

September 2026

ISSUE: 583
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LODE STAR



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM LODE WITH LONGMEADOW

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

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Editor's Highlights September 2026 *Issue: 583*

Wildfire alert in Lode! As I walked into our Northfields back garden this morning, I saw a wall of flame engulfing the neighbours' hedges. By the time I had called 999 the firefighters were already in position and beginning their mission to control the blaze and save the gardens and bungalows with odd numbers. It took two fire engines and numerous firefighters but after a couple of hours the flames were extinguished and some sort of normality was restored. Climate change was suddenly brought home to sleepy Lode...

After our brief August breather, Lode Star returns this September after a summer never to be forgotten: five heatwaves, residents only venturing out at dawn or dusk to avoid the heat of the day.

We have our usual mix of religious and secular events to look out for. An example: Harvest Festival is rushing towards us and the wheat field on fire this morning had already been harvested owing to the crazy weather! We have our usual political reports, news of new BALA programmes of study, an explanation for the apparently huge range of doctors we see at the surgery. All grist to the Lode Star mill.

Other highlights this month include an introduction to the new Reverend Sian as she begins her ministry in the Anglesey diocese, a shout out for the glorious Dahlia rainbow that will soon adorn Anglesey Abbey, and not forgetting the final Classic car show at the Airfield Museum due on October 4.

Happy reading everyone.

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

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

lodestar.mag@gmail.com

by **15th September:**

Articles:	NICK WISEMAN, 49 NORTHFIELDS, LODE 01223 813412
Advertising:	GILL THURLBY, 38 MILL ROAD, LODE 07889 195373

Treasurer:	JEFF KEMPSTER, 19 ABBEY LANE, LODE 01223 812194
Distribution:	LESLEY PULVERTAFT, 3 STATION COURT, LODE 01223 812901

Lode Parish Council News

The Parish Council would like to start this month's report by thanking a few people who have helped us carry out our work keeping Lode clean and tidy on a regular basis. First, Bob Stevens who works tirelessly keeping the paths cut back thus preventing them becoming overgrown and getting narrower. Fran particularly noticed this when she was cycling down to Bottisham and had to keep swerving to avoid the brambles which had grown out of the hedge. She realised this required an hour of secateur work and groaned inwardly. The next week, there was Bob cutting them all back and what a brilliant job he has done.

The second person is Lesley Pulvertaft who clears the cemetery compost bin which gets filled up with non-compostables such as wreaths, plastic flowers, and anything else. She removes them all and takes the compostable stuff to put in her green bin. So thanks go to her too.

Also, Jonny Missen, Doug Durrant and Phil Durrant. We realised we had a ride on mower in our asset register, but no idea where it was. We tracked it down to the Durrant's barn where it had been stored for years in perfect condition. Jonny Missen was called in because he is a master of selling large machinery through Cheffins Auctions where he works. He said it would sell so he collected it on a trailer and off it went to raise over £300 for the village. There is a bit of commission to pay but thank you to the three of them for storing it safely all this time and then organising the collection and sale. We would like to thank all those who have supported us throughout the year.

During the July meeting the following were discussed:

A member of the public asked that unruly footpaths be repaired by spraying and strimming. The parish council is looking into that costing.

CCC will need to store the Greenways equipment somewhere and the LPC will be liaising with them about this.

CCC will have explored carriageway caving on the Fen Road on the 11th August 2026 and findings submitted.

The fete moneys will have been distributed as donations between the Fassage Hall, Meldreth Manor Special School and the Arthur Rank Hospice.

Dennis (Digger) Moules has kindly agreed to be the spokesperson for the allotments and to let us know if there are problems. We hope to have a meeting with him shortly.

The cricket club has been busy throughout the season. We have discussed water consumption over the summer and the disposal of rubbish.

A solution to the rubbish disposal from Fassage Hall also needs to be found and we will be putting up a new noticeboard outside Fassage Hall.

The basketball court will have been repaired after quotes have been received. Swann Corner will have a notice stating Lode Parish Council Responsibilities.

The next meeting will be on 14th September 2026 here at the Fassage Hall. Please come along and consider how you can help support the Parish Council.

*Rima Page
Lode Parish Council*

LODE PARISH COUNCIL

Sarah Barrett	Sarah.Barrett@lode-pc.gov.uk 2 Fairhaven Close, 07309 083067
Rima Page	pagerima@googlemail.com 33 High Street
Fran Platten (Chair)	fran.platten@lode-pc.gov.uk 7 Swaffham Road, 07926 103119
Tessa Shrubbs (Vice Chair)	tessa.shrubbs@lode-pc.gov.uk Lode Farm, Lode Fen, 07947 067244
Ellis Weinberger	ellis.weinberger@lode-pc.gov.uk
Clerk to Lode Parish Council : Sam Chambers-Turner	<u>clerk@lode-pc.gov.uk</u>

Thank you to Forester’s Financial!

Thanks are due to Terry Ambrose and Foresters Financial for their generous donation of £300 towards Lode Star printing costs. Many thanks from all at Lode Star!

Nick

East Cambs District Councillors' Report

Two committee meetings were held recently:

Operational Services on 22 June

- Community Safety Partnership report was presented and noted
- Budget report for the previous financial year showed an underspend of £476,084 for the year, but some of this was due to bills not yet paid. The capital spend was also under budget by £5,572,775, but some expenditure was not yet billed.
- Register of Buildings of Local Interest, for buildings or neighbourhoods that were interesting but not meriting a National Grade, was presented and noted.
- Performance Report for the Waste and Street Cleansing Services showed marginal improvement in performance.
- A report on the new waste bin strategy was presented and it showed that the service had been delivered quite well, with a few teething problems.
- The Long Term Empty Homes Strategy was debated, and it was agreed that it should be forwarded to Full Council.

Finance and Assets on 25 June

- The Climate and Nature Monitoring Report was presented and accepted.
- A grant of up to £100,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy funding was allocated to the Viva Arts and Community Group Theatre in Soham towards the expansion of the theatre to enable larger youth participation and provide enhanced and inclusive welfare and safeguarding spaces to continue to operate with full compliance with the Children in Entertainment Regulations.
- A new fee for Planning was introduced to give some limited time to give guidance on possible applications without the formality of a pre-app or full application.
- Progress on the Mepal Crematorium was presented and noted.
- The Council's Proposed Business Grant Scheme for capital grants to small businesses was approved. Further information is available from:

Business Grant Scheme 2026 to 2027 | East Cambridgeshire District Council

- This Committee has a year-end underspend of £1,331,912 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £7,969,054. Most of this was due to savings on staff salaries because of staff not being replaced immediately.

Food caddies

There have been reports of animals knocking over food caddies, and eating the contents. Please make sure that the food caddy is locked, by turning the handle all the way to the front, when you put it out.

Surgery

There was no surgery in August, and we shall resume surgeries in September. However, you can always contact us by telephone or email:

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

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

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:

1. Contact Jacqui 01223 811190. Cordless phone (landline) with answer phone and caller display and call blocking options (to get rid of cold callers!). BT. Large buttons and display with optional high volume. Needs 2 x AAA rechargeable batteries.
2. Contact Jun 07980 423210
 - a. Sony digital photo frame, model DPF-C1000
 - b. USB-C chargeable clip-on LED light (Hepside Model LD09) – cable has gone astray, sorry.
 - c. Soap Dish for Shower Shelf - Stainless Steel Shower Shampoo Holder without Drilling for 20-32mm Rod.
 - d. 2 sets of weekly medication organisers (daily medication split into morning, noon, night, backup)

Wants:

- 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.

Cambridgeshire County Council Report

What a summer it has been. I hope you have been staying cool, your gardens have scraped through with the hosepipe ban and you are staying vigilant with the ongoing fire risks. At the time of writing, I think we are all waiting for a break in the weather with some rain, but it really does remind us of the times we live in and the climate risks we all need to be more mindful of every day and in all future thinking.

