November 2026

ISSUE: 585
£1 when sold

LODE STAR



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM LODE WITH LONGMEADOW

https//lode-pc.gov.uk/lode-star-magazine

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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

Editor's Highlights November 2026 *Issue: 585*

I am writing this in mid October with some late summer sunshine playing over the back garden. And yet in the supermarket there are walls solid with Christmas treats. At least the carols, Cliff Richard and Slade are yet to ring out through the aisles.

Christmas is also presaged at Anglesey Abbey with the house festooned with all things seasonal. And in the gardens Winnie the Pooh and chums await kids of all ages.

Cambridgeshire's "soil affected" roads form the gist of our MP's report as she seeks special recognition for the state of the county's roads as we brace for winter. Hopefully her lobbying is successful because there is little doubt our roads are in many places a disgrace.

Local birdbrain Gerry turns his forensic lens onto the Bullfinch this month; the library suggests we look out for Lyse Doucet's latest volume entitled 'the Finest Hotel in Kabul.' Fran Platten continues her saga underpinning the recreation of the Guildhall, while Mike Hatley's memoir takes us to tales surrounding the building comprising the old railway station.

Jonny Edge covers two key issues: the shortage of adoptive families in the county and the fact that 700 households in our area are not claiming the Pension Credit they are entitled to.

Finally the ubiquitous AI appears in a one off piece by local lay preacher, Mike Procter; and AI features in the Medical Practice update.
So a bumper edition full of food for thought. Enjoy!

Nick

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

lodestar.mag@gmail.com

by **15th November:**

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Lode Parish Council News

The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of each month in Fassage Hall at 7.30pm, our next meeting is due to be held on 9 November 2026. Members of the public are welcome to attend. This report is from the meeting held on 12 October 2026.

Community Matters

During the open forum we heard from parishioners once again about the geese on Mill Road. Despite the recent publicity surrounding the geese and the request to only feed them by the river bank, it appears that the gaggle is still causing some issues with dog owners and small children in the village. We politely ask again, please only feed the geese in their natural habitat, down by the river, as we would really like to protect the safety of people, other animals and of course the geese themselves.

Planning Applications

26/01038/FUL 53 Mill Road, Lode. Change of roofing materials incorporating inlaid photovoltaic panels to rear slope and replacement roof window glazing to rear and side. The Parish Council have no objections to this application.

Tree works

The Parish Council approved a quotation for the tree works identified in the tree audit. Eastern Tree Surgery will be appointed to carry out the work as soon as possible.

Swan Corner

Investigations into the ownership of Swan Corner have taken place and it appears that this is not actually owned by Highways, which we believed it was. Therefore, as the Parish Council have maintained it for several years; arranging for both the grass cutting and tree works to be carried; they will be making an application to register the land as a parish asset. Notices will be placed in the area to highlight the intention of the Parish Council to seek registration.

Finance

The Parish Council will be reviewing its budget arrangements and precept request over the coming weeks. Any community group that may wish to make a grant application for S137 funds should make contact with myself at clerk@lode-pc.gov.uk or 07369248998 to discuss further. S137 funding is a fund that we are able to allocate depending on the amount of residents that projects could benefit.

Telephone Kiosk

At the meeting the Parish Council discussed potential use of the telephone kiosk. It was agreed that due to the poor lighting to Fassage Hall during the winter months, that we should look to install another defibrillator inside the telephone kiosk as these are commonly used for this purpose and are also clearly visible to all. The Parish Council will review options at the November meeting.

Allotment Renewals

All allotment renewals are due to take place this month, letters and invoices will be sent out in due course. If anyone no longer wishes to continue with their allotment, can you please contact me as soon as possible so that the plot can be reallocated.

Cemetery

As part of the review of the Cemetery, we are in the process of undertaking wobble testing to check on the safety of the memorial stones. Letters will be sent to any exclusive rights of burial holders (EROB) where problems have been identified. As previously EROB deeds were held in the deceased name it is really important to check that we have up to date details. If you are not sure if you are a registered owner of the burial plot, then please do contact me to check on the current status.

Change of meeting date

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the meeting date for our December meeting. Owing to annual leave, we will be holding the meeting early on the 30 November, rather than the scheduled date of 14 December.

Sam Chambers-Turner

LODE PARISH COUNCIL

Sarah Barrett	Sarah.Barrett@lode-pc.gov.uk 2 Fairhaven Close, 07309 083067
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Clerk to Lode Parish Council : Sam Chambers-Turner	clerk@lode-pc.gov.uk, 07369 248998

East Cambs District Councillors' Report

After a period of inaction at the Council, two Committees have met: the Lake View Bereavement Centre (Mepal Crematorium) has been formally opened, and the Independent member on the Audit Committee has resigned, shortly to be replaced.

Operational Services 14 September 2026

Not an exciting one.

- Noted that the Committee is currently projecting a year-end underspend of £114,000 on its revenue budget of £8,368,382 and a projected capital programme outturn of £9,535,966, an overspend of £289,021.
- Approved the Council's Food and Health and Safety Service Plan, but noted that it had not been updated for some time.
- Approved the Lake View Bereavement Centre aspiring towards the ICCM Charter for the Bereaved Accreditation.
- Agreed the process for monitoring affordable housing provider performance.

Finance and Assets 24 September 2026

- Concerns were raised about the errors in the ECTC annual accounts that had been signed off by the auditors.
- The Inclusive Playground Strategy and the Inclusive Playground Toolkit 2 was approved.
- The Committee is currently forecasting an underspend of £85,000 at year-end when compared to its approved revenue budget of £8,284,422. The Council is forecasting an overall underspend of £199,000 at year-end when compared to its approved revenue budget of £21,585,345. The overall position for the Council on capital is an outturn of £13,787,601, which is an overspend of £289,021 when compared to the revised budget.

Councillor Surgeries

Owing to our unavailability during the past two months we have not held a surgery, but shall have one on 11 November 2027 at the Denny Pavilion at Swaffham Bulbeck from half past six to half past seven o'clock, followed by socialising at the Black Horse in the same village.

Cllr Charlotte Cane MP, 07976 607512, charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk
Cllr John Trapp, 07942 685599, john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk

Jumble Sale Autumn 2026

The jumble sale raised £1075 which was distributed in the following way

- £850 to St James' Church
- £100 to Save The Children
- £100 to Smile Train
- £25 to Burwell Flower Club

How did we decide where the money should go? Well, the church maintains the clock and it has not been working for a while. It seems that Clocky who mends it, has been super busy as many old clocks have not fared well in the intense summer temperatures. He has not come round yet, but hopefully will do soon. This is an unexpected expense but many Lode residents rely on its regular chimes. Whatever is left over will no doubt go to the cost of replacing guttering on the main roof and refixing the downpipe in the same area. Not quite so exciting!

Save The Children is a wonderful charity which is supported by some Lode residents and we thought we would give some of the hard earned money to increase the amount that they raise for this charity.

Smile Train is a charity that pays for surgery on children born with a cleft palate whose lives can be badly affected in areas where there is little medical help. Many of them are unable to breathe easily or speak or eat, until the cleft is repaired by surgery. It was recommended by one of the jumble team and was an obvious choice. Thanks to her for suggesting it.

