

THE Cresset

October 2020



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



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Despite the brief Indian summer in September, I expect Autumn is now well under way. The season of mellow fruitfulness, or so the saying goes.

Nothing stays the same in life. Some say that's a good thing. Others don't like it.

Our cover this month is an old picture of what was, back in the day, Millard's sweet shop. I have used that as it is a good example of the ongoing changes in our lives, because it is now the shop that we all know as 'the village shop'. But even that is changing again, this time to a Co-op.

Greater range of some things we are told, but also the loss of some well-loved items which are now missing. Let's hope as things settle down, that we can see the re-emergence of some of those items which disappeared. Whatever happens it will still be our village shop.

One of the bigger changes is the loss of our postal sorting office which was the base from which our postmen used to work. That is now being done centrally in Cambridge and they have to go there every day to collect their rounds and bring them here to start their deliveries.

For the Cresset it has had a direct impact, because (unofficially!) they used to take the dozen or so copies of the magazine and deliver them in the van together with the postal mail to the outlying farms and places beyond the walked routes. We are working out some alternative to replace that.

Different change now which might slip by unnoticed if I didn't highlight it.

Claire Fulwood has been our stalwart Parish Clerk for all of 15+ years. She has done a great job and well deserves our thanks. We wish her successor, Jonathan Giles well as he picks up the reigns. You will see the new contact details in the magazine.

No changes though in the outlook for our Covid coloured Autumn and Winter. While we seem to be better off than many, we should continue to be cautious and take the recommended precautions. Otherwise things might well get worse.

Do read Sylvia Overton's wise comments in her report on where we sit in the wider scheme of the world and makes thoughtful comparison with historical events. When you think about it like that, our situation is lightweight and will be forgotten soon enough. Let's hope so.

There are small signs of clubs and organisations adapting to new ways of being able to function. The bowling club extended its season to get some games in. Even swimming starting up again at the Sports centre and Pilates classes getting underway.

Let's hope the improvement continues, but that can only happen if we stay on track with the recommendations and guidance that we are given. Halloween is the next event which may be done differently.

Have a good month and we will be back again in November.



East Anglian Air Ambulance

If you've read any article on EAAA or our LIFTOFF magazine, you'll be well aware of the amazing life-saving missions undertaken by our Anglia 1 and Anglia 2 helicopter teams from Norwich and Cambridge.

You won't be surprised to hear that, despite Covid-19, these missions have continued unabated. What hasn't continued unabated though is our flow of contributions through red collection boxes so our cashflow has seriously dwindled! Many organisations have set to do generously send in contributions to help bridge the gap but, what can we do?

If you are a trader, please consider supporting us in a manner appropriate to your activity – perhaps by sighting a collection box? Please contact 'info@eaaa.org.uk' or phone 03450 669999 for information and support.

As a member of the general public please continue your generous support through red collection boxes wherever you find them. You might also consider joining the EAAA weekly lottery (EAAA lottery online) or even making a gift, no matter whether large or small, in your will. Please help us to help those in need.

Dave Woodhouse lay immobile face down in a ditch after coming off his motorbike. The car driver in front, having been aware of his presence in his mirror, noticed he had 'vanished' so turned to find him. Having found him, Charles Morris dialled 999. Police, Ambulance and EAAA's Anglia 1 team from Norwich responded. The crew provided enhanced care, assessing Dave's injuries, sedating him and 'packaging' him for transport to Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. His injuries included a sustained life-changing spinal injury requiring a 4 month hospitalisation. Now wheelchair-bound, Dave's determination to recover has been an inspiration to everyone at EAAA. "...I am so thankful to have been given a second chance at life and would love to give something back. I'm hoping to work with EAAA to help to raise the funds to do what they do best and to raise awareness for them"

One of many stories – please help to enable EAAA continue this priceless life-saving work. Together- we save lives.

Michael White

The Salvation Army Big Collection

Every year we collect monetary donations in your area for the social work of The Salvation Army but due to Covid 19 we are not able to do so this year. However we still need funds desperately to help the homeless, those caught in human trafficking, people in our hostels and in many other ways to help those in need in the UK.

So if you are able here is a link to be able to give online www.salvationarmy.org.uk/big-collection.