Over recent weeks many young people will have received results from the courses that will move them onto their next stage in life. Well done regardless of the grades you received, opportunity is there for you even if you chose to change direction at any point in the future. Good luck with your next steps.

Local Government Reorganisation

On the last day of Parliament before its summer holiday, the [then] Secretary of State for local government announced delaying a decision on new councils for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. He said a decision would be made 'by October'. He is no longer Secretary of State, so Angela Rayner will be handling this when parliament returns after the summer.

Before the delay was announced, it had been rumoured that the Government would announce an option splitting Huntingdonshire down the middle and putting East Cambridgeshire with Fenland and the south of Huntingdonshire. It was clear from the leaks those proposals were not going to be popular, but the Government has said no further information is required from the existing councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough before it makes its decision and expects local elections to the new councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to go ahead in May 2027, regardless of the delay. This will put a lot of pressure on preparations for the new authorities and on all councils being ready to deliver the elections once we have an outcome.

I have been working with our parish councils and other councillors to restate our local concerns and a need for us to be aligned with Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

HIGHWAYS

In recent months, the existing Highways contract with M Group has been renegotiated for a further 3 years delivery. The amended contract focuses on timeliness and quality. Where the contractors are not meeting requirements, they will receive fines. They will also be required to photograph all work carried out so the council are able to check and intervene on poor quality sooner. It is hoped

this will force improvement in standards and gives M Group a short period of time to prove themselves before the new authorities negotiate future contracts with whom they chose.

In addition, the Highways and Transport Committee that I sit on agreed a £5m investment targeted at winter readiness. Of the record £78m allocated to highways in 2026/27, only £31.3m of the budget comes from the government; the rest is funded by the council itself. This is an attempt to bridge the significant historical deficit of £800m required to tackle highways issues across the county.

KINGSWAY

The application for the Kingsway Solar Farm was withdrawn by the developers in June. Downing Renewable Developments have indicated they still intend to revise and resubmit the application. The main matters identified by government include the need for additional environmental information (relating to ecology and historic environment, including archaeology), pre-application consultation, as well as numerous errors in the documentation. Kingsway will be required to engage further with county and district council officers and likely consult publicly on any amendments before resubmitting.

If you have any queries or need support with a particular issue, do get in touch.

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



MP Charlotte Cane's Report

As Parliament returns after the summer recess, I have been reflecting on a busy few months across Ely and East Cambridgeshire. I have met residents, businesses, community groups and local councils, while continuing to raise local concerns with ministers and press for action on the issues affecting our area.

One issue that has dominated the summer is the continuing uncertainty over local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. After months of consultation and planning, the Government announced in July that it still could not reach a decision and may delay an announcement until October. This is a major decision for the future of local services, yet councils, residents and businesses have been left in limbo.

I raised this directly with ministers in Parliament, asking what further consultation would take place and how electoral officers are expected to prepare for elections next May when they still do not know council boundaries, ward structures or councillor numbers. Those questions went unanswered.

I have since written again to ministers, pressing for clarity and urging them to put local people at the heart of any decision. If the Government cannot show that reorganisation will improve services and accountability, it should consider retaining the current arrangements rather than imposing a flawed solution with little public confidence.

Many conversations over the summer have also turned to the cost of heating homes as we approach autumn and winter. The new Burnham Government has announced the removal of VAT from domestic electricity bills from October, but that will save the average household only around £45 a year. For many families, that does not go far enough.

This is especially true locally, where many villages have large numbers of homes not connected to the gas grid. More than a quarter of households rely on heating oil or LPG and are often overlooked in national energy policy, despite facing sharp and unpredictable price rises.

The Liberal Democrats are proposing an Essential Energy Guarantee that would save the average household around £100 a year, with extra support for lower-income families, disabled people and households with children. We are also calling for stronger protections for households using heating oil and LPG.

With around 4,500 households in Ely and East Cambridgeshire experiencing fuel poverty, keeping people warm this winter must be a priority. I will continue

pressing for certainty on local government and practical support with the cost of living.

If there is an issue or concern you would like to raise with me, please do get in touch. I am here to listen and to help wherever I can.

Charlotte Cane MP
charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk | 020 7362 1601

You can also sign up for my fortnightly newsletter: www.bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte



Anglesey in Stitches



Do you need to find time and space to develop your creativity?

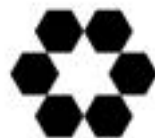
Why not come along to your local crafting group?

We meet in the Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck on odd-dated
Tuesdays at 7.30pm.

Just bring a project to work on – knitting, crochet, cross stitch,
patchwork – anything that you can do in a pub! We are a friendly
and informal group with a range of abilities – there is always
someone who can help if you get stuck.



Contact: Clare Wilkes, clarewilkes@proton.me



Guildhall Newsletter

During this intensely hot weather, a lot of work has been done, with the roof complete apart from the decorative Fleurs de Lys on the ridge which have sorely taxed us. However, we have finally worked out what to do, which is to get new ones made. They will take 12 weeks to do so don't expect to see them for a while.

People were asking about the tree sticking out of the scaffolding poles. This was the topping out ceremony which we had on a Thursday afternoon in the boiling heat. It is a tradition that is held, that an evergreen tree is attached to the highest part of the building and all the people who have worked on the building are invited for drinks and cake to celebrate this milestone of the roof being completed and watertight. It was so hot and dusty we retreated to Liz's house nearby which has shade and a cool kitchen, where we served cakes made by lovely pals, together with strawberries, choc ices and lots of cool fizzy drinks. It was a very important event because it recognised the extraordinary skills of all the men who have worked on this complex building where corners are not square, where there are 3 different roofs, where floors are not level and where numerous problems need solving. All taken in their stride. Thank you to all of them.

So now, walls have been built around the kitchen, the concrete slab laid in Mill road, the garage is being built and the beautiful precast concrete cills have been fitted under the windows in Mill Road. Take a careful look when you next walk down and admire the light acid etched finish. Such a lovely job. What next? Underfloor heating in Mill road, then electrical fixes and plumbing and poss the new windows, whose colours we chose ages ago and although we have kept it a secret, I have actually forgotten so it will be a surprise for me too!



So, thank you for reading this. I hope I am keeping you suitably informed, with Liz, the architect keeping me straight on technical stuff.

Fran

Annual Garden and Summer Party, Wednesday, 1 July — Fassage Hall, Lode

The meeting commenced with Vice President Denise Cook and Secretary Sue Kempster presenting a concise update on pending matters.

Following this, Charlotte Beaton provided an overview of forthcoming events organised by the Cambridgeshire Federation. These include International Granny Square Day, WI Day at Audley End House and Gardens, Cottenham Treasure Hunt, Quiz Night 2026, Beginners Sock Making, and Emmanuel College Walking Tour.

Upon conclusion of the formal business, members proceeded to enjoy the Annual Garden and Summer Party. Twenty-two members attended and were served a high-quality meal consisting of homemade quiches, home-cooked ham, a varied selection of salads, and strawberries and cream. A range of beverages was available, including prosecco, Pimm's punch, and non-alcoholic options. Members took the opportunity to relax and converse with friends, sharing updates on their personal activities and interests.

A light-hearted game of Pictionary followed the meal. Members were divided into six tables, with one participant from each table responsible for drawing a clue for their teammates to interpret. Although a winning team was declared, special recognition was given to Charlotte and her team for their perseverance and good humour throughout the activity.

The raffle prize, a flower arrangement, was awarded to Dora Gale and Lee Robertson.

A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Janet Ayers, expressing appreciation to the committee for organising an enjoyable and well-executed event.

Lode WI meeting on 5 August 2026

Sue Kempster, Vice-President and Secretary, opened the August meeting at the Fassage Hall on a fine summer's evening. The minutes of the last meeting having been checked and the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports read out, she handed over to Charlotte to list the trips and events organised by the local WI Federation. These included a Treasure Hunt, the Autumn Lunch, a trip to the Knit & Stitch Show in London, a tour of Girton College and a workshop to make a Christmas tablemat.