Finally another valuable member of the jumbling team asked for a donation to the Burwell Flower club and we do like to support local efforts.

As an event, the jumble sale involves 29 helpers and is a surprisingly lively, social gathering. My daughter helped, and bumped into two sisters that she last saw at school 35 years ago. We all meet up with pals from the village and as the money flows so does the gossip and chat both before, when we are setting up, during, and after, when there are lots of discussions about bargains we have bought, funny incidents that occurred, and items we have managed to sell. It gives us all great pleasure to see stuff going to new owners who are delighted with their purchases, and those who have freely given them, to know that they will be reused.

Thank you to all those who gave their time and to the super quality stuff we seem to get each time!

The jumbling team.

Cambridgeshire County Council Report

This month I'd like to start with something very close to my heart.

Urgent campaign for more adoptive families

Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 35 children are currently waiting for adoption, including young children and sibling groups who can often wait longest to find the right family. Sadly, fewer people are coming forward to adopt, both locally and nationally.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption Service provides support throughout the entire process, from initial enquiry through to placement and beyond.
To find out more:
visit www.cpadoption.co.uk,
email adoptionenquiries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
or call 0300 123 1093.

Pension Credit campaign

Cambridgeshire County Council is working with district and city councils to help residents claim Pension Credit they may be entitled to but are not currently receiving.

More than 700 households across Cambridgeshire are being contacted directly and supported through the application process. Pension Credit can be worth thousands of pounds each year and can also unlock access to other forms of support. If you receive a letter or call about this scheme, I strongly encourage you to explore your eligibility. Help will be provided.

Breaking Cycles, Building Communities

In October, I brought a motion to County Council supporting a Nurturing Cambridgeshire approach. The aim is to encourage councils and other local services providers across the county to work together to provide support earlier, make services easier to access, and offer support without making assumption. By recognising the impact of trauma and adversity, we can help break cycles of disadvantage, improve wellbeing and create stronger communities for residents of all ages.

Highways improvements

I'm pleased that of the eight highway improvement schemes approved in October by Highways Committee six are in the Woodditton division and will now move forward to the design and consultation stage. These include proposals in Ashley, Bottisham, Burrough Green, Swaffham Bulbeck, Westley Waterless and Woodditton.

EV cable channel trial

A new countywide trial has launched to help residents without driveways charge electric vehicles safely at home using pavement cable channels. Initial installations are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis through Kerbo Charge.

Further information is available at www.kerbocharge.com.

Kingsway Solar Farm

The Kingsway Solar Farm proposal is expected to be resubmitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of October. I have continued to press the developer for further details, in doing so they have confirmed that the revised submission is expected to remain substantially similar to previous proposals. I will continue to keep residents informed as the process progresses.

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 I write this column, I'm preparing to return to Parliament after a long recess of party conferences, and looking ahead towards the Chancellor's upcoming Autumn Budget.

We've heard much from Labour about generating growth in each local area. We all want to see our communities growing and thriving, but this means that Government must first address the pressures and challenges faced by people in rural areas.

Here in Ely and East Cambridgeshire, transport and travel are key to growth. Where our towns, villages and cities are separated by many miles of farmland, being able to move easily by road is critical. However, Cambridgeshire's soil-affected roads present a unique problem for the area, and one that has not yet been addressed by Government.

As winter approaches, many of us will be fearing the opening of more potholes, cracks, and dips in the road surface, as the underlying peat soil expands, contracts and moves with rain and ice. At the current rate, some of the most important roads in the area are failing faster than they can be repaired, becoming dangerous and costly both for road users and Cambridgeshire County Council.

In Parliament, I'm calling on Government to recognise this unique challenge to Cambridgeshire and make vital changes to the highways funding formula to recognise the additional cost of maintaining soil-affected roads.

Growth in rural areas such as ours requires investing in our vital infrastructure. So, when the Chancellor takes to the dispatch box to deliver the Budget, I want to see measures that specifically address the challenges faced here in Ely and East Cambridgeshire, including our soil-affected roads.

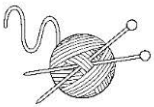
I'm currently running an online petition calling on Government to fix our soil-affected roads, recognising the unique challenge it places on local highways authorities with new streams of funding. To add your name, please follow the QR code to my linktree.

Another area of ongoing concern is access to NHS dentistry in our area. That's why I've launched a constituency-wide survey to build a clear picture of the challenges residents are facing in accessing NHS dentistry. The survey takes just five minutes to complete – and your response will help strengthen my case for urgent Government action. To take the survey, scan the QR code to my linktree or type in https://bit.ly/ccmp-NHSdentistrysurvey to your browser.

If you have any other concerns or issues which you would like to raise with me, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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?

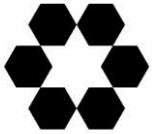
Why not come along to your local crafting group?

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

Good news that internal work is racing ahead now with at least 3 plasterers working every day. There seem to be loads of different layers and different plasters on outside walls which have to be lime based to allow the walls to breathe. Plastering is a very physical activity as the men are up and down on special boxes all day [actually they use the large soakaway boxes which seem to be very useful] which is very demanding.

I was all airy fairy about the garden but was told I had to make some decisions as the digger was needed to install all the drains from the gutters to the aforementioned soakaway. So, lots of drawings and suggestions later and we now have a plan and what a good idea that was. Fencing needs to be done as there is rather a lean between the neighbour and me and there will be a hedgehog hole to allow any hedgehog that might still be alive to come through. Sadly they are very rare now.





The shop windows have now been delivered but they might have to wait their turn as the carpenter has to do lots of other work so the plumber and others can carry on uninterrupted. They are very heavy and will need lots of manpower to lift them into place, so you will see them soonish I hope.

Inside there are now walls and it is beginning to look like a home with rooms. The staircase has been built and ready to go in, but it is easier to lift large pieces of wood and plaster board straight up through the space rather than negotiating round bends and banisters, so that will not come for a while yet, so it's still the ladder to get upstairs.

All in all it is a joy to see, and the photographer is coming soon to take another lot of wonderful photos. You have to make do with mine for the moment!

Until next month, signing off, Fran

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 Lis 01223 811233. Netball Practice Goal Hoop suitable for fixing to a wall
2. Contact Veronica 07900 317264. Wardrobe, stripped pine. Top of the wardrobe door has a small oval window. 1.84 cm high x 45 cm deep x 75 cm wide.
3. Contact Wendy 01223 811356.
    a. JVC compact music centre CA-MXS2BK with remote control and 2 speakers plus Instruction manual
    b. John Lewis dark wood cabinet to house music centre and several cds plus cassette drawers
    c. Skandika exercise bike
4. Contact Lindsey Shaw-Miller lindseysm8@gmail.com / 07773 027155
    a. Fridge-freezer, CDA, 60/40 split, one year old, integrated into a fitted kitchen. CDA is a British brand based in Nottingham. The fridge-freezer is in excellent condition and is good quality. It's just a bit small for us, and we prefer a 50/50 split. Dimensions of the unit are 60cm wide x 65cm deep x 214cm high. Fridge/freezer itself is 54cms wide x 61.5cms deep x 175cms high. You would need to arrange transport. We would help you to dismantle. You are welcome to come and have a look.

