

THE Cresset

March 2020



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

REMEMBER THE GREAT VILLAGE FETE IN JUNE THIS YEAR?

Following the success of last summer's Community Fete,
a similar event is being planned for

**Saturday 6th June 2020
on the Primary School Field**

All organisations from the village and surrounding villages
are welcome to take part in the event.

It is again intended to be a fund raising/showcase event for
the benefit of your organisation.

If you would like to have a stall or pitch,
to share your ideas,

please email bottishamvillagefete@hotmail.com

The Village Fete for all the Village.



YOUR MARCH EDITORIAL



The picture opposite may at first sight look like a cheeky joke, but in reality, has a ring of truth. Sent in, slightly tongue in cheek by a regular contributor, it carries with it a clear message.

Last month a group of dedicated locals spent several hours litter picking around Lode and Bottisham. But this shouldn't need doing. There are a large number of people who will throw their rubbish out of their car without a thought about who has to do the clearing up.

It is noticeable that one can almost calculate the time it takes to eat a MacDonald's, judging by the frequency that one sees the branded bag of rubbish thrown onto the verge of the A1303 between Quy and 9 mile hill, no doubt bought from the outlet at the Barnwell roundabout.

There is also a lot of discussion at the moment about plastic pollution and the affect the human race is having on the planet. Well, the solution needs to be, that everybody, down to an individual level, do their bit and that includes taking responsibility for their own rubbish. Take it home and put it in a recycling bin. Don't mess up the countryside.

Can't let the editorial go by without my usual moan about the weather. Wet and windy just doesn't do it justice. We seem to have lost those keen sharp frosty days that we knew were doing us good. Killing the bugs and breaking up the ground. Recent weather has just made us miserable. Hopefully the next month will see the move to spring proper and some warmer days.

There is the old saying that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Well roll on, I say.

Lots to go at this month with the regular articles, comments and reports, plus some new contributions. It is good to have updates on all that goes on in Bottisham, so if you are involved in some activity in the village, then don't keep it to yourself, do let us know what you are up to. You never know, it might well attract some newcomers.

By the same token there is a report from the Bottisham youth football club who need a new manager for the girls' team. If they can't get one, then the team will have to fold. This would be a great shame and would leave some very disappointed football mad girls.

Planning now and the parish council planning notes have another raft of applications being processed. Some will be passed, and some refused. This village will inevitably get

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

bigger as time goes by, but we are all too aware of the limits of the infrastructure that there is around us. Tankers relieving the sewage works. More tarmac covered areas helping flooding incidents in the village. Roads around us are choked with traffic. I hear it can take more than an hour and a half to get to Trumpington in the morning by car but given dry weather it takes about half that time to cycle! – Oh to be young and fit!

One vainly hopes that the highlighting of these issues and other ones will be taken into account when it comes to major moves like the application for 140+ new retirement homes.

Finally, can I draw your attention to the Let's Dance advert on (page 49). In error it says the Black-tie option is in March. However, it should read 'May 2nd – (Black tie option)'. Apologies to Sue & Frank.

Our cover this month is of those classic Mad March hares. Here they are establishing their rights, not in Bottisham but in Orkney. Picture courtesy of Kay Morgan

Have a good month and look forward to warmer weather.

Spotted Flycatchers

Have you got this increasingly rare bird breeding in your garden? Let us know!

In recent years many Cambridgeshire community and parish newsletters, magazines and websites have helped with a County-wide survey of Spotted Flycatchers. These are attractive little migrant birds which are summer visitors to village gardens and churchyards. Although they breed with us, they spend up to nine months of the year travelling as much as 16,000 miles a year between here and their wintering grounds in Southern Africa – Angola and Namibia. This is an increasingly dangerous journey for them, and sadly they are in deep decline. Widespread losses amounted to a 50% decline during 1995-2010, continuing an 90% decline since 1970.

Only a few hundred pairs remain breeding in Cambridgeshire, but most villages still have a pair or two; they rarely breed out in the wider countryside. We are continuing our work to find and monitor nesting pairs. It's almost certain that there are many additional pairs out there of which we are not aware.

Do you have flycatchers in your garden? Will you see one this year, or have you in recent years? The few that remain are here from mid-May to September. And there's lots more to read about our project and Spotted Flycatchers in general at bit.ly/SpotFly

Please email: spofl@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk with any sightings.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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



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Bottisham Library Association

Far be it for me to advise on health, well-being and relief from stress but recent January newspaper articles have come up with several remedies to help millennials and seniors.

1 Take up reading – large print books, fiction of all genres and non-fiction readily available

2 Start doing jigsaws – the younger you are the better. We have a large excellent selection for young with recently donated ones available for free.

3 Build with Lego – as an adult you may not have any Lego of your own. Feel free to come on a Tuesday or Friday evening 6-8pm and use the boxes of Lego we hold for our Saturday morning sessions. Tables available with comfy chairs and some Lego ideas books to get you started.

I know the resolution period has passed but as you have probably already broken them start anew and support our Library

We were very pleased with the Quiz evening on the 8th February with the maximum 16 tables filled. A welcome £500 has been added to our funds. Thanks to all who helped and those who came and supported us yet again. Many thanks also to Bill Sumner from Bottisham Stores who made a generous contribution towards winners' prizes and a raffle prize.

Sylvia Overton

Services in the Anglesey Benefice in March 2020

Sunday 1st	8am	Holy Communion (BCP) at Swaffham Bulbeck
	9.30am	Village Worship at Quy
	11am	Holy Communion at Bottisham
Wednesday 4th	8pm	“C by C” (Short candlelit meditative service) at Bottisham
Sunday 8th	9.30am	Village Communion at Swaffham Bulbeck
	11am	Family Communion at Lode
Sunday 15th	8am	Holy Communion (BCP) at Bottisham
	9.30am	Holy Communion at Quy
	11am	Family Service at Swaffham Prior
Sunday 22nd	9.30am	Children’s Church at Lode
	9.30am	Morning Worship at Quy
	11am	Holy Communion at Swaffham Prior
Sunday 29th	9.30am	Morning Worship at Swaffham Bulbeck
	11am	Holy Communion at Bottisham
	6pm	Evensong at Swaffham Prior

EVERYONE WILL BE WELCOME AT ANY OF THESE SERVICES!