Wendy Parrish then gave a report on a recent visit she, Julie and Sue had made to Toilethorpe Hall, near Stamford. After a picnic lunch, they watched an open air production of One Man, Two Guvnors, a farce set in Brighton in 1963. Fired from

his skiffle band, Francis Henshall is a man in search of his destiny... as long as his destiny includes fish, chips and mushy peas. He is finally offered two jobs – and decides to take them both. The consequences of this decision led to an hilarious farce which was well acted and thoroughly enjoyable.

Sue then introduced DAVE VICKERY who was to show us that painting with watercolours, although a difficult medium to work in, a beginner can achieve good results in just a few minutes, without using lots of expensive brushes and paints. He showed us how, when colours are painted side by side or mixed on wetted paper, they can merge and new colours, tones and shades can be produced.

Dave demonstrated by painting an apple using just one brush and small quantities of yellow, red and green paint squeezed on to a palette. The first task was to lightly make a pencil drawing of the apple on watercolour paper (especially thick and absorbent - photocopier paper would not do) then with the brush and clean water, wet the area to be painted. Using the lightest colour first he deftly used the colours, blending where necessary and dabbing with kitchen paper or a dry brush in places where he wanted the colour removed or lessened, he produced the painting.

Leaving us with a picture of an apple to copy, Dave gave us each a sheet of paper, a brush, water and tubes of the three colours for us to try ourselves. We experimented with the colours and techniques he had shown us and each produced a painting.

Dave then gave us another demonstration showing some different techniques by painting a flowerpot full of flowers, this time on an A3 sheet of watercolour paper which was not pre-wetted. He used various household objects including bubble-wrap, sponges, scrunched up paper and cotton buds to stencil the flowers. Again we were let loose with the materials and more masterpieces were produced.



Dave was thanked for a very enjoyable and colourful session by Lesley Trigg.

The raffle was won by Janet Feltwell.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2 September at the Fassage Hall when June Cannie will tell us about her travels as a Cambridge Education Inspector.

BOTTISHAM ADULT LEARNING ASSOCIATION
(BALA)

Beginning on Thursday 24 September

‘The Context of Ukraine’
presented by historian Andrew Bamford

This 5 week course will explain the contextual background to the conflict raging in Ukraine from the end of the Soviet Union to the present day.

- Examining the “historical” claims of President Putin on the Ukraine
- Whether Russia’s actions are one of a re-emerging superpower or the last throes of a despot who has failed to restore Russia’s traditional influence in this area.
- **Starting at 10.30 on Thurs 24 September – 22 October (inclusive)**
- Held in Bottisham Sports and Social Club in Downing Close CB25 9DD

Starting on Thursday 5 November – Thursday 3 December (inclusive)

a 5 week course on Five British Prime Ministers: Gladstone, Disraeli, Lloyd George, Churchill and Atlee
more details on this course in the October magazine

Any enquiries to Bottishambala@btinternet.com

Helen Cole

Jumble sale Saturday 26 September 2026

St James' Church, Lode CB25 9EW

2-4pm

The next jumble sale is earlier than previous years so make sure you put the date in your diary straight away and start sorting out your cupboards and garages to make space for possible new purchases from the jumble sale itself! **However, we no longer have lots of storage space so please keep hold of your jumble** and bring it on either Friday 25 September, to the church, in the afternoon from 2-4, or on the Saturday morning from 10-12.

If you have a lot of jumble then please contact me so we can collect and sort it beforehand. This makes our lives much easier, as it is all ready sorted and ready to put in the correct section of the church.

As always there will be the amazing tea and cakes for those who are exhausted from all their shopping.

Please park safely and sensibly so farm vehicles and emergency vehicles can get through if need be.

We look forward to seeing you, and remember this is an important event because it recycles clothes, books, toys, linen, shoes, bric a brac and anything really, and the money raised goes back into village amenities and local charities.

Thank you Fran fran.platten@gmail.com

Anglesey Abbey



Adventure Cinema

11 to 13 September, times vary

Pack a picnic and get ready for open-air cinema at Anglesey Abbey this September. Adventure Cinema are returning to the gardens with a selection of classic films and family-friendly hits from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September. Bring your family and friends and share an unforgettable cinema experience.

Dirty Dancing (12) | Friday 11 September | Gates open 6pm | Film starts 7:30pm

Sing! (U) | Saturday 12 September | Gates open 12pm | Film starts 1.30pm

Wicked Sing-a-Long (PG) | Saturday 12 September | Gates open 6pm | Film starts 7.30pm

Bing And His Friends | Sunday 13 September | Gates open 10am | Film starts 11am

Pride and Prejudice (U) | Sunday 13 September | Gates open 1.30pm | Film starts 3pm

Star Wars (U) | Sunday 13 September | Gates open 6:30pm | Film starts 8pm

Tickets from £9.80. Please book in advance via the Anglesey Abbey website

[Events at Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill](#)

Heritage Open Days at Anglesey Abbey

14 to 20 September

Anglesey Abbey is opening its doors for Heritage Open Days 2026 between 14 and 20 September. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance via the website. If you're already a member, why not bring a friend for free and share all that Anglesey Abbey has to offer? There are entry slots available between 9:30 and 3:30 each day.

Book online at Events at [Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill](#)

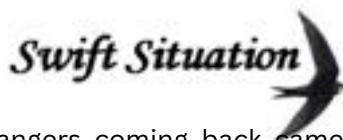
Dazzling dahlias



If you're a gardener, you'll know that September is the best month for dahlias. The dahlia border at Anglesey Abbey is no exception. Visit in September to see the 60 varieties in full bloom, arranged in a beautiful, rainbow display.

I did speak too soon!

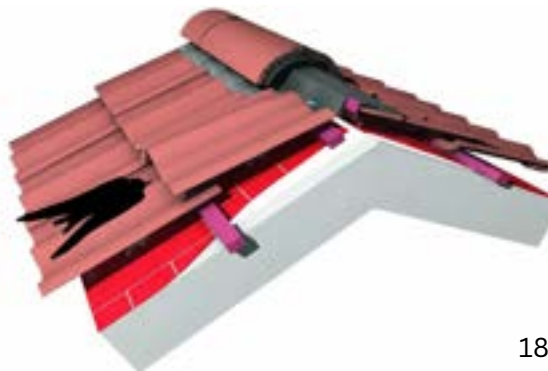
"DRAMA FREE Swift season" were my words.....



My prediction of drama happening with the bangers coming back came true, along with the new Swifts nesting under a lifted tile, so therefore out of my control to help them much.

A pair nested under a tile at the front of my property last year, and returned this year, they laid eggs, although how many I can't be sure as the birds are nesting on the felt under the tiles. In the extreme heat we had in early July, a two-week-old chick crawled off this nest and fell through a hole in the felt, into the loft where I found it gasping, I rushed it downstairs to dab water along its beak with a cotton bud, it sucked at the water, pooped on my hand, took 3 more huge gasps and sadly passed away. Devastating. Ironically, I only found this chick because I was up in the loft patching up the felt owing to another incident with an adult Swift. The felt in the loft has many holes in it, partly as its 65yrs old and brittle, plus I've cut slits in it, from sheer desperation in previous years, doing my best to ventilate more!

So, the incident was being woken at 6.15am by a Swift flying around my bedroom.... I still can't quite believe it myself but please trust me, I had a Swift flying around the light pendant in my bedroom! It had come through the felt, down the loft hatch into the bathroom, then through the hall into my bedroom. I keep the loft hatch open over the Swift season for, you guessed it, more ventilation! This bird, that came into my actual house four times, I easily caught it after it landed and released it. It was a new bird - a banger - it has found another lifted tile at the back of the property and prospecting for nesting next year. I eventually sealed up all the felt and stopped it getting in the loft, it was a good job because it found a mate and two Swifts flying about the house, with a cat, would have been carnage, so I happily ended up watching two Swifts entering under the tile and am hopeful they'll return next year to breed. I'm also talking with the roofer to see what we can do to help these Swifts from overheating.