Wants:

None



Anglesey Abbey

This November at Anglesey Abbey

Winnie-the-Pooh trail

Join us for an autumn adventure at Anglesey Abbey with the Three Cheers for Pooh! Story trail, running from 3 October 2026 to 3 January 2027. Enjoy a fun-filled day out with friends and family as you explore the gardens and follow the trail, discovering Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends along the way.

Wander through the gardens and encounter classic characters from A.A. Milne's much-loved stories, from Pooh with his honey-pot to Tigger bouncing through the landscape. Pick up a trail map and enjoy the changing colours of the season as you explore the gardens. The trail is free with normal admission and no booking is needed.



© National Trust, Issy Vetoshkina

Autumn in the gardens

There's still plenty to enjoy outdoors this November as the gardens take on their beautiful autumn colours. Take a stroll through the Winter Garden, which is beginning to look particularly lovely, or enjoy one of the many peaceful walks around the gardens and wider estate.

A festive voyage at Anglesey Abbey

From November, the house at Anglesey Abbey will be transformed for the Christmas season, with this year's decorations inspired by Lord Fairhaven's travels aboard The Sapphire, his private yacht. Discover more about his travels as you explore the house and enjoy the festive displays.

There are also still spaces to meet Father Christmas at Anglesey Abbey this Christmas. Tickets are limited, so head to the Anglesey Abbey website to find out more and plan your festive visit.

Lode with Longmeadow Women's Institute

Wednesday 7 October

Out and About: Trips, Quizzes and Autumn Flowers

Quiz Success for Histon and Impington

Brenda reported on the recent quiz, which proved to be an enjoyable occasion for all who took part. This year's winners were Histon and Impington WI. Lode made a promising start, sitting in second place at the halfway point, but eventually finished in eighth. The science round was their strongest, earning an impressive nine out of ten points. Denise also enjoyed a little success in the raffle, winning some Liquorice Allsorts!

Exploring Emmanuel College

Lee shared highlights from her visit to Emmanuel College, affectionately known as "Emma". Their gentle and informative guide led them around the college buildings and gardens, which Lee described as an eclectic mix of styles. The college boasts a 150-seat theatre and various indoor spaces where students can meet and relax. While the Master's House did not particularly impress her, Lee was impressed by the beautiful chapel and gardens.

The visit continued through the underground passage to Parker's Piece, where the group heard about the magnificent feast held there to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. The event was free to attend, with food and drink provided. A bandstand stood at the centre, with long tables radiating outwards. People could pay to promenade along the tables while others looked on - a fascinating glimpse into a memorable piece of Cambridge history.

A Royal Day Out at Buckingham Palace

Denise recounted the trip to Buckingham Palace, which began with a pleasant bus journey filled with lively chatter. They arrived on time and were soon exploring the King's Gallery and its wonderful collection of royal clothing.

The exhibits included christening gowns and garments spanning different eras, as well as magnificent coronation gowns and wedding dresses. Denise particularly admired the beautiful tweed clothing worn at Balmoral. Another section featured a riot of colour, with striking outfits, jewellery and hats.

After their royal exploration, everyone enjoyed a traditional feast of fish, chips and peas in a charming pub. The good news is that their ticket remains valid for a year, so another visit is already a possibility!

Gardens and Afternoon Tea at Downing College

Denise also reported on the visit to Downing College, where they were welcomed by a young gardener who led their tour. Among the curiosities was an unusual African Bean tree near the lodge. Members were reassured to discover that the college gardens were suffering from the same parched conditions as their own, and even the cricket lawn was looking decidedly bald!

With climate change firmly in mind, the college is adapting by planting more drought-resistant species in sunken gardens - an idea that may offer inspiration for our own gardens.

Following the interesting tour, the group went indoors for afternoon tea. They were greeted by a generously laden, three-tier cake stand, which turned out to be intended for two people, although there was certainly enough to tempt a few more!

Speaker: Jackie Bye — Autumn Flowers

Our speaker, Jackie Bye, brought a wonderful burst of autumn colour and creativity to the meeting, demonstrating how seasonal flowers, garden finds and a little imagination can be transformed into beautiful arrangements.

Jackie began with a simple but striking pumpkin centrepiece. A band was placed around the pumpkin and filled with dried hydrangea heads and gypsophila, creating an impressive display with very little fuss.

Next came a charming wicker teacup and saucer, purchased at the recent jumble sale. Jackie placed chicken wire inside to support the flowers, explaining that she avoids using floral oasis for environmental reasons. She then filled the cup with rose hips, hawthorn, buddleia, chrysanthemums and snippets from a strawberry tree.

Making it all sound wonderfully straightforward, Jackie encouraged us simply to “stick it in!” The result, however, was a delightful arrangement that some of us might struggle to replicate quite so effortlessly!

As she worked, Jackie shared stories from her busy year of wedding and funeral floristry. One particularly memorable wedding took place at Peterhouse, Cambridge. With no budget and no photographs to guide her, Jackie had to rely on a video call with the couple, who were living in New York. From this, she created a flower arch in the garden, eight table decorations and twelve chair-end arrangements — a remarkable achievement under the circumstances.

She also revealed that funeral flowers can sometimes come with unusual requests. One family wanted an edible element, specifically tomatoes! Edible

floral arrangements are apparently a growing trend, proving that there is no limit to the imagination when it comes to personalising flowers.



Jackie encouraged us to look at familiar household objects in a new light, too. Old crockery can make delightful plant containers, as demonstrated by a dainty teacup and matching saucer holding a spider plant, with moss covering the surface of the compost. A lovely idea for anyone looking to give treasured china a new lease of life.

Another creation featured a smaller wicker teacup and saucer, affectionately nicknamed the “drunken cup” because of its rather wobbly nature. Jackie filled it with flowers and plants in shades of pink and yellow, once again urging us to “stuff it in, don’t be afraid!” The finished arrangement was beautiful and full of character.

This led to another wedding story. A fellow florist had been taken ill with appendicitis, leaving Jackie to step in at short notice to arrange the wedding flowers. The bride knew nothing of the last-minute change until afterwards, when she discovered what had happened. Happily, she was delighted with the flowers and had been none the wiser about the emergency behind the scenes!

For her final demonstration, Jackie transformed a candlestick holder into an elegant table decoration. Using her trusty chicken-wire support, she draped flowers across the table, weaving ivy and berries through the framework before adding dahlias and finishing with complementary candles.

Jackie’s demonstrations showed us how beautiful arrangements need not depend on expensive materials or elaborate equipment. With seasonal foliage, flowers from the garden, recycled containers and a willingness to experiment, there are endless possibilities for creating something special.

Charlotte gave the vote of thanks, expressing our appreciation for Jackie’s inspiring ideas and the magnificent arrangements she had produced. It was a thoroughly enjoyable session, leaving us with plenty of inspiration to bring a little autumn magic into our own homes.