Invitation

TO THE RESIDENTS OF BOTTISHAM

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY 19th MAY 2020**

7.30pm

POPPY ROOM, BOTTISHAM COMMUNITY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
ALL WELCOME

Claire Fullwood – tel: 07914 219732 - clerk@bottishampc.co.uk



Living the questions ...

Hello, thanks for reading this page once again, I appreciate it.

I continue my series of 'living the questions' and hope this is something that gets you thinking as it did me.

One of the things I get to do quite a lot is care for people through illness and death, and care for their loved ones too. That probably doesn't come as much of a surprise, but it may surprise you to hear that I really thrive in that part of my ministry. Many of my colleagues hate doing funeral services, but I really love and value this part of my life and ministry. Obviously, these times are not fun, but they are really significant, and I count it a huge privilege and honour to be a small part of helping people through such times by being there for them, leading them through, and sharing words of comfort and hope.

The prospect of death raises all kinds of questions about 'how then shall I live?' It is a sobering and potentially transformative act to ponder the life that has been lived. What things of real worth will have been left behind for others? Are they marked by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?

Will you join me in reflecting on these questions personally? What legacy do you want to leave behind? How will people describe you? The Bible says that the evidence of a life lived well, a life lived God's way, will be love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. They are known as the 'fruit of the Spirit'. That's how I want to be known.

If your thoughts on these questions lead you to want to continue the conversation and I can be of any help, please do get in touch, I'd be very happy to listen and chat. You are also, as ever, very welcome to join us at RENEW Church, a bunch of ordinary people looking to Jesus and trying our best to follow Him together.

God bless you today, and enable you to be a blessing to others.

Rev'd Alan

RENEW Services for March 2020

Sunday Morning worship is held at Bottisham Primary School
The services begin at 10.30 am

Croissants and drinks are available from 10.10 am.

Everyone is welcome to all our services

We have activity groups for children and young people

For more information about any of the activities of RENEW Church
please contact:

Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558.

Email: alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk

Or visit our website at www.renewchurch.org.uk



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Consequent to a recent talk on recycling a small group of us visited the Waterbeach Waste Management Park run by Amey. This was an interesting morning – we managed 9 out of 10 for our ability in sorting items for the green bin, blue bin and black sack. We were told that recyclable items placed in the black bin bags need to be removed by them and have no financial value.

Please ensure that all waste items are correctly placed in the correct bin or bag.

We were taken around by minibus wearing hard hats and hi visibility vests to see what was happening to our discarded Christmas trees. These with the other contents of the green bin are composted in huge vats for 6-8 weeks and rotated under very high temperatures. The resulting compost can be collected free from the site bring your own bag.

Please do not place starch - based magazine covers in the green bin. These must go in your own home compost and should disintegrate in a year.

We saw the 3mile conveyor belt – not an employee in sight - which efficiently segregates the blue bin items and also the finished bales of paper, cans, plastic etc which are sold on in the UK.

Please also ensure that no batteries are put into any of the bins. They can cause serious fires.

The many school groups who visit are reminded of the following **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RECOVER OR DISPOSAL.**

Alison Giles from Burwell Museum explained at our monthly meeting how the museum has grown since a group saved the 1820 clunch built windmill from demolition and now stretches over a large site with many separate buildings. She brought several items from the museum many generously donated over the years. She explained how Burwell featured in the Domesday book and was then a farming community but the only 2 items to note was the castle built in 1144 (which no longer exists) and the dreadful fire in 1727 when over 80 people, mainly children were killed watching a puppet show in a barn. This represented 10%of the villagers and was even reported in the London press. We shall surely visit this local facility when it reopens on Thursdays and Sundays from Easter to October.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 17th March 2020 at Queens Court at 7.30 pm. It is our AGM.

We shall be having cheese and wine after the review of the past year.

Visitors and new members are most welcome.

Sylvia Overton



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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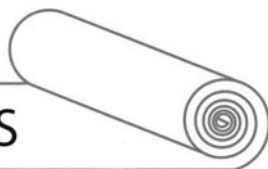


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Our District Councillor reported at our February meeting that the Bus Review Group had produced a questionnaire to go to ECDC residents in March (to be returned by 19th April). Cllr Bill Sunner has offered the village shop as a drop-off point. The questionnaire will cover walking and cycling routes as well as buses. Bottisham is poorly served by public transport compared to many other Cambridgeshire villages and we urge residents to complete the questionnaire. Groups have been set up to discuss improvements that can be made within the County and District Councils. Stagecoach are participating in some of these discussions and we hope for an improvement to the service that Bottisham receives.

At the time of writing work had started on the A1303 to remove trees and put up a barrier to improve safety. County Councillor Shuter has had several enquiries regarding the tree removal and commented that the removal has been kept to a minimum to achieve the required improvements advised by the experts. Each tree will be replaced by another planted elsewhere, although he is driving for this to increase to two trees in the future. Speed will be reduced to 40mph near the Quy roundabout. He would prefer a speed reduction at the two junctions into Bottisham. However, this is not supported by the Police. It is not enforceable and they feel it lulls drivers into a false sense of security when they are pulling out of the junction (as some vehicles will not slow down). There is more sense at Quy, as the vehicles coming off the roundabout haven't yet gained speed.

C/Cllr Shuter has asked the County Council to re-look at their tree policy. Some of you will be aware that a significant large tree in Lode was removed by Highways. This was in response to a request by a resident, to which a highways officer agreed, as he has the authority to do so. This has caused a lot of upset with local residents in Lode. C/Cllr Shuter has asked that the policy is reviewed, so that the removal of any large tree, or tree planted in a significant place, is not removed without consultation with the parish council and nearby residents.

Regarding the proposed new cemetery off of Lode Road, the latest geophysical survey came through showing nothing of great significance. Cllr Ogborn is hopeful that we will soon get approval from the National Trust to go ahead with the compulsory purchase of the land.

Although we have not officially been told, one of our Councillors had heard that the phone box on the 'triangle' is being removed. This is not a traditional type of phone box and there were no concerns regarding this.

Outline planning for the site N.E. of 32 Tunbridge Lane which was on the corner of Lysander Close has been refused by the District Council. This was a commercially allocated site and the refusal stated there had been no attempt to market the site as such. We await further communications regarding this. Regarding the proposed retirement village there has been some investigative work being carried out on site, but we still await an application. A report on current planning matters and the proposed retirement village is available on the website by clicking on the scrolling banners (www.bottishampc.co.uk)

The date for our Annual Parish Meeting has been set for Tuesday 19th May, 7.30pm in the Poppy Room at the Community Sports and Social Club. All residents are welcome to attend

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to find out what the Parish Council has been up to this past year and hear plans for the future.