I've included an image of what the ridge ventilation system looks like and a representation of the Swift and where its entering under the tile. Also, a picture of this inquisitive Swift in my hand just before I released it, let's hope we see him next year.



This was the only drama I had this year, which I think is more than enough.

Other news is that I had two ladies at my door with a box, these wonderful humans, to whom I apologise as I can't recall their names, but to whom I am eternally grateful, had a 4-week-old chick in said box, that had been rescued from a verge in the village. This chick was only 19 grams and at this age should have weighed 50 grams, it was never going to fly at that age or weight, they need to be nearer 44 grams and wings longer than their tail feathers to be able to fly. They lose a bit of weight before they fledge, partly owing to the adults not feeding them as much or at all for a few days before they leave the nest. This chick

may have been abandoned, jumped because of the heat, the parents may have been predated, who knows, but thanks to fabulous people that care, this chick survived and was set free after being hand reared by a specialist carer, not me, The Wildlife Lounge at Feltwell, 40 minutes away, she knows exactly what to do for these very specific, high maintenance birds, I don't yet but may take up the challenge soon.

The chicks in my boxes did well but not all was perfect.

The Swifts in box 3 that only laid 2 eggs (normally 3 eggs laid for the last 8 years) only reared one chick. One of these 2 eggs never hatched and spent 6 weeks being shoved around the nest box, I guess the female knew this second egg was infertile as she laid it and therefore didn't go on to have her usual 3, isn't nature incredible?

Box 6 did a fabulous job of raising 3 chicks, so 4 Swift chicks successfully fledged here in Northfields, along with my Dad's boxes, making it possibly 8 chicks, but alas none at the Swift Tower, the entrance holes are covered in cobwebs! I hold out hope.

It's now 9 months before Swifts return to our shores, time to be finding more solutions for roof cooling and enjoying all the other delights nature gives us.

Christina Day.

Bottisham and District Gardening Club

On one of the hottest days in June those of us who took the air-conditioned bus to The Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth were very glad we did because the garden has many mature trees offering shady places to sit and reflect on this magical space. The Garden was started in 1824 and covers nine acres, the centre of which is a thatched 'Swiss Cottage' where weddings are held today. There are ponds with bridges, a serpentine lake and two grand ironwork arches covered in roses, a rock garden added in the 1900's which is best viewed in spring for its alpine plants and bulbs. But the stars, particularly at this time of year, are the trees. Cedar of Lebanon (probably no cedars left in Lebanon now), giant wellingtonia and some grand specimens of native conifers, oak and beech. There are several small buildings carefully positioned around the garden, a tiny chapel, an Indian kiosk with a beautiful glass embossed panel, and a gardener's cottage. Quirky additions are a two-seat privy, an early example of a green loo, and a dog cemetery where Dorothy Shuttleworth's Japanese Chin dogs were laid to rest. Close by, only a few feet from the garden gate, is the Shuttleworth Collection of vintage planes and vehicles and an air-conditioned café/ rest area. Well worth a visit.

Our annual summer party was held on Tuesday 28th July at the Social Club with Pimms, strawberries and cream and some brain teasing challenges compiled by Cindy King to keep us alert. The Don Bedford trophy attracted a good number of entries despite the difficult growing conditions of the summer. Some gardens produced a flush of roses in June but failed to repeat flower when the temperatures soared so praise is due to everyone who managed to produce an entry. The trophy was awarded to Roy Young following a vote by members and was presented by Don Bedford's daughter Ros Cullum.



Roy Young with the Don Bedford trophy

Our next meeting is at the Bottisham Sports & Social Club on Tuesday 22nd September at 7.30 when Steven Coghill will talk about the dry border and chapel meadow at King's College. You are welcome to come as a visitor (£3) or join for a year (£20), and if you enjoy pottering on window box, backyard, garden or allotment you'll find something of interest in our varied programme.

Coral Hatley



HARVEST FESTIVAL FLOWERS

We will be decorating St. James' Church for Harvest Festival on Tuesday September 29th at 10 a.m.

We would be glad of any help, if you would like to join us.

Just come along.

With thanks,

Doreen Robinson

07842 994384

Cambridge Keyboard Concerts

Do you enjoy live music?

Why not come along to a Cambridge Keyboard Concert for two hours of great music and entertainment from some of the country's finest keyboard players. Programmes include music from across many genres, pop, jazz, classical, theatre, latin, big band, etc.

The concerts are held monthly in Stow-cum-Quy village hall (CB25 9AB) on Sunday afternoons at 2.30pm (doors open 2pm).

Entrance is £10 on the door (light refreshments included).

Our Autumn programme commences in September with:

Sunday 20 September – Glyn Madden

Sunday 18 October – Brett Wales

Sunday 22 November – Elizabeth Harrison

Sunday 20 December – Andrew Nix

Please come along and give us a try!

For further information see 'Cambridge Keyboard Concerts' on facebook or email: robin.worship7@gmail.com.

Life on Hatley's Farm (Lode Farm)

Here we go again about my memories of farming in the fen, but this time I will be mentioning other farms situated along the Fen Road towards the village. The road from the farm alongside the river was very primitive and not made up like it is today until it reached the engine drain which is just before White Fen Drove. The engine drain or commissioners drain was cut to feed the Swaffham fen pumping station and went



under the Bottisham Lode (that is the river from Lode to the Cam). The drain ran alongside the piece of land that belonged to the farm. By the side of the drain on our farmland there was a wooden shed on wheels and an old man (well old to me) lived there. He lived a primitive life. When inside he would open the door and say to his imaginary friend “if you are inside go out or if you are outside come in” and then after a while would close the door. I can still picture him sitting on his steps and we were always wary of him as youngsters would be. On this piece of land in the wartime was a concrete pillbox for defence against the Germans if they invaded.

White Fen Drove contained Jo Long's Farm. Prisoners of war were employed on the land and some lived on our farm. One of them I remember riding his motorcycle up White Fen Drove but he forgot to turn onto the fen road and went straight across into the river but was not injured.

As we continue up towards Lode we come to Jack of Clubs Farm. I was cycling up from the Fen with my dad, and we stopped at the farm, and I went round with my father. After finishing what he had called for we got back on our cycles. As we went to go off, he found he could not turn his pedals. He looked down and there was an adder tangled in his pedals and chain; it was probably the quickest anyone had ever jumped off a bike.

Moving up toward the village we pass Bulls Farm on the left and then come to what was Fisons Farm (now Sales Farm). As I lived next door at Riverside, I often used to go round there and I would walk into the walled yard next to the house where I could look over the wall into the horse and cattle yards. The problem was that when I turned to come out of the yard there would be a large cockerel standing there and he was determined not to let anyone out. His beak was very sharp and if he managed to peck you it was very painful.

I was round there one day, and someone called out to me that they needed help. I went into the yard, and a cow was trying to calf but was having great difficulty. We tied the cow's head to the manger and a rope round the calf's legs. Two men were holding the cow down and I had to help pull the calf out. An unforgettable experience for a 14-year-old boy.

There was a chap who used to help on the farm who was a bit backward (as they said in those days) and the other workers used to play jokes on him. His name was Jack Lazi (I am not sure if that is the correct way his surname was spelt). There was a horse that lived in a small stable at the back of the farm and Jack was told to go and give the horse its feed. So off he went but Johnny Fison had gone and hidden in the stable. Jack put his finger in the hole in the door to lift the latch and Johnny Fison got hold of his finger. Jack thought the horse was responsible and his shouting could be heard all round the farm.

On another occasion Jack was working on top of a straw stack and some of the others pushed the sides of the stack so it was moving slightly, Jack thought that it was going to tip over. Needless to say, he never again worked on top of a stack.