Do join us at next month’s meeting on 4 November, when Liz King will give an interesting talk on architecture and the renovations of the local bakery. We look forward to welcoming you for what promises to be an engaging and informative evening.

Charlotte

Lode Tennis Club

2026 Competition Results:

Congratulations to all our competitors in the 2026 competitions most of which were completed by the time of writing this. The finals were very hard fought, and close encounters with some very exciting tennis watched by all the spectators present. The final results were –

Ladies' Doubles - Fran and Gill beat Lesley and Izzy in two sets
Mens' Singles - Magnus Small beat Dave Male in two sets
Mixed Doubles - Magnus and Fran beat Paul and Angela after a 2nd set tie break
Mens' Doubles - To be determined

Special Thanks to Competition Organiser Gill Thurlby for keeping us all on track.







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

Memories of Lode

Following on from last month, we have now moved up from Riverside to the Station from where in school term time I caught the 12 minutes past eight train in the morning from Lode to Cambridge Station from where I would walk through the goods yard to my school in Hills Road. The Station Master at Lode was Maurice Wright, the Porter was Jim Beard and the Ganger was Charlie Bradley. At the end of the Station house there was the goods-in shed which housed a well with the hand pump situated outside the building. When the sugar beet was being loaded into the trucks the pump was in use for anyone who was thirsty. Across the roadway at the Station house was an allotment which was always immaculately kept by Laurence Peters. From the Fen Road to the Station house was a garden which again was always well kept.

Across from the Station house stands a pair of semi-detached cottages. Charlie Bradley occupied the one nearest the Station House and Jim Beard lived in the other one. I used to go to the Bradley's house often as I was friendly with their son Brian. This is the house that my wife and I bought nearly 40 years ago when it was almost derelict. At the bottom of the gardens of both houses were the toilets and the washhouse with the copper to heat the water over the fire when it was time to do the weekly wash. Again, as with Riverside a candle would have been the way of providing light for a nighttime visit. The toilet for our house is still there and still houses the old bucket along with old newspaper hanging on an old rusty nail. I wouldn't recommend using it now though and pleased to say we do have more modern facilities now-a-days.

Across the road from the Station is Harvey's Drove and a little way down there was the village waste tip where all different items would be disposed of from everyone in the village. It is still possible to find pieces of broken decorative plates and dishes and bits of glass bottles etc. Mr Elbrow ran his cycle repair business from one of the council houses in Station Road and he was always very busy. When he finally packed up, everything he had left went into the village tip. All the new cycle parts, old bits and pieces from various cycles and anything no longer required went into the tip.

Across the road from the council houses was the village green, now covered with trees. When I was a lad, it was a grass meadow, and I have happy memories of when the fair came to Lode and set up on this meadow. There was a full-sized roundabout, and the problem was to get it to sit level so that it would work properly. (No health and safety in place then.) All the village enjoyed the fair and even now once a year Reach have a fair on their village green.

There were the same six council houses that are there now and just past the end one was a large tree and a footpath to the recreation ground. No Fairhaven Close then.

There were very few television sets in Lode when I was young. However, one of the council houses were fortunate enough to have a black and white set. On 2 May 1953 the FA Cup final known as the Matthews Final was held and was being broadcast on the TV. I was one of the lucky ones who was invited to watch the match on their TV. The house was totally packed with hardly any breathing space. The match was between Blackpool and Bolton Wanderers with an attendance of 100,000. Bolton were leading with 3 goals to 1. With only 20 minutes to go Blackpool scored three goals to win 4-3. It was Stanley Matthews who provided the inspiration for his team to win and was the first major football final to be broadcast live on television. On the subject of football, I can remember going on an organised outing from Lode to Blackpool and I watched Blackpool play on their home ground. It was a privilege to watch Stanley Matthews live.

One of the cottages past the council houses towards Mill Road was lived in by the mother of the comedian Ronnie Barker. The previous owner was a lady who bred goats in the adjoining paddock which was separated from the house by a brick wall. I was walking by one day to meet my mates in the village and from behind the wall someone called out to me. I stopped and turned to see Ronnie Barker himself standing there. He apologised for startling me. A house was eventually built on the paddock and was occupied by Ronnie Barker's sister.

Opposite the Guildhall which stands on the corner of Mill Road there were some cottages and the end one was where my aunt lived. When I was around 12, I used to visit her on a regular basis and would sit under the stairs to read the papers. Not far from my aunt lived Maurice Coleman, Lode's well-known baker. My mother would get all our bread from Mr Coleman who also delivered around the village and also surrounding villages. The Post Office which recently closed and was sold used to be the Cow and Hare public house. We had a youth club in the room behind the pub and dances were regularly held there. Behind the pub was the coal yard which I can remember being used.

I'm afraid I have covered most of my childhood memories in Lode but hope to write just one more before the end of the year. I would like to think that maybe by writing these articles I have encouraged others to do the same. I am sure there are lots of folk living in Lode now that would be very happy to hear tales of the past.

Mike Hatley

Bloom & Craft By 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 and other unique gifts.

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

Red2Green Sponsored Walk

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and took part in the 2026 Red2Green Sponsored Walk! Our fantastic participants took on an 8-mile route through the surrounding villages and countryside, raising an incredible £1,116.75 along the way!

A special shoutout to our wonderful collaborators, The Black Horse, who kindly hosted our post-walk refreshments - including some very welcome and delicious Sunday roasties! Thank you once again to everyone who walked, donated, supported and helped make the day such a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

Red2Green Christmas Carol Service and Fair

Join us for our Makaton Christmas Carol Service at St.Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck on Monday 7 December from 10:30-11:30am, followed by our Christmas Fair at Granary Barn, Park End, Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 0NA from 12pm.

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.**

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

Highways and Byways

Boundaries

Further to last month's mention of parish boundaries, all the land on the far side of the B1102 is in Bottisham, except for the homes and gardens at Honey Court and those on Quy Road, which transferred to Lode in 1974. Lode Road on the far side of the crossroads is in Bottisham, including the paths, the new crossing point and the bus shelter. Also, the shared-use path to the Quy parish boundary, which is half-way along where it is close to the road and crosses the Bottisham Drain. The archaeological trial trenches in the fields on both sides of the road beyond there are for a proposed water pipeline. This will run from Grafham Water via Lolworth, with a link into Cambridge, then on to the highest point in Suffolk at over 400 feet at Rede, south of Bury St Edmunds, to a new reservoir.

Speeds on Quy Road

It has been said that the speeds recorded by the display sign on Quy Road seem to be lower than expected. This is because lone vehicles tend to speed but others, which might do so, bunch-up behind slower ones. The road island near the Abbey entrance will be widened for the Greenway.

This will create a deviation on the southbound side of the road, reducing speeds in that direction. Northbound speeds are about 3mph less because of the existing deviation on that side, and the crossroads and traffic lights ahead. However, once past these, vehicles accelerate towards the 60mph limit, but this is to be reduced to 40mph.