Finally, we are looking to recruit a new Parish Clerk. After 15 years I have decided that it is time to hang up my boots and will be leaving at the end of September. The position is advertised in this month's Cresset. If anyone is interested, please contact the Chairman Mr Jon Ogborn or myself for further details.

Claire Fullwood – Parish Clerk

ECDC Councillor's Notes

East Cambs will shortly be sending out a questionnaire about buses, walking and cycling between 9-14 March. Please use this to share your views about what you want in or local area. You can post it back to the Council, or drop it off at the Bottisham Post Office & Village Stores, or you can complete it on-line - <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/roads-transport/bus-services-and-cycling-and-walking-routes-consultation>. John and Charlotte are holding three meetings to listen to your ideas and your discussion, all at 7.30 pm – Monday 23 March in the Poppy Room at the Bottisham Sports and Social Club, Monday 30 March at the Memorial Hall in Brinkley, and Thursday 2 April in the Small Hall in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

The Council is also consulting on two Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). One covers Self-Build and the other covers the Natural Environment. The SPD on the Natural Environment is especially important for our area, as we are in the Devils Dyke 'buffer zone' and the Dyke goes through some of our villages. We also have Green Belt and other areas of significant natural habitat. These SPDs add policy to the Council's Local Plan and will become criteria against which planning applications will be judged. You can take part in these consultations at - www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/supplementary-planning-documents

The Operations sub-committee has decided to stop supporting Citizens Advice Rural Cambridgeshire with an annual subsidy of £47,000, but instead augmenting the ECDC advice service. There were many members of the public who stated their preference for an advisory service independent of the Council, and for one that would have more breadth and depth. We have 'called in' the decision, so that it will be reviewed by Full Council. The subsidy to Citizens Advice West Suffolk based in Newmarket, which is probably of more use to residents in our ward, will continue. The Citizens Advice in Cambridge is also available.

Other sources of advice in the area are ECDC, telephone 01353 665555, who have an out of hours service for emergencies. Charlotte and John are also happy to help and our contact details are published in the village magazines and websites and East Cambs website.

Our next Councillors' Surgery is on Tuesday 31 March at 6.30 in Lode Village Hall, followed by meet your councillors at the Shed in Lode. NB this is a change of date from that previously advertised. Our following surgery will be on Wednesday 22 April in the Memorial Hall, Brinkley.

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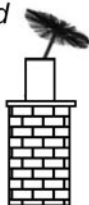
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20/00002/VAR Garages to N.E of 17 Howlett Way, To vary condition 1 (approved plans) of previously approved 16/01250/FUL for demolition of existing garage/workshop and construction of 2 no. one bed apartment. NEW APPLICATION

20/000056/VAR 85 High Street, Variation of Condition 13 (approved plans) of previously approved 18/01631/FUL (granted by appeal) for change of use including associated works to car park/amenity area. NEW APPLICATION

19/01574/VAR Former Police Station, Bell Road, To vary Condition 1 of previously approved 16/01464/FUL for redevelopment of former police station, APPLICATION APPROVED BY ECDC

19/01577/OUT Site N.E of 32 Tunbridge Lane, Outline application for the erection of up to 2.no dwellings together with associated infrastructure and landscaping. APPLICATION REFUSED BY ECDC

19/01613/FUL 6 Cedar Walk Proposed new ground floor extension, 1st floor extension and new entrance porch to front APPLICATION APPROVED BY ECDC

19/01651/VAR 139a High Street, Variation of Conditions 1 (approved plans) and 3 (vehicle parking) of previously approved 05/01137/FUL for demolition of existing house & construction of 4 no. three bed houses and garages. Resubmission of 19/00478/VAR. APPLICATION APPROVED BY ECDC

Clerk to Bottisham Parish Council

Applications are invited for the above position in a village of 1750 electors. This is a home-based permanent position for a minimum of 12 hours/week (workload will vary over the weeks, so flexibility will be required). Equipment is provided and a home working allowance.

The salary is aligned with national pay scales and pro-rata ranges from £6096-£7730/annum, dependent on experience and qualifications. However, there may be flexibility beyond this for the right person.

Key features of the role are:

1. Attendance at ordinary meetings, documenting and circulation of agendas and minutes, together with comprehensive administrative support. Meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month (excluding August and on bank holidays when the meeting is held on a Tuesday).
2. Attendance and provision of administrative support to Parish Council Committees/workgroups and the Annual Meeting.
3. Responsibility for all financial records of the Council and the careful administration of its finances, including audit. You will be required to store Parish Council records and documents securely.
4. Managing the cemeteries and grass-cutting around the village.

Continued on page 15



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5. The primary administrative point of contact and correspondent with residents and external bodies.

The candidate will be expected to work towards the CILCA qualification for Parish Clerks (if not already qualified), for which the Council will provide support. You will require strong communication and organisational skills and be self-motivated. A working knowledge of local government procedures is desirable, although not essential.

The successful candidate will commence employment on 1st September 2020 and work alongside the current Clerk for 1 month.

A full job description and Person Specification is available from the Parish Clerk at: clerk@bottishampc.co.uk. Tel: 07914 219732.

To apply for the position please send your CV and a covering letter to the Chair of Council at: jon.ogborn@bottishampc.co.uk.

Closing date for applications is 30/04/2020, with interviews in early May.

Bottisham and District Gardening Club

Start gave us a whistle stop tour of two and a half thousand years History of Gardening in England. He used several well -known paintings to illustrate his talk and told us that even in Stone Age times there was evidence of cereal crops being grown showing us that there was already a link between cultivation and civilisation and our forebears were not just hunter gatherers. Roman Britain introduced us to villas and gardens with box hedging, roses, apples and onions and monastic gardens that were mainly used for growing herbs and medicinal plants. The first book about gardening was written in 1440 in English and called "The Feate of Gardening". Woodcuts even showed the art of grafting for fruit trees in the 16th Century. Tudor and Stuart Gardens provided statement gardens for the aristocracy with knot gardens, mazes and parterres to be viewed from the upper floors of the mansion (saved one getting rained on). Plant hunters who travelled widely brought back exotic plants and John Tradescant introduced us to poppies, lupins, cos lettuce and scarlet runners and of course the tradescantia plant. Tulip Fever in the Netherlands where bulbs were bought for the price of a large house, the potato was brought to England by Sir Walter Raleigh. Garden designers, William Kent, Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton all had their part to play. Arts and Crafts Gardens with Gertrude Jekyll and Christopher Lloyd, Sissinghurst and Fellbrigg and other National Trust Gardens were all shown. The Great Exhibition with its Glasshouses, Kew Gardens, Chelsea Flower Show and the Chelsea Physic Garden, the Dig for Victory Campaign of the 2nd World War and allotment gardens brought us nearly up to date. Now we have smaller gardens and have to use Grow bags, pots and containers but we do have many, many seeds, plants and trees available to us. An interesting and amusing talk.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 24th March 2020 when Peter Green** will tell us about "**The use of Konik Ponies and Highland Cattle in Conserving Wicken Fen Wetlands**"

We meet in the Poppy Room at the Club and start at 7.30 and new members and visitors are most welcome.

