done. Whether volunteers would come forward is another matter, considering the likely hostility of bad parkers and the need to give up at least sixteen hours a month. These ideas have come to nothing and the District now thinks that the County Council should do it.

In 2022, an extra pair of dropped kerbs, 30 yds beyond Lode Crossroads towards Bottisham, were approved by a County Council Committee. They were to be immediately before the bus lay-by and enable users of the shared path to cross the road. However, the Council had another idea, to put them 70 yards beyond the crossroads, at greater cost and delay. I pointed out in July 2023's Lode Star that, although visibility would be better, vehicle speeds there would be much greater, and cyclists would have to detour around the back of the lay-by and conflict with people waiting for, or getting off, the bus. Also the crossing would be much further from the street lights at the crossroads. By mid-April this year, the path works have been completed, with the 30 mph speed limit still to be extended and 'dragon's teeth' markings to be painted on the road to encourage drivers to slow down. A Cycle Priority Crossing could be made there in future, with dotted lines and give-way signs and markings. One is proposed on the Lode side of the crossroads under the Greenways scheme, and at Longmeadow. Better still would be two street lights incorporating amber flashing beacons.

A new bus shelter on the south side of Quy Road could be located at the far end of the lay-by, on the highway grass verge where it widens, not far from where the bus doors open. Officially, Highway Visibility Splays are measured from a point 2.4 m from the carriageway where a driver exiting a property will be looking. The fence is 3.4 m from the carriageway, so if the shelter is 1.2 m deep (like the three metal ones in Bottisham) it will project only 20 cm forward. It can be midway, or 24 m, from each of the two adjacent property exits. Visibility will be to Anglesey Abbey and the bend at the crossroads. This should easily meet Highway requirements. It would need the permission of, and installation under, the County Council.

Robert Stevens 01223 811643

After a great start to the season on Easter Sunday and Monday, the Museum is now into May and along with the normal opening on Sundays and Wednesdays 10.30 to 16.00, we shall be open on both Bank Holiday Mondays, 4 and 25 May.



The opening weekend was a great success with lots of visitors; some arriving in WW2 jeeps, vintage cars and on vintage motorcycles. There were also some re-enactors on site dressed in smart WW2 uniforms.

On Saturday 11 April we hosted the Cambridge Car Club for the morning, as part of a club motoring event.

Helicopter pleasure flights operated by Adventure 001 will be operating from the airfield on May 6 and 20, and then at roughly two-week intervals throughout the summer. For details of dates, availability and bookings, visit the 'Helicopter Flights' page on our website www.bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk

Sunday 10 May sees our first Classic Car, Motorcycle and Military Vehicle show of the year. Listen to live music from Bottisham favourites 'Back in Time' while looking around the vehicles and tasting the food available. Entry is £10 for adults and free for under 16s, so do come along and join us.

And of course, anyone who would like to join our team of volunteers in the museum or the café, please contact us via our website or pop along to see us on any open day.

We hope to welcome you soon.

Charles Cook, Museum Volunteer

St James Church, Lode

Volunteers needed to help with Church Flower Arrangements.

Sadly Ann Langran who used to organise all the flower arranging within the church is leaving the village.

We would be very grateful if anyone might be interested in coming on the rota or helping with Easter or Harvest Festival flowers.

The church being a lovely peaceful place to work in.

Doreen Robinson

07842 994384



Anglesey Group Mothers' Union Branch



19 March 2026

We had a change to our venue on 19 March as we met at Anglesey Abbey café for a cuppa and a chat; this was because on Friday 27 March our diocese held a Lady Day service in St Mary's Church Ely. It was special because not only were we commemorating the Annunciation—the day when the Angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary she would conceive Jesus Christ, but this year is the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Mother's Union. Four members of our Anglesey Group joined the service, followed by tea and birthday cake. As well as a chance to chat over packed lunches, we had a quiz on local church knowledge before the service and afterwards heard updates from each of the groups attending about what they have been doing in their Mother's Union meetings. It was really good to feel part of a much wider fellowship and those that were able to go really enjoyed the day.

Our next meeting is on 18 June at 2.30pm at The Fassage Hall, Lode, when we shall be joined by Rev'd Keith Morrison.

Visitors are very welcome to join us.