Many Thanks for your continuing support. Captain Carol Baker

Contents

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group.....	4-5	Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club	15
Lucy Frazer, our MP writes.....	5	Join the BMI can do it Movement.....	17
Parish Notes	7 & 9	Anglesey Group Mothers' Union.....	17
Planning Notes	9	Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service.....	19
District Councillors' Report.....	9	Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA).....	20
Thank You, Claire	11	Public Transport Matters.....	27
The Safe House – Mara, Tanzania	11	Sales, Wants and Swaps	27
Letter	11	Thoughts of a Sports Nut.....	37 & 39
Bottisham WI and Gardening Club Combined.....	13		

Bottisham Library Association

GOOD NEWS TO REPORT AT LAST ABOUT RE-OPENING.

The College are allowing us into the building from 24th September and we are hoping to re-open (at the earliest) on Thursday 1st October subject to our risk assessment being approved. We need time to prepare signage to conform to the current Covid -19 restrictions, get to grips with the new computers installed during lock down and the new Spydus operating system.

We have been told that we must not open for the Wednesday morning session, and could possibly close on Tuesday afternoons too. We also propose that children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult.

We shall have a collecting point in the entrance hall to receive returned items for those not prepared to come into the library. Books can be requested by telephone (01223 812354) during opening times or by written request for collection later.

We shall advertise on Facebook and by notices in the villages. Rest assured the volunteers are keen to return – they need to borrow new books too!

We held a Second Lockdown Sale on the Triangle on the 29th August selling books, DVDS and jigsaws at 50p per item. A much colder morning but the rain held off until after lunch and thanks to the many, many items that had been donated and held in the Library since before Lockdown we raised another £150.

Thank you to all who gave and those who helped on the day but mostly thanks to those who came and bought items.

Hope you keep well - Sylvia Overton

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

THANKS: We have received two further generous donations and hopefully will soon purchase the Doppler machine and possibly another item that the surgery need as well.

UPDATE FROM THE PRACTICE

APPOINTMENTS: The Practice continues to offer on the day appointments which are initially carried out via phone or video. Where there is a clinical need, patients are invited in for a face to face consultation. All patients are now being to enter via the main entrance and exit via the fire exit at the other end of the corridor to try and maintain a one way system. The waiting room has now opened up again with four patients allowed to wait in this area at one time. We ask patients wherever possible to attend the surgery on their own.

RECEPTION: We now have a member of the team on the front desk to help you as we have had glass screens installed. On the days that we are short staffed though you may be required to ring the bell for assistance.

We currently have one less pair of hands to answer the phones and would like to say thank you for your patience. We are encouraging all patients to register for online appointment bookings where they have the facilities to do so. We release appointments at midnight for booking that day. You can select a phone or video consultation. A new phone system is being installed at the end of September which means we will be able to have a better overflow system so additional members of the team can help answer phones during busy times.

DISPENSARY: At the start of the pandemic the dispensary was overwhelmed with patients ordering repeat medications which caused long queues and huge pressures on the service. We are very grateful to the volunteers who assisted the practice in providing a full delivery service during lockdown and patients were extremely appreciative of this. When lockdown eased the logistics of this became more difficult due to volunteers going back to work and patients not being in to receive deliveries.

We are in the process of implementing a permanent delivery service and are aiming to get this in place over the next couple of months. The practice acknowledges the feedback from patients regarding queuing outside for medication and we hope this will offer a solution to the issue and provide you with a convenient service. We will provide more details about this service in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, if anyone is struggling to get their medications, please contact the practice so we can put appropriate arrangements in place.

Can we ask anyone picking up an acute prescription to wait 3 hours before collecting if it has been generated via a phone or video consultation. This will ensure that the prescription has been received in dispensary and dispensed. If you cannot pick up your medication, please let the GP know so we can put arrangements in place to get your medication to you.

Social distancing is a challenge in the dispensary and we do have fewer staff working in the actual dispensary because of this and so we are continuing to work to a five day turnaround time. This also means where there are supply issues it provides us with additional time to get drug supplies in. Please can we ask patients not to attend the practice until the 5 days as this helps reduce delays in serving at the dispensary.

FLU CLINICS: We have now received the first batch of child flu vaccinations. Patients will start to be contacted the week commencing 14 September. We ask that only one parent attend with the child for their appointment.