Sylvia Overton

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The membership of the club is now over 500 but we need more people to come on a regular basis in order to keep all the benefits that exist. If you are not a member have a look at our website www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk or come in and have a look at our facilities. Membership is £20 per year. (£21 in the first year).

WHAT'S ON

LOADED DICE ROCK BAND- SATURDAY 14th MARCH

in aid of this year's chosen charity - **The Teenage Cancer Trust**. All door proceeds to be given to the charity.

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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Thanks: Thank you to those patients who have written letters of support for the practice in objection to the proposed planned retirement village. There are lots of kind comments supporting how the practice is running at present and supporting the objections raised by the practice partners.

Red Bucket Appeal: Thanks to all who have been contributing to this. We currently have £760.48 to go towards the purchase of the Doppler Machine, which is useful for checking circulation particularly in diabetic patients to ensure early treatment. This is about half what it will cost.

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park (none in March) 8 and 24 April, 6 and 22 May 2020. Do join Steve for a walk he would be delighted to see you. Walks from Anglesey Abbey continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Patient Group Meeting: Next meeting will be Thursday 26 March 2020 at 6.30pm at the surgery. The committee would welcome any patients who are interested in issues and ongoing fundraising at the meeting, so do come along.

AGM: Thursday 30 April 2020 7pm at the surgery when one of the GPs will speak.

Bottisham Patients' Participation Group

Sales, Wants and Swaps



IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL OR WANT TO BUY OR EVEN TO SWAP, THEN THIS PAGE IS YOURS TO USE. Send details of Item, price and landline Phone Number to BottishamCresset@gmail.com. Max. 5 Items. Entries by 12th of the month for next months issue.

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Oakland Furniture, Solid wood. Lge Coffee Table with Drawer and Tv Unit. Need TLC. due to storage hence low price.	£75/£50	811555



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

K.J.P.

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In February we highlighted the need for continuing support for our 'Mission 24/7' which, it is planned, will come into effect later this year or early 2021. The purpose of this is to increase the availability of Critical Care Teams both day and night by helicopter, and Rapid Response Vehicles where time constraints dictate. Currently EAAA is the only HEMS service, flown by two pilots and approved by the CAA flying at night, which covers not only our four counties but also Herts and Essex.

Currently the most frequent callouts are to cardiac arrests – about 30% of all missions. EAAA is working hard to increase the ability of members of the public to perform CPR – we estimate that 'bystander CPR' performed until first responders arrive on scene, raises the chances of patients surviving to over 50/50.

Social Media – Many of our supporters keep in touch through Facebook, Twitter and via our website. Here are three stories you might like to read:

Andrew – Twitter: just signed a monthly DD for @EastAngliaAirAmb. Had the pleasure of watching them work alongside @EastEnglandAmb crew over the BH weekend at a medical emergency I attended. Brilliant teamwork all involved! They deserve our support. One day we may need theirs. **Louise – Facebook:** Amazing quick response. Air-lifted my husband from work to NNUH helping to save his life – eternally grateful.

Skinny – Facebook: I want to thank Tim, Edd and the aircrew on Anglia 2 who saved my life on 2nd September after an horrific motorbike crash. Thanks to you I get to see my family again – massive thanks!

A date for your diaries ? – a long way off I know but if you would like to find out (a lot) more about EAAA, and meet many members of staff, trustees, patients and their families, why not come along to the EAAA Roadshow at the Memorial Hall, Newmarket on Friday 2nd October from 6pm onwards. I'll remind you nearer the time !

We are always looking for fundraising events and opportunities – please get in touch if you are planning to walk, run, swim or drop out of a flying machine (by parachute of course!) – we will support you in any way we can.

Michael Whit

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB

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Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

Well as the globe has kept turning and another year gets into its stride, and amongst my already broken and forgotten new year resolutions, yearly predictions and wishes for 2020 I still wonder what the “trendsetters” in photography will be showing us this year.....

Knowing what the “top trends” are in photography can be incredibly useful. Whether for competition, for your home images, knowing what is hot can help make your images stand out from the rest. And mine.

So, without further ado, and because it will be fun to look back at the end of the year and see how many I got right, here are my top trends for photography in 2020. Look out world you have been warned!!

VIBRANT COLOURS - The stronger the colours the louder your image will shout. I’m not talking about using HDR (Hyper Dynamic Range) to take your image to 11, I’m talking about keeping it vibrant and natural. As a photographer you need to aim for natural scenes. As luck would have it, graffiti, wall paintings, and other outdoor designs are trendy at the moment and allows them to stand out. Try and be as natural as possible with bright colours such as flowers to keep your viewers’ attention.

VERTICAL IS THE WAY UP - I know, it’s hard to call an images orientation a trend, but I expect to see more vertical images over the next year. Those “in the know” say this is “the best way to capture the flow of a scene”. Waffle I call it.

This trend is definitely as a result of the growing use of smart phones. Each image captured on a phone is vertical unless you turn it sideways. Please try it, taking your phone photos sideways...

This is a massive jump from DSLRs, SLRs and new mirrorless cameras that are designed to mainly take images in the horizontal position.

If you want to try a vertical photo, find a scene that fits the vertical frame, not vice-versa.

CLOUD STORAGE - As oats is oats, technology moves forward and cameras gain better and better resolutions, which is great, however, a bigger resolution means bigger files are needed to hold more information taken from the scenes you have captured. Hello Cloud Storage.

The cloud is a way to store and move your images from device to device wirelessly. There are lots of companies out there, such as Google and Apple which offer cloud storage which are open to everyone. They all offer a small amount of space for free, expandable for a fee.