At times the horses on the farm would be let out of the yard to graze on the roadside down the fen road. One day we were waiting for them to come out and Roger Cornwell who was with us went to cross to the opposite side as the gates opened and he tripped and fell. As he lay on the ground all the horses just marched out over where he was lying. Not one of them trod on him, a very lucky escape.

The cart shed which is now a house had a loft which was a bit higher than the adjoining building. We cut two small holes in the side of the loft and sat there with our air rifles shooting along the ridge of the building at any pigeons that landed. Any that we managed to hit were plucked and taken home to be cooked and made a nice cheap meal.

Joel Shipp used to do the horse ploughing for Fisons and on several occasions I would go with him. He taught me how to plough with the horses, which stood me in good stead when years later I worked at Ratford and Brown Agricultural Engineers and we used to enter ploughing matches. When the regular ploughman was not available, I would take over the tractor and plough in competitions.

We also used to go ferreting for rabbits. There was an ideal bank with many rabbit holes, and we would block up most of the escape holes leaving just a couple for the rabbits to escape. These had nets over them so anything coming out would be captured. The ferret would be put in a hole and out would pop the rabbits to be caught. Again, a very nice lunch plus useful furs.

As I watched with great interest I noticed near to me a hole which had been missed, and suddenly a ferret popped out. I immediately picked it up and took it to Joel who said that he was the only person who could handle this particular ferret and I had been very lucky not to have been seriously bitten.

Mike Hatley

St James' Church Lode Harvest Festival

1- 4 October 2026

**Thursday 1 October
Harvest Festival Service
11.00am**

**Church Open Daily
to view the
Flower and Produce Displays
10.00 am - 5.00 pm**



**Donations of produce would be welcome.
These will be taken to Open Door in Newmarket.**

**Harvest Lunch in the Church
Thursday 1 October
12.30pm**

**cost £12 includes a 2-course lunch,
soft drinks, please bring your own alcohol.**

**Tickets available in September
from Coral Hatley Tel: 01223 811457.
and Julie Sale Tel: 01223 811222.**

Bird Brain

Welcome back to my bird-brained world after the summer recess in which hope you enjoyed the wonderful bird life, wherever you were on the globe. You may remember that I reported in your July issue on the appearance of Western Reef Heron in Wales – a ‘mega rarity’, in fact a first for Britain.

Well, there is a relative of this bird which has progressed from ‘rarity’ to common over the last 25 years, especially in East Anglia, where there are estuaries, lakes, streams, lodes, wet meadows in abundance. I can remember making a trip to Norfolk about 30 years ago, excited to see a couple of vagrant birds for the first time, standing in a lagoon at Titchwell (the birds in the lagoon, not me!). I couldn’t have known then that, within a couple of decades, Little Egrets would be breeding throughout England, Wales & Ireland and would be a common sight within walking distance of Bottisham and Lode.

The Little Egret – *Egretta garzetta* – is well known around the world, though, for its solitary and patient hunting style (similar to our regular Grey Heron), often symbolizing freedom and self-reliance, peace & tranquility (native Americans), or patience & perseverance (Chinese). Its range expanded naturally across Europe before arriving on UK shores and we now enjoy at least 700 breeding pairs plus at least 4,000 additional winter visitors.

Significantly smaller than the familiar Grey Heron at around 60cms in length, the Little Egret is easily distinguishable by its all-white plumage, complete with black bill and black legs. But, if you get a close enough look, there is one extraordinary feature which – once seen – you’ll never forget: it has bright yellow feet! No other bird sports this combination!

So, if you see a taller, heron-sized one with a yellow bill and black feet, you are looking at the Great White Egret – *Egretta alba* – which is at present only a scarce winter migrant. However, they are becoming so regular, particularly in East Anglia, that it seems only a matter of time before the breeding range expands to this country.

Egretta garzetta feeds mainly on fish, which it catches by either standing on the water’s edge awaiting an opportunity for a strike, or stalking suitable prey in the shallows. But it is not simply a bird of estuary or river; it is equally at home in the margins of farmland and wet meadows and will chase prey of many types including amphibians, small reptiles & mammals, crustaceans, molluscs, insects, spiders and worms.

The best place to see Little Egrets locally is to head out on the Lodes Way towards Burwell Fen. They are quite sociable birds and, if you see one, there are

bound to be others in the vicinity. They will only feed in groups, though, if food is especially abundant in a particular area. They'll fly regularly from one spot to another, with the neck usually folded and the legs & feet stretched out behind the body, and this might be a good opportunity to see the yellow feet if they are not too distant.

*Once as I travelled through a quiet evening,
I saw a pool, jet-black and mirror-still.
Beyond, the slender paperbarks stood crowding;
each on its own white image looked its fill,
and nothing moved but thirty egrets wading -
thirty egrets in a quiet evening.*

*Once in a lifetime, lovely past believing,
your lucky eyes may light on such a pool.
As though for many years I had been waiting,
I watched in silence, till my heart was full
of clear dark water, and white trees unmoving,
and, whiter yet, those thirty egrets wading.*

'Egrets' by Judith Wright, Australian poet and environmentalist



STOP PRESS RARITIES REPORT

June seemed to be a month of Terns in East Anglia, with Caspian Terns showing in both Suffolk and Norfolk, and an even rarer Gull-billed Tern appearing at Burnham in Norfolk. There was also an influx of Quail from the continent in the early Summer – at some 120 different sites – with some birdwatchers enjoying sightings of them flying in off the sea on the east coast! Our region was also blessed with good numbers of other exotic visitors from Europe: three Red-footed Falcons and five Bee Eaters at the time of writing.

In July, an American bird – a Hudsonian Godwit, a close relative of our Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits – caused quite a stir at Minsmere; a Squacco Heron was ‘twitchable’ for a few days at Kelling in Norfolk; a Long-tailed Shrike in Gloucestershire proved to be only the third ever record in the UK; and a Brown Booby turned up among the Gannets at Bempton Cliffs (to give you an idea of this bird’s rarity value – the last one I saw was off the coast of Argentina!).

Finally, in August it was announced that the Zitting Cisticola (formerly known as the Fan-tailed Warbler) at Walberswick nature reserve had bred for the second year running. Apparently, a total of 11 birds were present this summer, including seven fledglings. I guess I should get myself over there for an easy ‘tick’!

PLEASE MAY I SAY A WORD ABOUT CATS

(Not wishing to offend anyone, of course... just putting it out there!)

The rising number of domestic cats is tending to upset the natural predator-prey balance in this country (and probably elsewhere in Europe too). Our pets are the biggest sole killer of songbirds in the UK! A recent figure from the Mammal Society estimates that British cats catch up to 27 million birds each year, out of a total breeding bird population of c.130 million. There are a number of different ways to limit the kill rate of your cat: bell or ultrasound on the collar as an approach warning; neoprene bib to inhibit pounce; avoid feeding birds near thick vegetation or close to ‘launch’ sites, or simply keep them indoors during the March-May breeding season.

AND A WORD ABOUT BILL ODDIE

What sad news to learn of the death in late July of everyone’s favourite birder (he hated being called a ‘twitcher’!). He did as much as any public figure in keeping birds and conservation in the nation’s consciousness – so knowledgeable and enthusiastic as he was. His comedy was perhaps an acquired taste, but he lit up any audience when talking about birds. He will be sorely missed. RIP Bill.

TTFN, Gerry Daish

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.

Red2Green Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Summer Fair, it was a fantastic event, raising £1,150! We are so grateful to everyone who supported and was involved in the build-up and on the day. See you all next year!

Red2Green Art Exhibition

Bottisham Village College kindly hosted our very first Community Art Exhibition in June, marking the launch of our new value icons. Developed through a fantastic co-production project, and with the support of graphic designer Laura Bryant, these accessible icons were carefully created to reflect our values in a way that is meaningful to our learners, clients, staff and volunteers at Red2Green.

The exhibition showcased a diverse range of artwork from local schools and organisations, including Red2Green, Bottisham Village College, Bottisham Primary School, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior Primary Schools, Barchester Oaklands Care Home and Hamberley Grove Care Home.