We will be receiving our first delivery of adult flu vaccinations on 22 September. Invitation letters will start going out week commencing 14 September to patients who are eligible. We have scheduled in four Saturday clinics through the autumn. 3 October, 17 October, 24 October and 21 November. Lunchtime clinics will take place in the week through the autumn and winter and the logistics of these are just being finalised at the moment. We will be operating clinics slightly differently and you will receive a form which you will need to bring with you for your appointment. Full details will be in your invitation letter.

THANK YOU: The Practice would like to say a huge thank you to all our patients for your support during this very challenging time. All the changes mentioned above are to ensure the safety of both patients and staff and ensure we can provide continuity of service.

Bottisham Patient's Participation Group.

Lucy Frazer, our MP writes...

So many people have helped out others in so many ways during the pandemic. They have kept community spirit alive and provided vital practical assistance during the darkest days of this lockdown. I have been so pleased to have had many opportunities to meet with many of those volunteers who have gone beyond the call of duty.

I visited the Cambridgeshire Volunteer Hub to hear more about the fantastic work they have been doing during lockdown – they have provided a valuable lifeline for our most vulnerable during the pandemic, getting food to the most vulnerable and providing advice and support. I have also seen first hand so many fantastic local volunteer groups going about their work delivering prescriptions, cakes and just keeping in contact with those who would otherwise be alone.

Lockdown has made all of us work and think differently. In my own office, we have had regular teleconferencing calls and I have kept in touch with local stakeholders including parish councillors, businesses groups and volunteers using Zoom. My surgeries have also gone virtual! Technology has been a lifeline in keeping us connected but I know that many of us are keen to replace safely meeting in person soon.

Shops and small businesses are re-opening and during shopping trips to Ely, Newmarket and Cambridge it has been reassuring to see the measures that people are taking to safely social distance, protecting their employees and customers. These include perspex screens, masks, sanitising stations and one-way systems. Customers are returning to shop in person and I encourage you to do the same to help support our businesses, both big and small.

The Government is now focussing efforts on maintaining jobs and strengthening the economy as we come out of lockdown.

They have pledged a £160 billion support package and are committed to helping keep people in work, ensure young people get jobs and bring back people into sectors hit hard by the virus. Some measures include cutting VAT for tourism and hospitality businesses, the Eat Out to Help Out scheme as well as a reduction in stamp duty. These measures will help to get us back on track.

Lucy Frazer



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OPENING TIMES

Monday and Wednesday
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Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
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Parish Council had their first meeting on 7th September since the beginning of July. via zoom. We expect to continue with this method for some time. The link to join the meeting is printed at the top of the agenda, which can be found on the village noticeboard and on the website for anyone wishing to join the meeting. For anyone that may be interested we have one parish councillor vacancy to fill and would welcome an application from residents. More information can be obtained from contacting Jon Ogborn, our Chair, whose contact details are listed in the Cresset.

I know we have thanked residents before for their help and assistance but, with the pandemic still in full flow, we would like to take the opportunity to once again do thank those who have served our community these past few months. These include: those who ‘manned’ the telephone lines and provided deliveries of groceries and prescriptions, the staff at the village store, litter pickers who kept the sports ground tidy and the primary school caretaker who has been opening the gate at weekends in her own time to allow access to the play area. We know there are also many other unsung heroes who have cared for the village and its residents during this difficult time – thank you.

The flooding in Lode Road/High Street has once again been causing problems. The drains in the area have been unable to cope with the heavy rainfall in such a short space of time. Our County Councillor, Mathew Shuter, asked County Council Highways to investigate this as the situation has been getting worse. They have done a full survey of the drains and we are awaiting the results. County Councillor Shuter did point out that Highways are only responsible for water that falls onto the highway. They are not responsible for water running onto the road from other areas i.e. developments. If the drain has collapsed, then it is their duty to repair it, but if it is down to the sheer volume of water then that is another matter. We await the results with interest.

We have asked the District Council to repair the footpath running through Ancient Meadows and Lysander Close. There is not much gravel left on the path, making it very slippery and they are currently looking into this. Parish Council have attempted to put bollards up on the ‘triangle’ area to prevent cars from parking on here but found underground services beneath the ground. Highways were concerned that damage could be done and we are now looking at alternative ways of stopping cars parking on the grass.