Alison Martin (01223 88285)

St James' Church Easter Gift Day

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our Easter Gift Day. We have raised nearly £1000 so far.

There's still time to donate by dropping your envelope in to 29 Mill Road, or you can donate on-line:-

Lode Parochial Church Council

Lloyds Bank A/c: 00259416

Sort Code 30-13-55

We have some repairs coming up this year so we are most grateful for all donations.

Thanks once again for helping to keep our beautiful church in good order.

*Coral Hatley
Hon. Treasurer
St James' Church*

St James' Church, Lode with Longmeadow

Vicar: Rev'd Canon Max Osborne, C. 481187 max9@btinternet.com

Churchwarden: Julie Sale, C. 811222 juliesale0@gmail.com,

lode@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk



Services in The Anglesey Group of Parishes

Holy Trinity Bottisham, St Mary's Quay, St James' Lode, St Mary's Swaffham Bulbeck
and St Mary's Swaffham Prior

Sunday 3 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Wednesday 6 May

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 10 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

9am Online service on Zoom
Holy Communion, Quay
10.30am Rogation Family Service, Swaffham Prior

Thursday 14 May – Ascension Day

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode
7.30pm Holy Communion with Cambridge Voices, St Cyriac's, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 17 May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

9am Online service on Zoom
Morning Prayer, Quay
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck
Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 24 May – Pentecost

9am Online service on Zoom
Holy Communion BCP, Swaffham Bulbeck
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 31 May – Trinity Sunday

9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Lode
6pm Evensong, Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Local Calendar 2026

Month	Date	Event	Related article
May	Fridays	Peaceful and prayerful art group, Holy Trinity, Bottisham, 1.30pm - 3.30pm (first three Fridays of the month)	10
	Sat 2	Coffee and Cake concert, Bottisham church, 10.30am	10
	Tues 5	Anglesey in Stitches, Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, 8pm	20
	Wednes days	Lode Village Coffee Morning, Fassage Hall, 10.30am - 12 Noon	9
	Wed 6	Lode & Longmeadow WI, Fassage Hall, 7.30pm	17
	Wed 6	Tennis club open club night, Lode tennis court, 5 - 7pm (and subsequent Wednesdays; and from 27th May 6-8pm)	29
	Sat 9	Bottisham Library, Gardening Club and Lode WI sale, the Triangle, Bottisham, 10am - 12 noon	10
	Sat 9	Annual Parish Meeting, playground opening, tea and cake, Fassage Hall, 2-4pm	4
	Mon 11	Red2Green Coffee & Plant sale, Bottisham Community Garden, 10:30-12:30	24
	Wed 13	Mobile Library, 2.10pm Longmeadow, 2.40pm Northfields, 3.20pm Lode PO	21
	Sat 16	Lego club & storytime, Bottisham Library, 10.30am	21
	Tues 19	ECDC surgery, Fassage Hall, 6.30 - 7.30 pm, followed by socialising at The Shed	5
	Tues 19	Anglesey in Stitches, Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, 8pm	20
	Tues 26	Bottisham & District Gardening Club trip to Histon Manor	9
Jun	Thur 18	Mothers' Union, Fassage Hall, 2.30pm	33
	Sun 21	Lode Fete, Fassage Green, 12 noon - 4pm	28



Local Directory

Bottisham Medical Practice (Mon - Fri 8.30 - 18:00) When Surgery closed for medical help please ring	01223 810030 111
Fassage Hall - Bookings	fassage.lemonbookings.com
Cambridgeshire County Council	0345 045 5200
East Cambridgeshire District Council	01353 665555
Bottisham Village College Adult Learning	01223 811372
Bottisham Community Library	01223 812354
Mobile Library Service - Renewals/Enquiries	0345 045 5525, cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library
Dial-a-Ride	http://cambridgedialaride.org.uk memberssupport@cambridgedialaride.org.uk
Mobile Library Service - Renewals/Enquiries	0345 045 5525

Cambridgeshire Police - Emergency - Non Emergency	999 101
Gas Emergency	0800 111999
Anglian Water Emergency	08457 145145
Electricity Emergency	0800 783 8838
Environment Agency River Incident Hotline	0800 80 70 60
Samaritans Helpline	116 123 (free)
The Silver Line helpline for older people	0800 4 70 80 90
Age UK (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough)	0300 666 9860
ChildLine	0800 1111
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Nationwide Rail Times	03457 48 49 50

Bin Collections

☐ Box - Refuse & Blue lid
No Box - Refuse & Green/Brown lid

MAY

4

Mon

11

Mon

18

Mon

25

Mon

....WHAT ADVERTISEMENTS ARE WHERE....