We are incredibly grateful for their involvement in this special community project and for helping to share and celebrate our values through the work they do.

Red2Green Community Garden

Our site at Lode Road, Bottisham (CB25 9DL) is open Monday to Friday, 9:30am-4:00pm, offering a wonderful selection of plants and handcrafted items. Come and support Red2Green while browsing our wide range of plants, including houseplants, bedding plants, shrubs, vegetables, and more. We also offer a beautiful collection of botanical crafts such as seed bombs, seed paper tags, lavender bags, handmade cards, bird boxes, and other unique gifts.

During your visit, you're warmly invited to explore our sensory garden and take a moment to enjoy our newly installed pond water feature!

We Are Hiring!

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

Interested in running Cambridge Half Marathon 2027 for Red2Green? Get in touch via email info@red2green.org or call us on 01223 811662. We would love to cheer you across the finish line!

Ways you can get involved:

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

Visit red2green.org, email info@red2green.org or call us on **01223 811662**.

BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY

September 2026 – The National Year of Reading

As part of our National Year Of Reading celebrations we have invited an award winning writer/illustrator of picture books, **Mariajo Ilustrajo**, to the Bottisham Community Library on Saturday October 3rd for the community session at 10.00 am. She has written several picture books and her latest is **‘Unexpected Guests’** which a class from the primary school enjoyed on their visit in May. All her books are in the library – **‘Flooded’**, **‘Lost’**, **‘I Really Love Books’** and **‘Oh, Carrots’**. She will talk about her books and there will be a draw along activity. Donations on entry would be appreciated! Books will be available to buy and have signed. We hope you will be able to support this event.

Book of the Month is Cecelia Ahern’s story for junior readers – **‘Detective Thingy Majiggy’** about Mia, who likes solving mysteries but not only finds clues but can talk to them as well.

Don’t forget to bring in the completed Reading Challenge forms in order to get your certificate and medal.

Lego Club and **StoryTime** will be September 5th at 10.30.

The date for the **Mobile Library** visit to Lode and Longmeadow will be Wednesday, September 9th.

Start Reading!



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:
Milli Schrama, email
altrink@gmail.com
Or phone: 07833 317995
Classes run term time only.



POLO AND PICNICS 2026



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Cambridge & Newmarket Polo Club 2026 Fixture List



APRIL		
10 th	Chukkas Start	
MAY		
2 nd / 3 rd	Early May 8H tournament	Open
9 th	Drinks Party	
9 th / 10 th	CNPC May Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 3
13 th / 14 th	The Mowens Cup	-4 to 0 and 0 to 8
JUNE		
6 th / 7 th	The Stables Cup	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
10 th / 11 th	The Marshfield Advertisers Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
JULY		
4 th / 10 th	Philby Miller's Mixed and Ladies	Mixed -4 to 0, 0 to 4 Ladies 4 and 8
11 th / 12 th	Omnistar Cup & Newmarket July Week	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
18 th	SAAA Charity Day	
AUGUST		
1 st / 2 nd	The RCB Camplin Cup	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
15 th / 16 th	Warrings Furniture Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 3
22 nd / 23 rd	Capella Polo Ladies Tournament	Ladies
28 th / 29 th	Feedmark Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 4
SEPTEMBER		
12 th / 13 th	Autumn Tournament	-4 to 0 and 0 to 3



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FASSAGE HALL, LODE (CB25 9HB)

AVAILABLE TO HIRE FOR YOUR SOCIAL, BUSINESS OR SPORTING EVENT

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

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

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

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

Bookings can be made through the website or contact:

Via email: clerk@lode-pc.gov.uk or phone 07369 248998

Notes from our Patch

I started writing this on August 13 , with temperatures soaring, it is frankly too hot for me let alone the garden. Doubtless I'll be moaning about the cold and wet all too soon, meanwhile how does your garden grow? I have had several drought victims: mini potatoes, tough tomato skins, disappointing onions and garlic and don't get me started on the lettuce. There have also been several successes: courgettes galore of course, squash ripening already, a few meals from broad beans and French and runner beans looking promising. The rhubarb has been abundant (although I intend to split and move mine it to a shady spot in the autumn), currants and gooseberries - small but abundant, pears and plums galore, but apples have dropped and are very small. Herbs mostly blooming and borage a delight for the bees, nicotiana has been the big surprise seemingly loving the heat when most other flowering plants have struggled.

The weather is changing and regrettably it seems unlikely that we will drift back to more familiar conditions. The jet streams are changing course, and with that the Gulf Stream which brings us warm wet winds from the Caribbean, so we can expect hotter summers and probably colder wilder winters. So how do we prepare for these changes? Insulate, provide shade, water resilience, more planting and less paving. We need to insulate every aspect of our homes against cold and the heat, thicker curtains, shutters maybe, and of course roof space, walls and floors need extra layers. Providing shade for us and our gardens is important so more trees and hedges. Water resilience is vital, extra water butts, showers instead of baths, less flushing the loo and never cleaning teeth with the tap running. More planting less paving: this provides homes for wildlife, windbreaks, shade and allows more water to enter and be stored in the soil. AND OF COURSE: review, reduce, reuse, recycle, repair and revamp.

This morning (14 August) brought a vivid reminder of my rant as we saw a curtain of flames advancing on our back garden from the field, fortunately the pumpkin patch was protected by a steel fence, but the wood piles for wildlife were ready flame fodder and took hours of dousing by the fire service. What an impressive bunch, calm, focused and effective, THANK YOU THANK YOU for saving our homes and gardens, reassuring us, explaining what was going on then off they went to the next call. HEROES!

Chris, Northfields

Lode Tennis Club

(Membership open to all residents of
Lode and Longmeadow)



Hi everyone,

Our next social event will be our curry night, details below:

Curry Night There will be another Curry Night social evening this year, on 31 October, at Lesley Pulvertaft's house (3 Station Court) starting at 7.00pm. We just need you to tell us that you are coming (you can call Jeff on 812194 or Lesley on 811848), bring your own favourite drink and a contribution of £15 per person towards the costs.

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 81219

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Supporting your local community

The 2026 Lode Fete

Lode fete is run by a group of volunteers who have about 4 meetings a year and make decisions about the music, food stall, tea and cakes, the bar, raffles, childrens' entertainment, insurance and health and safety. For some reason it seems to work. Everyone has a job to do and they get on and do it.

This year it was hot, so no dog show and a few stall holders stayed away. However, there was plenty to do with the huge efforts of the childrens' entertainer who worked solidly from 12-4. The church and WI produced a vast array of home made cakes and with Julie Sale, together with volunteers doling out teas and coffees to thirsty residents, they made a good profit. The bar did particularly well thanks to Coral's careful selection of craft beers, which sold out, and a goodly supply of Pimms.

Jo Missen did an amazing job writing endless letters to businesses asking for support for her raffle prizes which were top notch. I won a meal for two from Pattaya [The Shed] so I am very much looking forward to using it. Thank you both! Angela Hall is our fully trained first aider who also doubles up as a bar lady, so thanks go to her. She is essential for both jobs!

The fete seems to get the support of Lode residents and they turn out in force so it is great to see everyone gossiping and small children charging around and their parents able to be free for a bit.

We made a lot of money quite unexpectedly, and at our recent post fete meeting, we decided to donate £250 each to Meldreth Manor [a SCOPE charity] and the Arthur Rank Hospice and then £300 to the Fassage Hall, whose expenses are many and not quite enough people using it. It is an important village building and the Parish Council is trying to keep it running smoothly as in the old days when there was a dedicated committee.

So we have chosen a date for next year's fete which will hopefully be Sunday 13th June, so put it in next year's diary. We have avoided Fathers' Day as requested.

Until next year then, thank you for all your support, and kind words.