Regarding the application for the retirement village, this is being brought to full planning committee on 7th October. This will be an online meeting, which will also be recorded on YouTube. Consultees such as Anglian Water, Highways etc. will send in a report. Parish Council will also be making a statement at the meeting objecting to this development in our green belt. Parish Council have also agreed to give their support to Fen Ditton Parish Council. They are asking parish councils in the area for help in objecting to a proposal to build new sewage works on green belt at Honey Hill.

Parish Council have agreed to pay half the cost (£1370) of recent repairs and safety improvements to the floodlights at the parish church – the remainder being paid for by Holy Trinity. The lights were a gift by a local business some years ago and the Parish Council covers the annual electricity costs, while the church provides routine minor maintenance (e.g.

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 7

replacing bulbs). While the Parish Council is not empowered to make donations to a church, the floodlights are a community asset and it was felt appropriate for the Parish Council to help fund significant repairs like this.

We are no further forward with the new cemetery, as we have to wait for the National Trust staff to come back off furlough and approve our draft plans. We don't know when that will happen, as it will not be at the top of their list of priorities.

Finally, after just over 15 years, this is the last Cresset report I will write, as I hand over to Jonathan Giles who takes over as Parish Clerk. His new contact details have been updated in the Cresset and online, although the email address remains the same. It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you and be involved in numerous different projects over the years. I would like to thank all of those currently serving on Parish Council and those that I have worked with in the past. I don't think anyone realises and appreciates the work that your parish councillors do in Bottisham. It is a voluntary role, which individuals do because they want to help and make a difference to the village that they live in. Once again, thank you to everyone and see you around.

Planning Notes

20/00766/FUL, 3 Parsonage Barns, Proposed side extension including internal alterations
APPLICATION APPROVED BY ECDC

20/00748/FUL, Bottisham Post Office, 12 High Street, Subdivision of existing flat into three flats including a first floor extension. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

District Councillors' Report

Not much activity at the Council and the District the last month

There is quite a bit of resentment from residents, particularly in and around Ely, about the possible closure of the Mepal Outdoor Centre, and to replace it by a crematorium. Many residents have pointed out that, were there a need for an additional crematorium, having it at almost the northern boundary of the district doesn't help those in the south, and that the outdoor centre, if properly managed, would be a real asset to the district.

Apparently, the administration has been considering closing the Outdoor Centre for over 18 months, which is when consultants had been first engaged in secret.

The questionnaire for the Bus, Cycle and Footpath survey has not yet been analysed, and the working group has not met for some time.

We are continuing with surgeries, but still cannot hold them face-to-face, and so they will be by telephone to either of us (07976 607512 for Charlotte, and 0794 268 5599 for John. The next one is on Wednesday 28 October at six o'clock, followed by a Zoom meeting (send an email to john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk to obtain the sign in details) at seven o'clock. You can contact us in the meantime by telephone or email (charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk, John's as above)

Charlotte Cane and John Trapp

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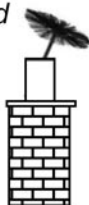
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Thank You, Claire

In September we said goodbye to our Parish Clerk, Claire Fulwood and how she will be missed. Claire supported Parish Council and the village for many years. Not an easy task dealing with all types of questions and bureaucracy and different personalities.

The role of Clerk is not easy, and folk may not realise what is involved. However, Claire was always kind, gentle and firm, as well as efficient from chasing forms and dealing with issues out of her control, just in order to help.

We will miss her giggles and trying not to frown at times.

Her family also played a large part, as at times she would have to deal with issues outside 'Office Hours'.

It was odd having to say thank you via Zoom, but I know all of us wish her and the Fullwood Clan all the best as they all move onto new roles.

ENJOY IT CLAIRE AND UPLUG THE PHONE.

Hilda Buchanan on behalf of Bottisham Parish Council

The Safe House – Mara, Tanzania

FROM MELINA GABILONA, TO OUR FRIENDS IN ANGLESEY

We were delighted to hear from you once again. We have no words adequate to thank you for your loving donations which we have just received – and for your prayers for the girls in the Safe House. Here are some pictures of them. With your £1,450 we can now buy enough food to last us well into the first few months of 2021.