ACCOMMODATION & PROPERTY

Eden Vale Holiday Cottage.....	B
Hilary's Cottage.....	B
Meadow House B&B	B

DESIGN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

Alpine Handyman & Gardening.....	F
AMS Building & Landscaping.....	H
Camford Build.....	R
Camford Painting & Decorating.....	R
JD Roofing.....	S
JL Wight, Chimney Sweep.....	D
Mead Construction.....	C
Merlin Developments (Cambridge).....	Q
NCS Chimney Sweep & Plumbing.....	E
Pest Control Services.....	Q
SBS Surfacing.....	S
TAWBUILD.....	M
Christopher the Locksmith.....	K
Rodney Handyside.....	T
R Bristley Brush Electric Sweep.....	T

SPORT & FITNESS

Tai Chi Chuan Classes.....	D
Mili's Pilates Courses.....	25
Polo and Picnics.....	25

DRIVING, GARAGE & ENGINEERING

N&G Marsh, Engineers.....	Q
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FLOORING/UPHOLSTERY/INTERIORS

Peter Fisher Carpets.....	G
Rothwell's Carpet Cleaning.....	G
Handwoven Mats.....	K
The Upholstery Barn.....	G
Tina's.....	O
RM Walsh Flooring.....	O

PERSONAL SERVICES

Angli EAR hearing.....	J
FootWorks.....	P
Mill Blossom Flowers.....	L
Morgan's Hairdressers.....	D
Sam's Mobile Hairdressing.....	F
Stepwise Footcare.....	P

GARDEN, DESIGN & MAINTENANCE

Eastern Tree Surgery.....	C
CW Kirk Lawnmowers.....	B
Four Seasons Tree Services.....	R
TH Tree Surgery.....	M
Mill Blossom Flowers.....	L
Pest Control Services.....	Q
SBS Surfacing.....	V
Lloyds Gardens.....	26

PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES

Harrison's of Burwell Ltd.....	F
Huttie Group.....	H
NCS Chimney Sweep & Plumbing.....	E
SG Law Plumbing and Heating.....	L
Saniclean Drain and Plumbing.....	T

FUNERAL SERVICES.

Peasgood & Skeates Funeral Services....	F
Southgate of Newmarket.....	E

MONEY MATTERS

M&L Healthcare Solutions.....	N
Tim Phillips & Co Accountants.....	P

WORKING WITH WOOD

Anthony Martin, Carpentry Services.....	I
Nigel Taylor Carpentry/Joinery.....	I

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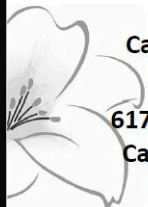
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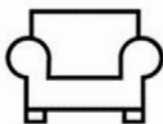
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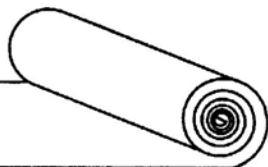
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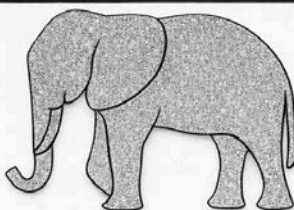
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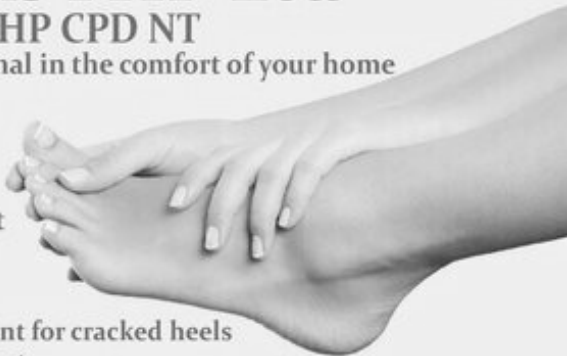
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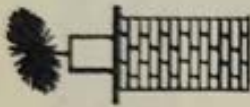


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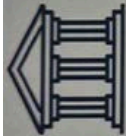
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