The Fete committee for Lode and Longmeadow

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

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Group

Practice Update:

GP Trainees: We will sadly be saying goodbye to Dr Jilshy Varghese and Dr Callum Wheeler in August as is the usual rotation of trainees. We welcome two new trainees to the practice and one foundation year 2 doctor. Michael, Syed and Khadija are all qualified doctors. Each trainee spends anything from 4 months to a year with us as they rotate through different specialities. They are supervised by the GPs and each patient is discussed after clinic and if any issues arise whereby something additional needs to be done they would make contact with you.

Dr Nikhita Joglekar is now on maternity leave: Her shifts will be covered by Dr Kamran Yousef. We have had comments recently that “doctors never stay”. We have two GP partners who have each been at the practice over a decade and five other permanent salaried GPs who have all been with us for many years, two of whom were trainees here. The doctors who “come and go” are the trainees on fixed rotations, many do wish to stay but sadly that is not how training works. Being a training practice is a recognition of good care and good standards.

Medical students: From October to May we regularly have medical students in the practice. If they see you in clinic your appointment will be followed by a review from a qualified doctor. It is part of their learning to see patients independently and it is very helpful for them to see a variety of patients.

Weight loss injections: We are inundated with requests for weight loss injections. QOF OB005 now states GPs can prescribe weight loss injections, but only in very specific circumstances. We only have 8 patients currently eligible all of whom have been contacted by us, so the vast majority who are asking are not eligible on the NHS.

This indicator applies to patients aged 18 and over living with obesity who meet the NICE criteria for primary care pharmacotherapy (e.g., Tirzepatide/Mounjaro). Patients must meet the following baseline requirements:

BMI: equal or over 35 (or 32 if of South Asian, Chinese, and other ethnic backgrounds).

Co-morbidities: Must have at least four of the following qualifying conditions: Cardiovascular disease, Hypertension, Dyslipidaemia (e.g. currently on a statin or specific lipid profile results), Obstructive sleep apnoea, Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Vaccinations: The RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) shot is a vaccine designed to protect high-risk individuals—primarily older adults and newborn babies—from severe lung infections. It helps your body build immunity against RSV, a common

virus that can trigger life-threatening conditions like pneumonia or bronchiolitis. Everyone aged 75 or older is now eligible for a routine, one-off dose. There is no upper age limit. You will be contacted however you're welcome to call to book your vaccination. This is a once-only vaccine not annual.

Influenza vaccination clinics: SATURDAY 3 October and SATURDAY 10 October 9am – 1pm SAVE THE DATE!

Invitations will be coming to your mobiles soon. If you would like to book an appointment please call the surgery if you have not received your invitation.

Eligible patients for flu jabs:

- Adults aged 65 and over
- Individuals aged 6 months to under 65 in clinical risk groups
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 2 or 3, school-aged children (Reception to Year 11)
- Care home residents, carers, and frontline health and social care workers

Practice closure dates for 2026: we are closed for training on the afternoons of:

Wednesday 16 September

Thursday 15 October

Tuesday 17 November

Wednesday 20 January

PPG meeting: Thursday October 8: 6.30pm at the surgery, with a talk from one of the doctors on colds, flu and viral symptoms and how to know if you are seriously ill and when to seek help. There will be an opportunity for questions on this topic.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

Highways and Byways

Some core samples have been taken along Fen Road between Station Farm and Jack of Clubs where the road is on the lode bank. This most likely is made from a very old random mixture of unstable peat and clay. There was an ancient watercourse crossing under the later man-made lode which had peat sides which still remain. This explains why the road is so uneven. It may now be possible to decide on a more permanent repair. Further along on Lug Fen Drove way, where the road is below the bank, the road is on firmer gravel.

Following my previous report, our local Footpaths Officer has stated that the path between the rear of the recreation ground and Longmeadow may have its overlapping turf edges cut back to double its useful tarmac width. The path

leading to it from Church Walk may also be repaired, but both projects depend on available funds. Five sections of pavements, previously mentioned, have been repaired. The other two were not thought bad enough.

Several public footpaths have once again been obstructed by crops. Those with cereals were eventually cleared using chemicals, or those with maize, seemingly were driven through by a tractor. This resulted in crushed overlapping crops from the tyres and bent ones between them. The paths were still not good for walking. The law states that disturbance of public paths across fields should be avoided, where possible, such as if planting parallel to them is not convenient. Surely, now with Satnav, it would be possible to programme tractors to lift seed drills when passing over paths. This would save on seed and subsequent visits. Better still, the ground preparation could be done in a similar way, and then permanent grass paths could be re-established. These would then be mown by the County Council in a similar way to paths that go along field edges. The surfaces of all public footpaths are highway property, as much as roads are between villages. It is just that most if them do not need a tarmac surface, as is common within villages.

The District Council states that food waste must not be put in garden waste bins. Stickers were supplied to say to that effect, to be put on the bins. This is for a very good reason. Now, garden waste is put in open-air compost heaps, but these do not attain very high temperatures. Food waste can contain meat remnants so, if put in with garden waste, the resulting compost may not meet government regulations and be a disease risk to animals and humans. Grey caddy food waste now goes through a sealed high temperature process to make methane to generate electricity, and the residue is a sterilised liquid fertiliser. If food waste is put in black bins it will go straight to landfill, letting methane escape into the air, and lose what could be put back on the land.

Following the introduction of the 20mph limit areas in Quay and Bottisham, one covering here on Swaffham Road, Quay Road and the approach from Bottisham is surely needed. The safety of pedestrians and cyclists is paramount. Half of all vehicles exceed 32mph on Quay Road and one sixth of them exceed 37mph. Accidents to those going in and out of home driveways are likely, and accidents near the crossroads and on the shared-use crossing outside Anglesey Abbey are likely and have actually occurred. Speeds are some 8mph lower elsewhere in the parish, but it would be perverse for a 20mph limit to go back up to 30mph when entering these roads. If applied for early next year, one could be installed in 2028.

Robert Stevens 01223 811643

After two successful Classic Car Shows and the 'Forties Weekend/Bottisham At War' event, the museum is now heading towards our last major event of the season, the Classic car, Bike, Tractor and Military show on the Sunday 4th October. As before, public entry is £10 for adults and under 16s are free, including entry to the museum. Entry for exhibitors is free for the driver plus one passenger. There will be live music from our resident band, a hot food trailer and of course the famous 'Flying Tractor Café' for teas, coffee, snacks and ice cream.



The museum is fortunate to have a WW2 GMC 'Jimmy' 2.5 ton truck on display, loaned by a friend of the museum. Currently in RAF markings, the plan is to return the vehicle to its original U.S. livery. We also have a WW2 Dodge ambulance belonging to a volunteer, that is having some work done by the motor vehicle team.

On the 6th August, Kathleen and Peter Dawson and I laid a wreath on behalf of the museum at the grave of Pilot Officer Robert Keith Anderson Andrew of the New Zealand Airforce in Bottisham Cemetery.

P.O. Andrew lost his life on 6th August 1942 age 25 while flying a P40 Tomahawk of No. 168 Squadron from RAF Bottisham on a training mission. The wealth was prepared by Kathleen.

Lest we forget.

Helicopter flights continue on Wednesdays 2nd, 16th, and 30th September, and conclude for the season on 14th October. These flights can be booked via the museum website Bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk or at Adventure001.com.

Anyone wishing to volunteer at the museum please contact via website or in person Wednesdays or Sundays.

Charles Cook ,Museum Volunteer

Anglesey Group

Mothers' Union Branch



18th June and 16th July 2026

The Rev'd Keith Morrison joined us at our meeting in June and talked about how whilst working as a dental technician for several years he had felt called to be ordained and take up his calling in Healthcare Chaplaincy. Known to some of you from his time at Addenbrookes Hospital and then at Arthur Rank Hospice, Keith retired in 2023 and now supports services in our area as needed.