We continue to teach the girls about the need to protect themselves from COVID by frequent hand-washing, wearing masks, using sanitizers and praying to our loving God. So far all are safe, but it remains a challenge, especially when they go to school. We trust their teachers to take as much care as we do.

God bless you all. We remember you in our prayers.

Letter

Dear Sir,

I am writing because today I walked into our very own Co-op. This for me was overly exciting not just because of the shopping experience but because I can use my membership card.

The membership card is not just a loyalty scheme. It is a membership of the Co-operative. If you visit our Co-operative enough times and build up enough points, then you will be able to take part and vote in the Co-ops AGM. Every member gets a voting pack which means you will be able either attend in person or vote by proxy. Also, you will be able to vote for a person who wants to stand for the co-operative council. This is the committee that the chief executive reports to. Even yourself could stand for the Co-operative Council.

But it also entitles Customers some discount on own brand products. And remember 1% of takings should be spent on local Community Projects. This is a benefit for our whole Community. Thanks, should go to Bill Sumner for this wonderful opportunity and for bringing the Co-op to our Community.

Steven O'Dell



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Bottisham WI and Gardening Club COMBINED

Written in the middle of September and we are still in a state of Limbo, nothing has happened and so little to report.

The next **WI MEETING** is in the lap of the gods. We are dependent on our new meeting venue (Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club) being able to allow us to meet in accordance with Government advice. We continue to remain in contact with our members on an individual basis. Our walking group meets weekly and the social aspect is good (suitably distanced) and we average 5 miles each time

The **GARDENING CLUB** is in a similar position regarding meeting again until the Poppy Room at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club can be made available.

I think that these groups and also Meeting Point which is sorely missed will have problems in future with social distancing, but we will do our best to overcome them.

We will flood Bottisham with posters and notices if anything changes but don't hold your breath.

I have just read an interesting editorial in the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway magazine! Here are a few of the things mentioned.

In the Middle Ages architects and builders would start work on a project – a new church or cathedral and know they would never see it finished. Life was very predictable and there was little change from one century to another. There would have been all too familiar threats lurking in the shadows -high mortality rates, short life expectancy and of course pestilence and plague in all its forms lurking in the background. Bottisham Holy Trinity Church took a long time to be built because of the Black Death which caused the death of many masons and other workers.

Remember that in Italy when Venice was decimated much of the most renowned Renaissance art was produced. Shakespeare found time to write King Lear, Macbeth and Antony and Cleopatra when the English theatres were closed for a year. Isaac Newton too came up with many of his most famous and far reaching theories whilst in similarly enforced isolation.

For many, the current restrictions have been and continue to be a pretty tough experience, for others perhaps it has been an opportunity to get on with those long put-off new projects.

For some the release from lockdown has been swift but there will be weeks or months of restrictions still to endure.

But come out the other side we will - like those medieval cathedral thinkers we must dare to dream beyond our own lifespans

Sylvia Overton

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 October.

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

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Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club

The Club has now gradually returned to near normal. We thank you all for your support during this difficult period and hope all members now feel comfortable visiting the club.

Our current opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday 17.00-21.00

Friday 17.00-22.00

Saturday 12.00-22.00

Sunday 12.00-20.00

These could change depending on demand so please refer to the website for updates.

www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk

INDOOR GAMES

Pool, bar billiards and snooker have all now successfully resumed at the club. Please come along and make use of these indoor games facilities but do observe the Covid guidance on the posters adjacent to the equipment.

The Meat Draw will resume from the 2nd October.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal is now due, and all members should have either received their reminder by post or email. Many thanks if you have already renewed.

If you are not a member, we would welcome you joining.

The membership year runs from 1st October. Initial membership costs £21. That is the £20 annual subscriptions plus a £1 share into the club. Please come along and join us, we are always very pleased to welcome new members into the club.

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Join the BMI can do it Movement

Do you want to live a healthier, happier life? An exciting healthy living movement has launched in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, helping you eat well, sleep well and move more.

Driven by the local NHS, BMI Can Do It has been developed specifically for local residents like you to support your journey towards a healthier lifestyle. The movement is supported by an investment of up to £1m by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and includes exciting healthy living challenges as well as a suite of resources to help you take practical steps towards a healthier life.