The great thing about this type of storage is you can have access to your images anywhere – although you will need a connection to the internet to do so.

If you take photos with your phone, you can set up your phone to store you images to a cloud service straight away allowing you to edit your images on the go..... I’ve got an Amazon Prime account and that comes with free cloud storage up to a 1TB.

FILM - Well I’ve been saying this for a while now, not that anyone listens, but film photography is growing once again. You might not believe me, but not every photographer wants a digital experience. Me, well I spent my teenage years smelling of developer and

Continued from page 25

Craft and Create

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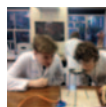
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fixer, so I'm more than happy with my digital camera and laptop. Working with photographic film offers photographers a way to discover the base of this visual world and on top of that, you have a physical tangible object you've created yourself after capturing your image.

A LINK WITH THE ENVIRONMENT - A natural setting for your photographs will fit right into the current trend of environmental issues. And rightly so. Whatever type of photography you are into, take your photography outside, show that connection with the greater outdoors. But be mindful for the impact you create when out looking for that perfect sunset.

GOODBYE DSLR - We have entered a new era of photography. Like it or not, camera manufactures are now looking into new types of devices, such as mirrorless camera. These cameras are smaller, quieter, weigh less and still retain great resolution.

So why carry a large camera with extra weight? As more of us photographers travel from place to place, (I know what I said above about the environment, but those mountains won't come to me living on the edge of the fens) a lightweight camera will be very handy.

The future is not Cannon or Nikon shaped, many other camera manufactures offer great and cheaper versions. Although I would never give up my big old Canon.

MINIMALISM - Each and every year I look at my images and evaluate them through a very critical magnifying glass. Complexity has always been a key in my photography, and I'm not the only photographer to use techniques on top of composition and extra colour management.

If you want your images to stand out in 2020, my top tip is to take a step back. Look for something that makes your image different, take a more minimalist approach. It's hard. I know, I'm still trying.

Less noise in your composition will mean more focus on the images subject. This goes for portrait photography, fashion, street, landscape photography etc. The more minimal you can make your image the better.

So, when approaching a scene, look at what can be removed, not added. Aim for a simpler scene or background.

So, these are my photographic trends for 2020. I'd take them with a very large bucket of salt, or not, we will have to see what this year brings us. I for one will be out and about trying some of these trends to see what will be. Hope to see you out and about as well.

Whatever the trend is, find out more about it by coming along to the Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club. We meet every Tuesday at the chapel in Lode at 7:30pm. Come along, meet the members and have a cup of tea and a natter about photography. Or visit our web site at www.bottburpc.org to find out more about the club and what we get up to. As well as all this, the club has a Facebook page too. Look for Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club next time you have a spare moment or too.

Happy Snapping - Elliot Needham, Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club.



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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News from Queens Court

As a long established part of village life, Queens Court is nestled near to the primary school and Bottisham Sports and Social Club, it has quietly offered care and support since the early 1970's from its unassuming building. It is well known for its homely and welcoming atmosphere and high standards of care, but what may not be common knowledge is that it is now been recognised as being in the top 3.5% of care homes nationally.

Inspectors from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) gave MHA Queens Court top marks during their recent inspection of the 55-place residential home, saying that all at the home were 'very dedicated to providing care and support to people in an individual and meaningful way'.

In addition, inspectors said about the home, run by national older person's charity Methodist Homes (MHA) that:

- Staff knew people's needs in details, including their likes and dislikes, and had the knowledge, skills and support necessary to meet these needs
- One person described how staff had 'given them their life back'
- People and their families were supported with outstanding end of life care
- Healthcare professionals were highly complementary about the support residents received and the excellent working relationships they had with the staff
- MHA and staff went the extra mile to make sure people received the values of warmth, love, compassion, hope, humour and respect
- The home had strong leadership and an open and supportive culture.

Queens Court manager Yvonne Dawson said: "This report is recognition of the hard work, dedication and support of all those who work and volunteer at Queens Court. We all want the very best for our residents, and strive to ensure their individual needs are met, and that the home is a caring and homely environment.

"The whole team at Queens Court has our residents' needs at the heart of everything they do, from the little things like the team making sure there are fresh flowers in a room when someone moves in through to organising for a Chinese takeaway to be delivered because people had said they would like one."

MHA's Director of Operations Dan Ryan said: "Yvonne and the whole team at Queens Court should be congratulated on achieving an 'outstanding' report from CQC and the feedback from the inspection team.

"I am proud of the great care they give our residents and their families."

The CQC inspection report for MHA Queens Court care home can be read on the CQC website or a hard copy is available at the home.

The team are quite rightly proud of this recognition of their devotion and hard work. If you would like more information on the home for yourself or a loved one for either residential or Day Care, or if you'd like to become part of our outstanding team please get in touch: 01223 811905 email queenscourt@mha.org.uk (find us on Facebook at "Friends of Queens Court".)

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A course of lectures on Famous Russian Women in World History and Culture is proving very popular. Topics ranging from Women in Power and Politics, Art and Literature, the Womanly Face of War and Women in Modern Russia. We have learned about some exceptional women from terrorists to heroines.

After the last session of this term, Thursday 19th March, there will be a short AGM. Please stay and share your views of the first two terms of BALA.

Plans are in place for Autumn term 2020 and Spring term 2021. There will be more details nearer the time.

Please contact Ann at meadeann7@gmail.com for further information.

Helen Cole

Bottisham Youth Football

Bottisham football continues to thrive with teams from under 14 to under 6's with two only girls teams at under 9 and under 13.

Unfortunately, the manager of the girls side is having to stand down at the end of the season and at the moment we have no one to take up the vacancy. If we cannot fill this post by the end of May then the team will have to fold. The club would prefer not to do this but will offer plenty of support to any candidate that steps forward.

On a brighter note Bottisham FC has been accepted as an accredited girls wildcats centre as such we will be offering football sessions for girls aged between 5 and 11 in the near future. So please watch this space.

The Cambridge & District Colts League is celebrating its 50th year of providing football for the youth of Cambridgeshire this year, if you have any old photographs of teams that played in the Colts league I would be pleased to receive scanned copies so that they can be displayed at our Cup Finals during April and May at Cambridge Football Stadium.