What we didn't know was Keith's involvement with car racing in a MGBGT from Lands End to John O'Groats, his appearance on Top Gear where he was billed as 'The Fastest Faith on Top Gear', and his years taking part in Gravity Hill Racing at the Goodwood Festival. In 2004 he and his racing partner were able to set up a Sunday service at the festival, which has continued every year since – showing that Christian Witness can happen in the most interesting places!

Our meeting on 16th July was a lovely, relaxed afternoon tea in the sunshine at Station Road Farm, Lode. We raised £80 to go to the Mother's Union Summer of Hope campaign; this campaign raises funds to support worldwide community projects, helping women train as self-help group leaders, manage parenting programs, and launch small-scale business enterprises.

Our next meeting is on 17th September when we will be hosting our Autumn Social and Bring and Buy sale. We meet at the Fassage Hall in Lode at 2.30pm, please contact me if you would like to join us, all are welcome.

Alison Martin (01223 88285)

HARVEST FESTIVAL FLOWERS

We will be decorating St. James' Church for Harvest Festival on Tuesday September 29th at 10 a.m.

We would be glad of any help, if you would like to join us.

Just come along.

With thanks,

Doreen Robinson

07842 994384

Hello,

My name is Reverend Sian and I am the new Curate with the Anglesey Group of Parishes. I live in Cambridge with my husband, 2 daughters, 2 cats and a very bouncy yellow Labrador. My background is Administration/Database/Web Content Management/Sales so this is a very different role for me but I feel I am very much where I am supposed to be and am really enjoying the calling God has placed on me.



I have been working with Reverend Max over the past few weeks since my Ordination and I have been really enjoying getting to know your wonderful villages and the people in them, I have even managed to enjoy one of the lovely walks in Lode and am really looking forward to exploring many of the other walks around the villages. I will be gradually meeting and chatting with lots of you over the coming months, something I really enjoy doing - talking! and once the weather cools you will probably see me out and about with the bouncy Labrador, please do come and say hello.

Reverend Max and I had the great pleasure of attending both the Swaffham school's productions of Oliver Twist and the Wizard of Oz. So much fun and the acting and singing was fantastic, I can't wait for next year's performances! We also enjoyed the year 6 leavers service in the churches and it was really lovely to be able to share this with the children, including the tears!

The Quy fete was great and it was wonderful to be able to meet more people, and watch you all as many smashed plates, wanged wellies and zoomed about on the tractor. I was also very popular at home, as I returned with lots of delicious cakes! I am so pleased to be able to serve my Curacy with you all and am really looking forward to getting involved in your village life. Do come along and see us at any of the churches, I'd love to meet you all.

*God bless,
Reverend Sian*

St James Church, Lode with Longmeadow

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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

Wednesday 2 September

8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 6 September – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Holy Communion & Baptism, Bottisham

Sunday 13 September – Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom

Holy Communion, Quay

10.30am Holy Communion BCP, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 20 September – Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom

Morning Prayer, Quay

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 27 September – Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9am Online service on Zoom

Holy Communion BCP, Swaffham Bulbeck

10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Each Thursday

10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

Local Calendar 2026

Month	Date	Event	Related article
Sept	Wednes days	Lode Village Coffee Morning, St James' Church, 10.30am - 12 Noon	9
	Fridays	Peaceful and prayerful art group, St James' Church, 1.30pm - 3.30pm (first three Fridays of the month)	21
	Tues 1	Anglesey in Stitches, Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, 7.30pm	11
	Wed 2	Lode WI, Fassage Hall, 7.30pm	13
	Sat 5	Lego club & storytime, Bottisham Library, 10.30am	30
	Wed 9	Mobile Library, 2.10pm Longmeadow, 2.40pm Northfields, 3.20pm Lode PO	30
	Mon 14	Lode Parish Council, Fassage Hall, 7.30pm	4
	Tues 15	Anglesey in Stitches, Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, 7.30pm	11
	Thur 17	Mothers' Union, Fassage Hall, 2.30pm	40
	Tues 22	Bottisham & District Gardening Club, Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30pm	20
	Thur 24	BALA course starts, Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club, 10.30am	15
	Sat 26	Jumble Sale, St James' Church, 2pm - 4pm	16
	Tues 29	Decorating church for Harvest Festival, 10am	40
	Tues 29	Anglesey in Stitches, Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, 7.30pm	11
Oct	Thur 1	Harvest Festival and lunch, St James' Church, 11am	25
	Sat 3	Mariajo Ilustrajo at Bottisham Library, 10am	30
	Thur 8	Patient Participation Group, Bottisham Medical Practice, 6.30pm	36



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SEPTEMBER

2 15 29

Tues Tues Tues Tues Tues

Bus Times

T4

Lode x-roads	0710	0800	0921*	1020	1121*	1220	1321*
Addenbrookes	0747	0837	0959	1057	1159	1257	1359
Lode x-roads	1420	1521*	1620	1721*	1820	1920	
Addenbrookes	1457	1559	1657	1759	1857	1957	
Addenbrookes	0625	0750	0850	0959	1059	1159	1259
Lode x-roads	0707	0832	0931*	1041	1140*	1241	1340*
Addenbrookes	1359	1459	1605	1705	1805		
Lode x-roads	1441	1540*	1647	1746*	1847		

*also serves Lode church

T5

Lode x-roads	0720	0820	0935	1035	1135	1235	
Drummer St	0742	0842	0957	1057	1157	1257	
Lode x-roads	1335	1435	1535	1635	1740	1850	
Drummer St	1357	1457	1557	1657	1802	1912	
Drummer St	0635	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	
Lode x-roads	0701	0826	0926	1026	1126	1226	
Drummer St	1300	1400	1500	1605	1715	1815	
Lode x-roads	1326	1426	1526	1631	1741	1841	

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East Cambridgeshire District Council

01353 665555

Botisham Village College Adult Learning

01223 811372

Botisham Community Library

01223 812354

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0345 045 5525.
cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

Dial-a-Ride

<http://cambridgediala-ride.org.uk>
membersupport@cambridgediala-ride.org.uk

Mobile Library Service - Renewals/Enquiries

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- Non Emergency

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101

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08457 145145

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0800 783 8838

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AMS Building & Landscaping.....	H
Camford Build.....	R
Camford Painting & Decorating.....	R
JL Wight, Chimney Sweep.....	D
Mead Construction.....	C
Merlin Developments (Cambridge).....	Q
NCS Chimney Sweep & Plumbing.....	E
Pest Control Services.....	Q
TAWBUILD.....	M
Christopher the Locksmith.....	K
R Bristley Brush Electric Sweep.....	T

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Tai Chi Chuan Classes.....	D
Mili's Pilates Courses.....	31
Polo and Picnics.....	31

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CW Kirk Lawnmowers.....	B
Four Seasons Tree Services.....	R
TH Tree Surgery.....	M
Mill Blossom Flowers.....	L
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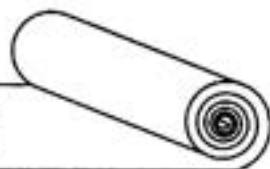
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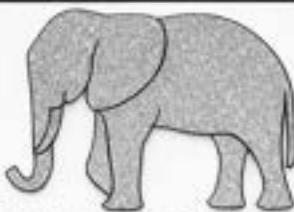
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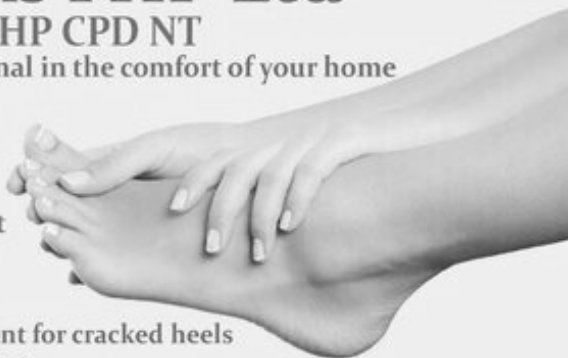
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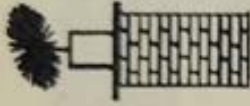
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