Dr Jessica Randall-Carrick, a local GP and lead for Obesity and Diabetes at the CCG, explains:

“If you have a higher than recommended BMI then you are at a higher risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes, cancer, or having a stroke or heart attack. We also know that you are at greater risk of serious health consequences if you contract COVID-19, which is why we want to help encourage people to join our movement to eat well, sleep well and move more.

“We know it’s not always easy, but by taking those first steps towards a healthier lifestyle you will have a positive impact on your health. That’s why we are asking everyone to say BMI Can Do It and get involved today!”

You can join the movement by visiting www.bmicandoit.co.uk or by following us on social media @BMICanDoIt on Instagram and Twitter, Find us on Facebook by searching for BMI Can Do It or the hashtag #BMICanDoIt.

Anglesey Group Mothers’ Union

With pandemic restrictions continuing and to ensure everyone stays safe the Ely Diocese Mothers’ Union Autumn Festival, which normally takes place in October, has been cancelled.

In this very unusual year we have not been able to meet in fellowship, but work continues to support those around us who need our help. Members across the Diocese have continued to support the vulnerable throughout restrictions of the pandemic and self-isolation by knitting blankets and items of clothing. With winter approaching, warm hats, mitts, scarves etc. will be needed for the many homeless expected when the accommodation eviction measure ends. Hostels are accepting household items, tinned food and toiletries when they can, and the Unit Coordinator and Local Projects Officer are organising collection and distribution of donations.

Recognising that the effects of the global pandemic will continue to be felt across the world throughout 2021 it seems appropriate to develop our 2020 theme (‘Building Hope and Confidence’) to encompass ‘Rebuilding Hope and Confidence’ as our theme for next year. As people seek to come to terms with loss of all kinds, from bereavement to loss of livelihood, relationships, wellbeing and other challenges, our work of rebuilding hope and confidence will be vital.

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Coronavirus – sadly this still with us - as virulent and dangerous as ever.

In last month's Cresset we set out informed advice on how to stay safe and well – this advice is ongoing and even more relevant now, given the resurgence of cases in many districts. Please re-read and act accordingly. Please do visit the gov.uk website to stay abreast of current advice.

Bonfire Night – nearly upon us – again! Please do ensure that:

- ALL fireworks are kept in a fireproof container
- Ideally wear leather gardening type gloves
- ALL people stand well clear of working fireworks
- Young children do not handle fireworks – even sparklers
- NEVER return to 'relight' a 'dud'
- Have a bucket full of water available
- If you attend an organised display, observe Social Distancing rules

Also, please don't forget that CFRS is looking for more On-Call Firefighters. These people are an extremely important part of the service provided to our communities through their training, commitment and availability by CFRS. More are needed to provide cover from home or from the workplace – please get in touch for information. firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk gets you there, or telephone 0800 9179994.

Preparing for Winter – for those households still with open fires or solid fuel burners it continues important that chimneys are regularly swept and inspected, particularly within the roof space. (out of sight – out of mind?) Burn suitable fuels, keep furnishings a safe distance from the fire and use an approved fire guard.

For households with central heating – please ensure that annual boiler servicing is carried out – don't leave it to chance. Breakdowns, particularly in winter are inconvenient and potentially dangerous.

Smoke Alarms – no apology for reiterating – Test them (one on the ceiling of every floor) weekly. Your protection is incomplete without a Carbon Monoxide Alarm too - the 'silent killer'. So, test them both regularly – ideally every week – make a note on your calendar and on your Smartphone.

If you are at all worried about safety in your home, or that of a friend or neighbour, please contact CFRS to arrange a Free Home Safety Visit.

Remember - FIRE KILLS!

Michael White

For more information or to get in touch contact us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or on 0800 9179994.
Like us on Facebook for regular updates www.facebook.com/cambsfrs or follow us on Twitter @cambsfrs.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 October.

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

Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

After such a successful launch of BALA last Autumn, regretfully we have had to cancel this term's course. It is too soon to say what will happen in the Spring term, but we will keep you up to date in the village magazines and via Facebook.

If you have any queries please email meadeann7@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you again but don't know when...