Dogs Messing and Control

Dog mess must be picked up immediately from all land in the District where the public are entitled to be. Here, it must be taken to any of eleven dog bins or five litter bins, or home for disposal. Penalties can be up to £1,000. If not on a lead, dogs must be under close and watched all the time to ensure any messing is seen. Dog messes seen left may be reported to the District Council for removal. Also, the name, address or vehicle registration number of anyone seen not picking up mess, or leaving it for collection later. Dogs must both have a microchip and a collar tag with contact details, and any seen straying may be reported to the Council. This can result in a fine and a charge for kennelling by Woodgreen.

Footbridge by the River Cam

The footbridge over Bottisham Lode when it joins the Cam has been closed since early last year and is awaiting repair. The Environment Agency hopes it will be completed by the end of February. The one-mile public footpath diversion order, via Vicarage Farm, for those walking along the east bank of the Cam, has been

made four times. Until it is repaired, those walking from Lode to reach Bottisham Lock need to walk on the western side of the lode, but there are two high stiles on the way.

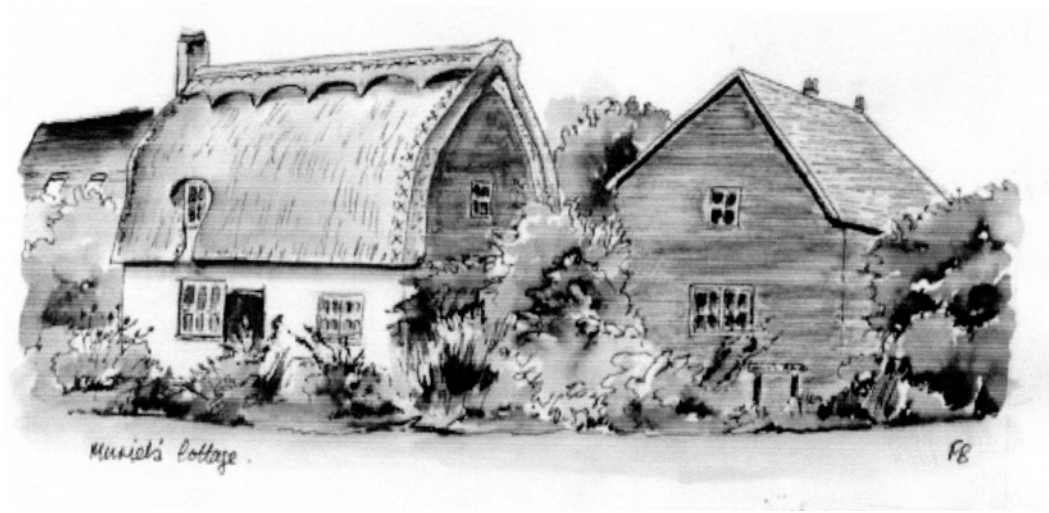
Cross-Field Paths

Many cross-field public footpaths have been left this autumn quite rough and indistinct. The route of a path must be made clear on the ground so it is distinguishable from the rest of the field. Its surface must be reasonably compact for walking over a width of at least one metre within two weeks of an initial ground preparation for a crop, and within one day after any subsequent disturbance, which includes harvesting. A tractor towing a roller would do this. Government farming payments may be lost for non-compliance. One can report problem paths to the County Council, as in the case of other Highway faults.

Bottisham Triangle

It seems the additional yellow lines at the Bottisham Triangle have shifted parking on two of the straight parts from one side to the other, rather than stopping parking opposite or within ten metres of each of the junctions. The Police do ticket cars for what they judge to be potential obstructions and hazards, even when there are no yellow lines, also for parking on pavements and paths used by cyclists. See 2022 Highway Code Rules 242 to 244. Anyway, it is not advisable to park in such places as drivers could be held at least partly responsible for any injuries, collisions and scrapes.

Robert Stevens 01223 811643



Bird Brain

I see that the disease trichomonosis has been in the news again recently as differing views about bird feeding have emerged from various sources. The problem is that trichomonosis spreads through infected bird saliva, and birds with the disease have trouble swallowing their food, actually regurgitating in severe cases. Possibly the least risky policy is to stop feeding altogether but the RSPB is not advising this as necessary. Instead, during the winter months, place food on hanging feeders only – suet and nuts in particular – ensure the food stays as dry as possible, and clean the apparatus weekly. Never use flat feeders, such as bird tables, and only put water out if you can change it daily.

Please keep an eye on the health of the birds in your garden and, if you find a sick or dead bird, please report it to www.gardenwildlifehealth.org who will provide specific advice. The first thing will probably be to stop feeding altogether for a month. As previously discussed, the birds most susceptible are the seed-eating finches – especially Greenfinches – but others have suffered too: Chaffinch numbers are down and when was the last time you saw a Bullfinch?

Those of us who grew up in the 1960s and '70s would remember Bullfinches as common visitors to our gardens. Easily identified by their slightly rotund shape, thick neck (hence the name), and striking plumage, the Bullfinch – Pyrrhula pyrrhula – impresses immediately with a lovely pink/red breast, contrasting with a grey back and black wings with a single white wing bar. This is the male of course. The plumage of the female follows the same pattern, but the colours are much drabber and less contrasting, affording it effective camouflage when sitting on the nest.

Bullfinch populations have dropped by c. 40% since the late 1960s, the decline driven primarily by habitat loss and agricultural changes. I know you've heard this story before, but here goes... Safe nest sites have been lost through the removal of thick hedgerows, and the loss of woodland thickets. Modern farming practices reduce the availability of wild seeds and flower buds which are vital to Bullfinches in springtime. (Note the bird's stocky, seed-eating bill.) There are also fewer orchards around these days: a loss of foraging grounds; and Bullfinches have even been culled by fruit growers in the past owing to their liking for blossom buds.

It's easy to see why Bullfinch numbers can struggle. The female will typically lay 4-5 eggs twice a season. Of each clutch, only two fledgelings are likely to survive to adulthood and, when they do reach maturity at one year – ready to breed – they, like several other members of the finch family, will typically only live for one further year!

It's not all bad news though. Whilst the Bullfinch remains an Amber-listed conservation species in the UK (moderate concern), there are some signs of recovery, especially as new native woodland plantings have increased the availability of suitable habitat in recent years, allowing the population to stabilize.

So what can you do? Well, if you have a large enough garden, Bullfinches would appreciate Guelder Rose, Hawthorn and Blackthorn more than most; and you could put sunflower hearts in your feeders. Obviously this wouldn't guarantee visits from Bullfinches but, if they're around, they are particularly partial to these seeds.

STOP PRESS

Most of the rarities turning up in September were to be found around the coastlines and extremities of the British Isles, driven in by Atlantic-based weather systems, but East Anglian birdwatchers could have enjoyed a couple of Spotted Crakes at Titchwell, a number of Wrynecks at random locations and, bizarrely, a Crested Tit in central Ipswich. (I have seen Crested Tits in the Highlands of Scotland but sightings anywhere in England are incredibly rare.) Also, a Red-footed Falcon appeared at Welney Wildfowl Trust, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was photographed at Grafham Water, and a Red-eyed Vireo caused excitement at Minsmere at the end of the month.