Jim Tideswell - James.t@talktalk.net

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB

RACE NIGHT

Saturday 7th March 2020

Starts 7.30pm - First Race 8.00pm

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- Talk to you about fire safety in the home
- Check your property to identify any fire hazards
- Check that you have at least one working smoke alarm on each level of your home
- Fit FREE ten-year smoke alarms as appropriate
- Provide you with fire safety advice and show you how to test your smoke alarms
- Talk about escape plans, so that you can escape safely if a fire starts
- Provide advice, or link you into organisations that can help you, if you need support with other issues such as health, wellbeing or crime prevention.

To find out if you are eligible for a visit, please call us on 01480 444500 or email us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk.

Smoke Alarms - Did you know that you should test your smoke alarms at least once a month, but fortnightly would be preferable, or that you should have smoke alarms on every floor of your home? These are your 'first line of defence'. We all have waste collection calendars – on the side of the fridge or in a cupboard – “which bin is it this week?” Why not choose blue or green and mark it RED to remind you to test your smoke alarms?

Another thought, which may enable you to help save a life. Download onto your 'phone, or other device, the app 'what3words'. It allows you to direct CFRS or any other emergency service, including EAAA, right to the spot. Amazing! Think of the critical time saving. No more “it's near so-and-so” or “I'm new to the area so I don't know” etc. Visit this website for more helpful tips and advice. <https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/>

Michael White

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Copy deadline for next issue is 14th March.

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Progress?! The bad section of footpath between the A1303 and High St., Bottisham has had tarmac blobs put on the worst bits. Apparently, they would have been left over from a larger job that Highways were working on. It is the path as you come home from Newmarket on the 12 bus. It is important that we use what buses we have so that the services aren't cancelled. There are continuing talks at district and county level about improving the routes and availability. Plans appear regularly in the Cambridge News with maps of the proposed routes. There is a wish to ease congestion and pollution.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has the City Access scheme. There have been a series of 'tube' maps showing the bus routes now and how things could be improved – but in the next few years! Consulting and Engineering firm Systra Ltd were commissioned to carry out a bus network planning exercise with a focus on enhancing the bus network and connections to Cambridge. Improvements to operating hours were considered important to attract commuters.

New residential areas in the City and rural areas should see a better service. They do not see all buses going through the villages but having points where they would link up with faster buses. The 12 presently offers this sort of service. With more buses on the roads, methods would need to be introduced to limit the number of cars coming into Cambridge. I do feel rather sceptical. Problems exist now and all these bus routes and hubs are way in the future. It seems that the talking has been going on for so long.

The promoters of the Metro system have now got problems as there is definitely going to be a new rail line which would run on a similar route to the suggested Metro system. The new Oxford rail link will see new stations at Cambourne and St. Neots. Local people are worried about preservation of the countryside and having 2 schemes both Metro and rail would see a lot of destruction. Is the rail route sufficient? East West rail would also have a link from Bedford to Cambridge via a link at a new station south of St. Neots at Tempsford and then on to a new station at Cambourne and then arriving in Cambridge. People say that this is a chance to show off once again our engineering skills and link the two top universities Oxford and Cambridge. A local resident queried how one would get from St. Neots to Tempsford – by car?

There are many problems with the rail routes and companies. South Western Rail could be taken into public ownership due to its large tax problems. Avanti West Coast has taken over from Virgin trains – avantiwestcoast.co.uk. Four of Europe's train companies have been in the High Court accusing the govt. of acting unlawfully in the tender process to run HS2 and other rail franchises – Virgin trains, Stagecoach, SNCF and Arriva the British division of Deutsche Bahn. Northern Rail has lost its franchise five years early. They have received very large subsidies from the public purse. The Swiss have won a trains deal for new trains for the Tyne and Wear Metro to be built overseas. This has understandably caused upset to the unions and politicians and a huge blow for the Hitachi factory which is short of work at its factory in Co. Durham.



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continued from page 31

Grant Shapps, the transport secretary, has revealed funds to reverse the Beeching cuts - the development of two lines in the North of England will be proposed.

We have left the EU but not Europe and it is hoped to establish rail links via the Channel Tunnel to Spain, Portugal as well as Eastern Europe.

Bombardier is proposing to sell its British business to Alstom.

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Happy travelling! - Paddy James



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Red2Green is a community based organisation located in the heart of Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck. We teach life skills for over 16s with autism spectrum conditions such as aspergers and high functioning autism. We also provide day opportunities for independence, key skills and fun for people with learning disabilities.

We want to provide more for our local community and have a variety of opportunities that you can get involved with us in either a small or large way!

At the bottom is a questionnaire that you can fill in and drop in at the community café, or fill in online. We would be really grateful if you would spend a few minutes doing this.

Join in with Cogs2Computers: On Tuesday, 4th February we held our first steering committee meeting for our Heritage Lottery Project, Cogs2Computers. We had representatives attending from Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School, Bottisham Village College and a Red2Green trustee. We look forward to our first mixed group outing to the History of Computers Museum in Cambridge which will take place in May.

If you are over 65 and feel as though technology is passing you by, we would love to invite you to join us in this project as we bring the community together to have FUN whilst LEARNING new skills. If this sounds of interest, please get in touch by phone: 01223 811662 or email: info@red2green.org and ask for Lou Fraser.

Become a trustee

We are looking for new trustees to join our board and support the strategic running of Red2Green.

To find out more contact our CEO, Jackie Fernandez at Jackie.fernandez@red2green.org or call 01223 811662 for an informal chat.

Tell us your vision for the community café and garden (and join in if you can!)

Our Community Café and Garden is on the edge of the Bottisham Village College site, although we are completely independent of BVC. We are a charity, and for the cafe and greenhouse to be sustainable, we need not only to fundraise but to also develop income streams from selling goods and plants.

We wish to develop the community café and garden and so are undertaking research to find out what you as our local community, need and want. The ways that you can help us are:

1. Fill in the questionnaire overleaf.
2. Become more involved and tell us how to turn your ideas in to reality.



QUESTIONNAIRE:

Please fill in this questionnaire and put in the post box at either: the Red2Green Community Café & Garden, Lode Road Bottisham or at Harvey's Barn, Park End, Swaffham Bulbeck

If you would prefer to fill in the questionnaire online it can be found at: <http://bit.ly/red2greencafegarden>



1. **Your age group** (*please circle*)
18-29 30-49 50-64 65+
2. **Have you ever visited the Red2Green Community Cafe & Garden?** Yes / No
If YES, was your visit in the last 6 months? Yes / No
If NO, is there a reason why not?
At work in the day
been meaning to, but not got around to it
you weren't open when I wanted to go
other:.....
.....
3. **Have you ever bought plants from the Red2Green garden?** Yes / No
4. **What would you like to see from the Red2Green Community Cafe & Garden?**
.....
5. **Would you be willing to join a focus group to help us develop the Red2Green Community Café & Garden?** Yes / No
6. **Would you consider volunteering for Red2Green**
Yes (in the café) Yes (in the garden) No
7. **Any other comments:**
If you are willing to join a focus group or volunteer please give us your name and the best way to contact you:
Name:
E-mail:
Phone number:

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. We hope that the responses will help us continue to support the local community.