If anyone is interested some tutors are doing Zoom courses this term. For information about these email www.call-ed.org.uk

Thank you for your support - Helen Cole

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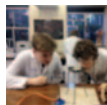
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MEETING POINT

Unfortunately due to the current situation Meeting Point will not be running for the foreseeable future. Social distancing in the kitchen and the Poppy Room would be very difficult. We must consider everyone's safety in line with government guidelines.

We look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible and will restart as soon as it is safe to do so.

We will keep you updated in the Cresset.

Take care - Helen Cole

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Public Transport Matters

Conditions are very changeable at this present time. We are urged to be out and about but then there is an increase in the number of virus cases, and we have to adjust to new rules. We wear our masks on public transport and keep our distance from fellow travellers. There have been changes to buses in some areas - mainly to the west of the city as Stagecoach tries to give better access to schools and businesses. I am assured that our bus times are not changing. The 5, Citi 6 and 16A change and there is a new 905 service between Bedford and Cambridge.

I am assured by a member of the CAM Technical Advisory Committee that it is possible and sensible to have tunnels under central Cambridge. The strong Gault Clay is even more suitable than the London Clay. There has been a large amount of research emanating from the CUED Soil Mechanics Group in which I am assured my late husband played a hugely important role. They can now predict and control the settlement effects of tunnelling with considerable accuracy. The Jubilee line and Crossrail are examples. Small tunnels with innovative electric vehicles mean that the metro could be built at a reasonably low cost.

A part time consultant, Simon Wright OBE, with experience of many projects including the London 2012 games and now the restoration of the Houses of Parliament has been appointed.

Eurostar are due to launch their direct London to Amsterdam rail service for £80 return on October 26th but there will be border controls and they are cutting other services and numbers of staff due to the present difficult circumstances.

There have been three years of growth at Cambridge North. Network Rail has submitted a detailed application ref. the new Soham station and it could be open in 2022.

Building work has now begun on the new HS2 and construction is underway on a new Euston station. To help people working from home, flexible season tickets could be a possibility. The government is extending financial support to transport operators until March 2022.

Crossrail is delayed to 2022 and costs have risen by £450 million.

Rail info: 08457 48 49 50 **Traveline:** 0871 200 22 23 Happy travelling – take care!

Keep safe and well.

Paddy James.

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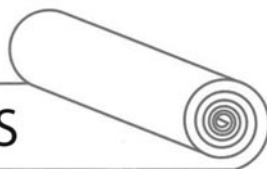


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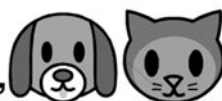
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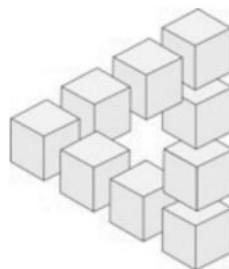
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

At the time of writing, **Le Tour de France** is in full swing, albeit a couple of months later in the year than normal, and the racing has been riveting so far. Sadly, there was no Froome, Thomas or Cavendish this year but fellow Brit, Adam Yates, spent a few days in the yellow jersey in the early stages. There'll be more drama to come but Slovenian rider Primož Roglič looks favourite to be the reigning champion by the time you read this.

As someone who took a soaking on The Mall in 2012, watching Marianna Vos outsprint Lizzie Armitstead to take the Women's Olympic Road Race gold medal, I was delighted to see Lizzie Deignan, now married with a two year old daughter, gain her revenge in Nice on the final sprint of 'La Course 2020', the official Women's version of 'Le Tour'. Cycling 90km on a single day's racing, our girl rode a perfect race, despite still hurting from a crash the previous week, and with her Trek Segafredo team mate bluffing Vos into sprinting for the line a fraction too early, Deignan slipstreamed the two-time champion to pip her on the final lunge! This was sporting drama of the very highest quality and it pains all supporters of women's cycling that they are reduced to such a small race when they are capable of so much more. And there is no doubt in my mind that the excitement quotient is equal in every way to a male event. All credit to the organisers for putting on both 'Tours' in this difficult year, but let us hope the women's campaigning for a full Tour is met with a constructive response in the near future.