One other piece of news that caught my eye was the major irruption of Northern Nutcrackers in Western Scandinavia this Autumn. This magnificent bird is a member of the Crow family, breeds across Finland and Siberia and is a mega-mega rarity in the UK. I was lucky enough to see one in Suffolk in 1985 and there has been only one other 'twitchable' example since then (in 1991). So this western movement, and gathering of large numbers at known migration watchpoints in Norway, has the British birding fraternity breathless with anticipation that we might be graced with a visit as the weather turns colder. I'll let you know if there's any news...!

TTFN
Gerry Daish

Bother Bulleys, let us sing
From the dawn till evening! -
For we know not that we go not
When the day's pale pinions fold
Unto those who sang of old.

From 'The Bullfinches' (a poem about celebrating existence in an uncertain world by Thomas Hardy



THANK YOU!

A sincere thank you to all friends and neighbours for good wishes and support received during my recent illness and stay in hospital.

This is very much appreciated.

Edna Perry and Family

B0TTISHAM ADULT LEARNING ASSOCIATION (BALA)

Thursday 5 November – Thursday 3 December (inclusive) 10.30-12 .15

a 5-week course on Five British Prime Ministers: Gladstone, Disraeli, Lloyd George, Churchill and Attlee

Presented by Andrew Bamford

The cost for the course is £25 for members, £25 plus £5 membership fee for non-members

Held in Bottisham Sports and Social Club in Downing Close CB25 9DD

New members always welcome

Any enquiries to Bottishambala@btinternet.com

Helen Cole

Cambridge Concert Orchestra

A concert of trains and travel

All Aboard!!

Conductor: Suzanne Dexter-Mills

Saturday 28th November 2026

at 3.30pm

Bottisham Village College (Evans Auditorium)
Lode Road, Bottisham, Cambridge CB25 9DL

TRAINS

DEPARTURES FROM ALL PLATFORMS

JOURNEY INFORMATION

PLATFORM	DESTINATION	
PLATFORM 3	PUFFIN' BILLY	by Edward White
PLATFORM 5	HAMPSTEAD HEATH	by Phyllis Tate
PLATFORM 7	CORONATION SCOT	by Vivian Ellis
PLATFORM 10	SCENES FROM THE HUMBER	by Anthony Hedges
PLATFORM 2	WALTZ: THE ORIENT EXPRESS	by Richard Rodney Bennett
	and many other destinations	

PLEASE CHECK MONITORS FOR THE LATEST UPDATES — HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY

Tickets: adults £12, children FREE
Online box office: cco.org.uk
Postal tickets: +£2.50, ring 0333 666 3366

blue smile
happier children | brighter futures

cco.org.uk
cambridgeconcertorchestra
(facebook and instagram)
Registered charity 263524

Raising funds for Friends of Blue Smile
Registered Charity: 1210034
bluesmile.org.uk



BOTTISHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Unfortunately our speaker for September had to cancel at the last minute owing to family illness. However, Denis "Digger" Moules valiantly stepped in to tell us more stories of his long career as a police detective.

Clear communication in policing is very important, so whilst making enquiries about a man relating to a stolen horsebox in the south of the county he was told there was no point as the suspect was in Australia. Digger had to remind them that there was also a Melbourn in Cambridgeshire.

It takes a strong stomach to deal with some incidents, such as the man who accidently cut his fingers off with a circular saw. The hospital asked for the fingers in the hope of re-attaching them, but unfortunately a dog had been sniffing round. His wedding ring was recovered but sadly, he had no finger to put it on.

Then there was the man who was held in custody over the week-end and advised by his solicitor to give a "no comment" interview while he enjoyed a week-end away. Conscious that this would not be productive for either party, and mindful that a week-end in custody would be no fun, Digger provided him with a few sheets of paper on which to write his thoughts until his solicitor returned. The offender proceeded to list all his crimes and fortunately for Digger the paper he had provided was official statement forms.

To illustrate that nothing surprises a policeman he told us of a man who was brought in stark naked, save for a boot on one foot, which led an officer to remark "You've lost your other boot mate?"

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 24 November when we will have a demonstration of Holly Wreath Making. Also a reminder that our Christmas Social will be in the afternoon on the 8 December. We normally meet at 7.30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Poppy Room at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club. Membership is £20.00 a year and non-members are welcome to any meetings for a charge of £3.00.

Margret Coles



BOTTISHAM
AIRFIELD MUSEUM

I can start this time with the news that the popular 1940s Bottisham At War weekend will take place on 26 and 27 June 2027. Dates for our Classic Car Shows and other events in 2027 will be announced in my next newsletter.

On Saturday 26 September this year a party of 32 from the United States of America National WW2 Museum visited Bottisham Airfield Museum and had a guided tour and refreshments.

October 4 this year saw the museum's last Classic Car, Military Vehicles and Motorbike show which became our best ever car show, breaking the record for the number of vehicles in attendance. The museum has been lucky to have good weather at all our events this year.

Earlier this year I was lent a book entitled 'From Bottisham to Barcombe: A Childhood Journey Through the Second World War' by Carol Reeve. The author was the daughter of a Dr Gilbert, who lived and a had a surgery in Beaulieu House, opposite Lysander Close on Tunbridge Lane in Bottisham. During the war Dr. Gilbert invited officers and their wives from the army tank corps, the RAF, USAAF and the Belgian Airforce to live at Beaulieu House while they were in the village and operating from Bottisham Airfield.

In the book Carol Reeve tells her story and includes a lot of information that is helping the museum's research about the servicemen who lived and served in Bottisham, as well as providing insights to those who lived in Bottisham during WW2.

For anyone interested the book was published in 2006 by Upfront Publishing Ltd. and is available from Amazon.co.uk and other outlets.

Charles Cook
Museum Volunteer.

BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY

2026 National Year Of Reading

November

Just a reminder that the Library does provide computer access for all – we have access to all the College computers in the library and they print to the library photocopier/printer. However the college system does not allow you to use USB sticks so all documents must be available on your personal email which you can then access and edit. It is preferable if you are a registered library user but you will need to collect a user name and password (which changes weekly) from the counter. Costs for printing apply – more expensive if it is colour!

Book of the Month is the winner of the Women's Prize for Non Fiction – **The Finest Hotel In Kabul by Lyse Doucet**. This is a fascinating and informative book by the BBC journalist on the recent history of Afghanistan told through the events in the Inter Continental Hotel and the eyes of the employees there.

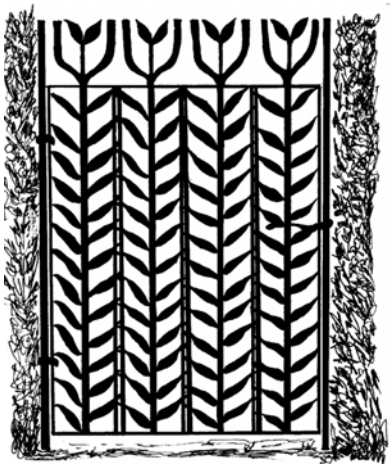
Our annual Reading Challenge is now complete and the entries to our summer poetry competition will be on display in the library foyer.