Red2Green

Ever Thought of Trying Model Flying?

Legislation covering the flying of 'drones' came into effect in November 2019. What is perhaps not fully understood is that the legislation also applies to flying traditional model aircraft, as shown in the segment in the BBC's Country File programme which aired on 15th December. The programme generated a lot of interest and, as a result, the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) has set up a website showing the location of all model flying clubs that are prepared to offer 'trial flights' like the one shown in the programme.

Newmarket Model Flying Club is a well-established, friendly club and it is offering free trial flights at each of its three sites in the Newmarket area. In addition, the club can provide training, advice and guidance to anyone interested in taking up the hobby. This includes safety, the choice of models and equipment and meeting the requirements of new legislation.

Model flying is suitable for all ages/genders. If you would like to give it a try, you can find information about the BMFA's Trial Flight Initiative at : www.try-flying.bmfa.uk

You can also find information and contact details for Newmarket Model Flying Club on the club website: www.newmarket-mfc.or



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Come along and find some bargains. The money raised goes towards community activities and some smaller local charities.

Finally, Jumble sales are a way of reducing waste, by recycling and re-using stuff that might otherwise be thrown away. Come along and join us, and we look forward to seeing you.



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News from Saplings Preschool

Congratulations to one of our team, Amy, on the birth of her baby before Christmas.

Wreath Making Event - We held a wreath making evening at the start of December. Wayne Bailey was an excellent tutor, and there were beautiful wreaths on display around the village. It was an excellent evening, and we plan to do it again, so look out for details nearer Christmas time.



Cambridge Half Marathon - Chloe, one of our committee members, is running the Cambridge Half Marathon on 8th March. She is raising funds for Saplings, any sponsorship is welcome! Good luck Chloe!

Future Events - Look out for posters and see Facebook for more details:

Easter Fun Day - Saturday 28th March, 2pm - 4pm.

This is our largest fundraiser of the year. The format of the hunt is new for this year, so please come and try it out. There will be crafts, activities, facepainting, refreshments and more.

This is an event for the village, not just those with children. Please do come along and support us, even if just for tea and cake.

Easter Craft Session, Date TBC - 9am - 1pm. £20.

A drop off session for 5 years and under in the Easter holidays.

Easter Stay and Play Session - Thursday 16th April, 2pm - 4pm. £2 per child, includes snack.

Saplings offer open ended, child led play for children aged 2-4 years old. We believe children learn through exploring and play. We have spaces available this term. Given demand, we can run afternoon sessions. Email if you want more information, or even better pop in and come for a play to see what we are offering.

Saplings Preschool Committee

Beware of Your “Neighbour”

Like me, some of you may recently have received a letter addressed to “Bottisham Neighbour” inviting you to join an online network called “Nextdoor Bottisham.” Take a moment to inspect the envelope. It doesn’t have a second class stamp stuck on – it’s printed. It also purports to come from someone who lives round the corner, but couldn’t be bothered to pop it through my door. I’m not even sure if this person exists or whether they are aware of their name being used. Joining is free because they are allowed to use your personal information and bombard you with advertising. Don’t take my word for it though, check the reviews on the internet.

May I offer some helpful advice if you are looking to engage with your neighbours. Join one of the many clubs and societies we have in the village or volunteer for one of the organisations which do so much to keep the community spirit going. You will get local information and much, much more out of that.

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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

A very big question has emerged (again) in the world of football: does heading a football cause dementia? The relatives of former West Bromwich Albion and England centre-forward Jeff Astle certainly think so, although the issue was barely mentioned in connection with the recent death of Martin Peters following a severe mental decline in his final years. But it seems that legislation might be on its way soon, now that Glasgow University has released findings from a long study of the deaths of some seven thousand Scottish footballers born between 1900 and 1976. The study, commissioned jointly by The FA and the Professional Footballers' Association, undertaken between the beginning of 2018 and mid-2019, concluded that former professional footballers are three and a half times more likely to die of dementia than people of the same age range in the general population. Interestingly, it also discovered that footballers were less likely to die from other common diseases such as heart failure or lung cancer. I guess the question of whether one risk counter-balances the other is a somewhat subjective one!

Anyway, the Scottish FA is the first European governing body to make its move, with a proposed ban on heading for children under the age of 12. (There is already legislation in the USA limiting heading in youth 'soccer'.) But it remains to be seen whether this results in any pressure for other FAs to follow suit. Indeed, the English FA is resisting any change at the present time, asserting that "heading is significantly less common in children's games than people often think".

There is no information about whether the link has become less obvious since the advent of much lighter, plastic-coated, footballs in recent decades. Perhaps we need to wait a few more years for the evidence to accumulate, but it strikes me that the introduction of lighter balls is already a significant step in the right direction, and this is acknowledged by the brain injury charity, Headway, in their call for further research.

As a footnote, whilst there seems little doubt that there is a link (but not necessarily a 'causal' one) between heading footballs and dementia, I am always a little sceptical of research which sets out to prove a theory, rather than taking a completely open stance, especially when that research is commissioned in response to some negative publicity orchestrated by a bereaved family. Perhaps I am barking up the wrong tree here, but the title of Glasgow University's study, "Football's Influence on Lifelong Health and Dementia Risk", did raise my eyebrow slightly. I also wonder if results of a similar initiative in England might be less conclusive, given that footballs south of the border would have been, on average, drier and therefore lighter than the Scottish ones!

Another thing that furrowed my Nutty brow recently was the furore surrounding disgraced Australian Rugby Union player, Israel Folau, signing for Spanish Rugby League club team, Catalan Dragons. You may remember that Folau was sacked by Rugby Australia last year for expressing his homophobic beliefs (apparently based on religion) on social media. Now, his planned participation in the European Super League has upset some of the more 'politically correct' elements of Rugby who feel that Folau has no place in the game.