On to cricket: England scored a deserved series win over Pakistan but what a shame that the weather washed out the Second Test v. Pakistan. With the ball swinging significantly, an exciting, low-scoring game seemed to be on the cards but, alas, the deluges that twice flooded Bottisham High Street were equally cruel in Southampton. However, it was not the rain that caused the most frustration for the punters but the repeated interruptions for bad light! You would have thought this problem could have been solved years ago by virtue of floodlights, or even a lighter-coloured ball, but the cricketing establishment has always seemed unreasonably resistant to change. There was a chink of metaphorical light in the Third Test, when the TCCB agreed to flexible start times, but the late summer weather still dominated the match which fizzled out into a draw thanks to some impressively obdurate batting by the Pakistanis. What a find we have in Zak Crawley though... his maiden test century turning into a massive 267 in the England innings!

And how about the T20 side...?! In a thrilling series win against a strong Australian squad, Eoin Morgan's men continually underlined the importance of a team's belief in themselves and each other that they can win from any position.

For everyone who is not a Newcastle United supporter, the debacle that is the club's ownership became even more entertaining at the back end of the Summer. In yet another example of needing to be careful what you wish for, the supporters of this once-great football club were said to be 'confused and heartbroken' over the collapse of a bid to buy the club from the detested Mike Ashley, the current owner. Ashley, the Sports Direct tycoon, promised great and glorious things when buying the club in 2007 but soon alienated

(Sports Nut continued on page 43)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

the fan-base with some seemingly bizarre errors of judgement. Firstly, he renamed the revered St James Park the 'Sports Direct Arena'; then appointed Dennis Wise as Director of Football over manager Kevin Keegan's head – resulting in Keegan's departure with £2 million in damages; hopeless appointments of Alan Pardew, John Carver, and Joe Kinnear followed, and even Alan Shearer could not save them from relegation. The miraculous appointment of Rafa Benitez whilst in the Championship seemed to signal the advent of a brighter future, but Ashley failed to offer him a contract extension among rumours of his unwillingness to continue financing the club. Chris Hughton was also surprisingly released after winning promotion back to the Premier League and Ashley's reputation on the terraces sunk even lower.

Cut to 2020, with Steve Bruce at the helm, relegation avoided and a bid on the table from a mysterious consortium led by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. The fans were ready to bite the Saudis' arms off to rescue their beloved club! But, hold on... the English Premier League wanted a closer look at the deal under their Owners' and Directors' Test. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman claims that the Saudi government would have no say in NUFC matters but there is an old English saying: "he who pays the piper calls the tune" and the EPL rightly had concerns over the Kingdom's human rights and TV piracy records. Anyway, the upshot is that the PIF have lost patience and pulled out, and the Tyneside fans have been left to cry in their Newcastle Brown. However bad things have been under Ashley, they may have had a narrow escape, methinks!

On the local landscape, grass roots football is gradually making a return under strict COVID guidelines, and I recently accompanied local running celebrity, Chris Darling, to a match he was refereeing at Haverhill Rovers in the FA Cup Preliminary Round. The club's safety arrangements were pretty impressive: the participants arrived kitted up; all 250 spectators had their temperature and contact details taken on entry; and all rules under an extensive pre-match risk assessment were observed. Credit is due to Rovers for putting the game on and, to date, there have not been any untoward consequences except perhaps for the visiting Norwich United team who went home empty handed! Interestingly, the match itself was a right old ding-dong but with more smiles than usual and a complete absence of the vitriol and nastiness that, sadly, one has come to expect at this level. The high-quality refereeing clearly helped, but I would like to think that, after the months of lockdown, players were simply happy to be playing football again!

Also happy to be playing again are the Bottisham Lode cricketers. But, obviously, the season was overshadowed, first by Coronavirus and then by the weather, and they completed only two fixtures in the end – winning one and losing one. Two others were abandoned due to rain, one of which deprived them of ("cruising to") a certain victory. Tim Sale was top batsman, finishing the season with 110 runs, including an 80 not out versus Cambridge NCI 2's; and Connor Lee was the pick of the bowlers with a total of six wickets. Father and son duo, Martin and Joe Wilson found themselves vying for second place in the bowling stakes. Suffice it to say that both were extremely economical, but I won't say who took more wickets because I wouldn't want the old man to get discouraged!

TTFN - Gerry Daish

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