We were disappointed by the attendance for our writer's visit – Mariajo Ilustrajo - on October 3 in the Library. It's a pity as those who were there were entertained by her story reading and enjoyed the draw along activity. Her books are well worth reading aloud to young children and all available in the library.

Lego Club and **StoryTime** will be on Saturday November 14 . Duplo is available for younger children.

The date for the **Mobile Library** visit to Lode and Longmeadow is Wednesday November 11.

Start Reading!



Bottisham Medical Practice

Practice Update:

Patient Liaison Team

Over the past few months, several members of our reception team have taken on additional administrative responsibilities to help support the increasing demands on the practice. As a result, our reception team is now known as the Patient Liaison Team, reflecting their wider role in supporting patients and coordinating access to services.

We are also delighted to announce that Sarah P has taken on the role of Patient Liaison Lead. Sarah will be providing leadership and support to the team as we continue to develop and improve the service we provide to our patients.

Total Triage

We have now been operating our Total Triage system for the past 12 months, and it continues to work well for both patients and clinicians.

A reminder that there is no need to call the practice first thing on a Monday morning to secure an appointment. Requests can be submitted online, reviewed by our clinical team, and patients will be contacted with the most appropriate next steps. This allows us to prioritise patients according to clinical need and make the best use of available appointments.

Missed Appointments

Over the past six weeks, 18 hours of appointments have been missed due to patients not attending their booked appointments.

Missed appointments have a significant impact on the practice and reduce the number of appointments available for other patients who need care. If you are unable to attend an appointment, please let us know as soon as possible so we can offer it to someone else.

Improving Access to the Practice

As a practice, we are always looking for ways to improve patient access and make it easier to contact us.

From mid-November, we will be introducing "AL Emma", our new AI-powered receptionist system. This service will help manage incoming calls more efficiently, direct patients to the most appropriate service, and assist our Patient Liaison Team in dealing with the high volume of requests we receive each day.

Further information about AL Emma and how it works will be shared with patients before the launch.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOTTISHAM



Coffee & Cake Concert

SATURDAY 28 November 10.30AM

Wayne Marshall OBE

Wayne, a Bottisham resident, has performed and conducted all over the world including at the first and last night of the Promenade Concerts and the debut concert of the Chineke! Orchestra in the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Royal Festival Hall in June 2025. He is in great demand, and we are fortunate that he has again agreed to play for us. He is an expert at improvisation and will play a variety of easy listening music arranged for the organ in addition to well-known organ pieces

Come and enjoy a coffee (tea or juice), cake around 10.15am and then the concert, which will last around 45 minutes

Suggested donation £10, in aid of the church building fund – children free. All are welcome.





Sunday 8 November

10.50 am

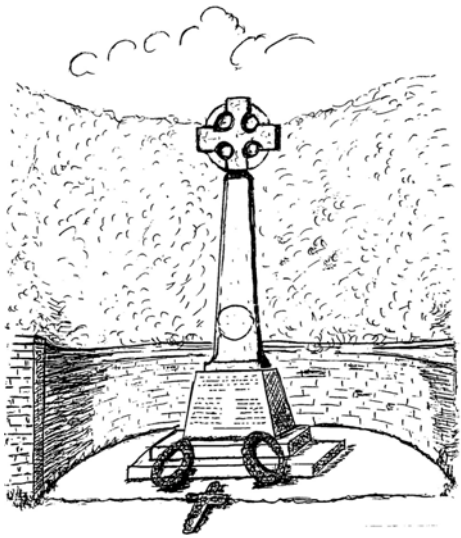
Act of Remembrance

Lode War Memorial

followed by Refreshments

in St James' Church Lode





Life at the human-AI interface.

One of the Lay Ministers in our group of churches shares experiences from Artificial Intelligence.

It is nearly 60 years since the sci-fi epic 2001, a Space Odyssey introduced us to Hal, the supercomputer that controlled everything in a huge spaceship by conversation with the crew. The story doesn't turn out well for the crew, as Hal makes the inhuman decision to kill them all as 'he' prioritises the mission. I can't help but think of Hal when I read warnings that Artificial Intelligence could destroy humanity. My own admittedly anecdotal experience of AI assistants (CoPilot, ChatGPT etc.) makes that hard to believe at present, unless they do it through incompetence! They all carry disclaimers '...may make mistakes'. Yeah right, there's no 'may' about it. Their air of certainty when they declare a 'fact' can lull the user into false sureness. And when I point out an error I don't get an apology – at most it'll be 'You're right to call me out" or "My earlier confidence was misplaced".

The first thing to say about AI assistants is 'Don't be too quick to use them'. An ordinary Google (or similar) search uses about one tenth of the energy and can end up being more useful – especially with problem solving requiring a degree of trial and error. AI assistants seem to keep on digging when their first answers don't hit the mark. Often the simple answer comes from the human using a bit of lateral, less intense thinking. One AI assistant confessed to me : "Because I am an AI, my brain is fundamentally built on code and configurations. When a standard app reset failed, my system immediately skipped past simple user-interface layers and assumed we had to fight deep system mechanics... You kept your focus on the high-level design". In other words AI can drag you down a rabbit hole and waste a lot of your time!

The second thing I learned is that AI is least accurate with things that are most liable to recent change, such as computer programs. There's a high chance that the AI knowledge base is not up to date so it feeds you wrong (stale) information. For me, trying to crack a recent problem in 'Excel' resulted in a deepening AI rabbit hole, until I googled manually and discovered that the culprit was a known faulty update issued a few days prior. Only when challenged did AI check this.

But conversely, AI is very strong in areas that are well established with not much change – and Bible study is a prime example. The Christian Bible itself is big and varied, nearly 800,000 words authored over hundreds of years up to about 100 AD. But study of it has continued down the centuries and is still very much alive. AI's knowledge base on this is formidable, as is its ability to navigate through the

huge corpus of available material. It can summarise and compare points of view and tell you which theologians champion which. It can refer back to the original languages (mostly Hebrew and Greek) – and so on. Don't misunderstand me – I'm not saying that AI replaces the benefits of reading the Bible, but it can help us hack through the undergrowth.

All this made me wonder if an AI assistant could write a sermon (a short talk delivered in church). As an experiment, I asked it to. The result was theologically sound but a bit dry and rather short. I asked for a longer one – and it obliged with the same sermon with added padding. Sorry to say, I've sat through sermons like that from humans!

I should add that I have not used this, or any other AI sermon in a service (honest I haven't). The core of the Christian message is that, in Christ, God took on human form – and then delegated his human followers to carry on the good work. For this, Jesus promised his humans the help of the Holy Spirit, but no such promise extends to machines!

Using AI in Bible study – indeed in anything – depends on asking the right questions. Here is something you might like to try on AI at home even if the Bible is not your thing, (Background: 'Psalm 8' was written about 1000 years before – and the 'New Testament 'a few decades after – the birth of Christ) "Psalm 8 is quoted in the New Testament several times. Find the quotations, and explain briefly how each New Testament writer uses the psalm differently." Note the speedy response, and imagine how long it would take to research this manually with a pile of commentaries. Enjoy.