(Sports Nut continued on page 53)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

In fact, Halifax prop forward, Keegan Hirst, the sport's first openly gay player, went as far as to say that he was "let down" by the Dragons, who were effectively "endorsing what he says", and that they should have chosen another of the "seven billion people on the planet". What bunkum! PC principles form a two-way street, don't they? Surely we cannot stand in the way of professionals (in any occupation) because we disagree with their politics or religions? Hirst, and others similarly offended by Folau, claim that his presence in the game is discriminatory against them and, in the same breath, seek to prevent him playing because of his religious beliefs!

Please don't think I am casting myself as an apologist for Mr Folau. Personally, I find his extremist views quite disgusting. However, we should remember that he actually successfully sued Rugby Australia last year over his dismissal for 'religious discrimination' and they acknowledged his right to freedom of speech whilst maintaining the caveat that his and their "values were not aligned".

One final thing, loosely connected with discrimination, that caught my attention just before the Cresset copy deadline, was the impending return of Bobby Madley to professional refereeing in England. Two years ago, as a Premier League referee, he emailed a video mocking a disabled person to a "trusted friend" as a "private joke". The next thing he knew was that the Professional Game Match Officials Ltd (PGMOL) Board hauled him in, suspended his licence indefinitely, and he spent the next 18 months exiled in the lower Norwegian leagues. As a condition of his rehabilitation, Madley is obliged to attend an Equality Education Course; then he will resume his career in Football Leagues One & Two next season. I'm sure the course will reinforce vigorously the things he already knows about discrimination and respect for others, so I'm just wondering if he would be advised to find another course on 'Choosing One's Friends More Wisely'!

Closer to home, I understand that Bottisham Football Club is looking for an adult to coach its Under 14 Girls team next season. The person does not necessarily need experience in this direction but, if not already a qualified coach, he/she should be willing to take the FA Level 1 Coaching Qualification (which includes both Emergency First Aid and Safeguarding Children certificates) within the next few months. They would also need to undertake a DBS check. None of this is particularly onerous, so please, if any reader is interested, please contact the Club Chairman Jim Tideswell on 01223 812159 at your earliest convenience.

TTFN, Gerry Daish

Copy deadline for next issue is 14th March.

*Please send material to the editor
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BRITAIN IS A 'FOUL' COUNTRY...

This is the verdict of the novelist Philip Pullman in response to 'The Sussex's' dilemma played out in the media over recent weeks. Much emphasis, unsurprisingly, is put on prejudice but isn't it just so easy to throw the charge of racial intolerance at everybody. The tabloid press are known bullies and feed on weakness but isn't it more of yet another American woman, who clearly doesn't understand the British psyche, trying to transform the essence of the noblest of British institutions? It failed in 1936 and it has failed again in 2020 but thankfully to a lesser extent. And is to put on an air of 'self-pity' when you are breaking all the rules of royal etiquette a good look deserving of sympathy?

Mind you, if you want 'foul', then look no further than some other nations around us. Comparisons are tricky but consider some of our close neighbours. Of very recent note is the Irish Republic which has probably unwittingly just voted Sinn Féin (IRA) into government. Italy is corrupt and unstable. In France and Spain you see police brutality and Germany is moving rapidly to the far right – perhaps another repeat of history waiting in the wings! And then there are the supposedly progressive Danes who have the most hostile anti-immigrant policies in Europe.

Another cry of 'foul' has come from 'The Fox' who has just found his way into the 'chicken house' of political correctness. Yes, I'm referring of course to Laurence Fox being the victim of some unpleasant stereotyping on a recent edition of the BBC's QT programme. I believe the term thrown at him was 'white privileged male' to which he responded by saying that "constantly throwing the charge of racism at everyone was getting boring". Have we actually reached a point where you can be accused of an 'ism' or a 'phobia' merely for not accepting an allegation of such? Like many I'll tolerate some progressive ideas but I don't have to accept them. Suggesting white people don't experience racism and using the term 'check your white privilege', Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu is doing nothing progressive for the 'multi-ethnic' conversation.

'The Fox' also expressed himself as 'radicalised against woke' which is a term I'm beginning to hear more and more frequently. What on earth is 'woke' other than another bastardisation of English linguistics? I'm informed that it's a political term of African American origin meaning 'a perceived and continuing awareness of issues concerning social justice' often spread through social media platforms as 'memes' (here we go!) - 'an element of a culture or system of behaviour passed from one individual to another by imitation or other non-genetic means'. Just like Fox there is a lot of people out there who don't buy in to this across the board 'social liberalism' and it's right that Fox felt emboldened to vent his criticism.

Another group convinced that Britain is a 'foul' country is the Brexit Remainers, Remoaners, Rejoiners or whatever the latest idiom is, who seem to have transitioned from fearing Brexit to actively hoping it 'will prove the catalyst for a national catastrophe'. Like many I didn't welcome the 2016 referendum but the result, however marginal, was the

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majority vote. And now even after all their efforts to annul the first democratic vote failed, e.g. 'Miller 1 & 2', they are still in denial. Who are the 'fruitcakes and loonies' now? This got me thinking about the real message the country was delivering to these people and their like in Westminster in the December 2019 General Election. In my very humble opinion I believe the message sent went as follows:

- That the political class and the metropolitan elite must not insinuate they know better than the democratic wish of the electorate nor suggest that parts of the electorate lack intelligence.
- That 'affluent' people who wish to gain political advantage by manipulating the British judicial system do so at the risk of losing their credibility and being ostracised.
- That (unelected) Judges must not exceed their authority by challenging or ruling against matters of (an elected) Parliament.
- That academics, students and 'luvvie' actors leave their cocoon of 'safe spaces' and think beyond their duplicitous ideologies.
- That the Labour Party and their 'Momentum' activists, along with our young adults, must look outside of their Social Media 'bubble' if they are to be properly informed about what's happening in the world around them.

Yes, the UK is far from utopia and as foul as Britain may be perceived to be by some; international surveys say differently. In many areas the UK's policies on matters of maternity leave, minimum holiday leave, and workers' rights exceed EU norms. As for the environment the UK is actually leading the way in Europe unlike 'coal – guzzling' Germany. In human traits we have some of the most welcoming attitudes, we're kind, generous, favour the underdog and charitable but above all we are one of the most if not the most democratically open and tolerant country in the world. Perhaps those that continually cry 'foul' should think on or exercise their hard fought for democratic right and leave...

“The only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable” - John K Galbraith.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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