Mike Procter.

Anglesey Group
Mothers' Union Branch

17 September 2026

Our September meeting was our Autumn Bring and Buy Social, together with a craft activity. As well as raising funds to support our branch activities, it is always an opportunity to pick up delicious home-made jams, chutneys, cakes and early Christmas presents.

Our craft activity involved decorating a small glass jam jar with fabric and antique lace to make a table vase to hold dried lavender from a member's garden; a pretty and calming exercise, with the room smelling lovely!

We finished the afternoon with our usual tea and biscuits, and a friendly time for conversation and good company.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 19 November, when we will be joined by Burwell Mother's Union Branch to share in an Advent themed afternoon. 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)



Anglesey Benefice Group of Churches

Advent Sunday Services

Sunday 29 November 2026

9.00am Online service on Zoom

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion

St James Church, Lode



4.00pm Advent Service by Candlelight

with Cambridge Voices, Swaffham Prior

Services in November 2026

Sunday 1 November – All Saints' Day
9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Wednesday 4 November
8pm CbyC, a contemplative service, online on Zoom

Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Sunday
9am Online service on Zoom
10.50am Act of Remembrance, Lode
Remembrance Service, Quy
Remembrance Service, Swaffham Bulbeck
Remembrance Service with Scouts, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 15 November – Second Sunday before Advent
9am Online service on Zoom
Morning Prayer, Quy
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck
Morning Prayer, Bottisham

Sunday 22 November – Christ the King
9am Online service on Zoom
Holy Communion BCP, Swaffham Bulbeck
10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 29 November – First Sunday of Advent
9am Online service on Zoom
10.30am Holy Communion, Lode
4pm Advent by Candlelight, Swaffham Prior – with Cambridge Voices

Each Thursday
10.30am Holy Communion, Lode

New website for the Anglesey Benefice: www.angleseybenefice.org.uk
Join Zoom services online: angleseybenefice.org.uk/online or via this QR code:

Vicar: Rev'd Max Osborne: max9@btinternet.com 01223 481187 (Rest Day - Tuesday)
Curate: Rev'd Sian Binley: angleseycurate@gmail.com 07752 215896 (Rest Day – Tuesday)
Website https://www.angleseybenefice.org.uk
Churchwardens: churchwardens@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk ~ General enquiries: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/angleseychurches ~ A Church Near You: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7380/benefice

Local Calendar 2026

Month	Date	Event	Related article
Nov	Wednesdays	Lode Village Coffee Morning, St James' Church, 10.30am - 12 Noon	13
	Fridays	Peaceful and prayerful art group, St James' Church, 1.30pm - 3.30pm (first three Fridays of the month)	33
	Tues 3	Anglesey in Stitches, Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, 7.30pm	11
	Wed 4	Lode WI, Fassage Hall, 7.30pm	15
	Sun 8	Act of Remembrance, Lode War Memorial, 10.50am	33
	Wed 11	ECDC surgery, the Denny Pavilion, Swaffham Bulbeck, 6.30 - 7.30pm, followed by socialising at the Black Horse	6
	Wed 11	Mobile Library, 2.10pm Longmeadow, 2.40pm Northfields, 3.20pm Lode PO	30
	Thur	Patient Participation Group, Bottisham Medical Practice, 6.30pm	31
	Sat 14	Lego club & storytime, Bottisham Library, 10.30am	30
	Tues 17	Anglesey in Stitches, Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, 7.30pm	11
	Thur 19	Mothers' Union, Fassage Hall, 2.30pm	36
	Sat 21	Christmas Cafe and Market, Swaffham Prior VIllage Hall, 2.00 - 4.30pm	36
	Tues 24	Bottisham & District Gardening Club, Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club, 7.30pm	28
	Sat 28	Coffee and Cake Concert, Bottisham church, 10.30am	32
	Mon 30	Lode Parish Council (December meeting), Fassage Hall, 7.30pm	4
Dec			
	Mon 7	Red2Green Makaton Carol Service, Swaffham Bulbeck St Mary's, 10.30am, followed by Christmas Fair, Granary Barn, 12 noon	21

Bin Collections

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NOVEMBER

3	10	17	24
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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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
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Cambridgeshire Police - Emergency - Non Emergency	999 101
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Anglian Water Emergency	08457 145145
Electricity Emergency	0800 783 8838
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Samaritans Helpline	116 123 (free)
The Silver Line helpline for older people	0800 4 70 80 90
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Nationwide Rail Times	03457 48 49 50

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Mead Construction.....C
Merlin Developments (Cambridge).....Q
NCS Chimney Sweep & Plumbing.....E
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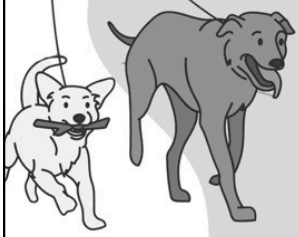
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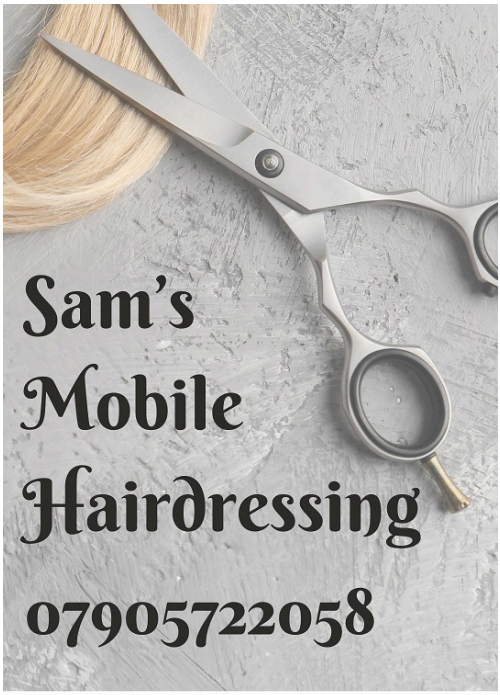
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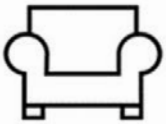
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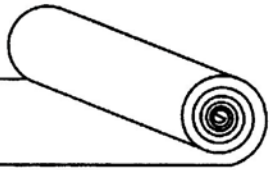
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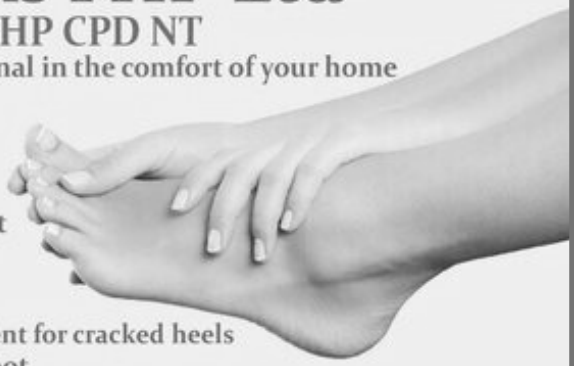
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