



THE *Cresset*

November 2020



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



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Bottisham & District Branch



Dealing with the pandemic has brought home the sense of duty we all have to protect the most vulnerable in our society and our way of life. This same sense of duty has endured through generations of our Armed Forces, from the oldest of our WW2 veterans to the newest recruits. This year once again they have been there when we need them, standing alongside essential workers on the front line in the fight against Covid-19 and now they need you.

With the impact of Covid-19 on Poppy Appeal 2020 this year, you will see less of our devoted volunteer Poppy Appeal collectors in your local communities, but you can help family, friends, and neighbours to get hold of their poppy and contribute to the Appeal.

EVERY POPPY COUNTS

To support the Poppy Appeal please visit www.britishlegion.org.uk, to see the ways you can donate and be involved.

ARMISTICE DAY 11th NOVEMBER 2020

The Bottisham Branch has been in existence for almost 100 years and it is planned, Covid restrictions allowing, to hold the usual ceremony at the village sign at 11.00am on the 11th November to observe two minutes silence in memory of those who have sacrificed their lives in the first and second world wars and more recent conflicts. You are invited to attend this brief ceremony while observing social distancing.

Again restrictions allowing, on Sunday 8th November there will be the Armistice Service at Lode Church at 11.00am.

However this year with the restrictions on youth organisations meeting etc. and public gatherings restricted there will be no parade, but a reading of the names and two minutes silence will take place at the memorial before the service.

By the time you read this we hopefully will have been up in Scotland for a couple of weeks. However, as I write, Nicola has introduced some fairly hefty restrictions on what we can do when we get there. Can't visit any friends in their house. Where we are going, we could meet up in a pub during the day for lunch but not in the evening. We could do it with only one other household. And we can't have a drink! In the central belt there are no bars or restaurants open at all.



I have two cousins with spouses who live in a small village with a lovely pub that does great food, but we would need to go twice to meet up with them separately!

Boris has also today announced stricter measures in England but targeted to the areas worst affected. Thankfully, we here in East Cambridgeshire have, at the moment, one of the lowest rates of infection in the country. Let's make sure it stays that way. Following the guidelines and being sensible is the only way.

However, life has to go on in whatever format it can, and November sees a couple of events which will be different. You can read in the magazine about the Armistice Day activities in the village and also notice of the fact that there will not be the usual Poppy Appeal collection boxes in use, either door to door or at the entrances to supermarkets. Online is the way they want us to do it. Everything is going 'on-line' these days.

Another event will be the 5th November, gunpowder, treason and plot etc. With the restrictions on gatherings for the larger public events, I suspect there may be more garden displays. But even those will have to be to limited numbers. Cambridge Fire & Rescue Service have some very clear advice in their article this month.

I hear lots of comment about the 'new' village shop, aka the co-op. Lots of well-loved items no longer available and the atmosphere much changed. I do think that the old shop had a USP because it did have different things that other shops didn't. Now it is more like any other co-op shop and therefore has lost some of that attraction.

It was a destination shop for greetings cards for example, because of the choice that was always there. Also, an outlet shop for small individual manufacturers and producers like Broadland hams, McLellan Castle pâtés and Delphi salads, but not now. Also, Lanes bakery, a local low miles supplier of bread is no longer stocked.

I do hope that Bill is able to bring back some of that individuality and keep the character of the old village shop. Given all that, it is great to have the convenience of it being here in Bottisham at all.

It is sad to report the death of a couple of Bottisham characters. Colin Bryant passed away last month, and Peter Midgley also died just a couple of weeks ago. Our thoughts are with their families.

In the magazine now, Sports nut gives his view on all things sport. Always a good read, even to those of us who do more watching than taking part.

Great to see the Library opening up again and tackling the distancing issue so well. Wonderful commitment from all the volunteers.

Lots of other items of interest, so have a good read, let us know your views and we'll be back next month. Christmas already on the horizon!

Your editor.

Despite the ravages of, and restrictions necessarily imposed to combat, Covid-19, EAAA continues its invaluable lifesaving work within our communities. The funds required to allow it to continue flying 'Anglia One' from Norwich and 'Anglia Two' from Cambridge are in the region of £13m this year. A tidy sum ! Much of this comes from individual bequests, and contributions through red boxes in shops, public houses, garages etc. Another income stream is via sponsored events such as 'Together we Run' - EAAA's virtual 2,000 Mile Challenge Fundraiser,

Back in May this year in Long Meadow Jen, daughter of one of our lovely volunteers Jean, suffered a brain aneurism. The NHS sent an ambulance and Anglia Two attended with a specialist trained crew. 'Neil' and others spent the best part of an hour administering treatment at the scene before accompanying Jen to Addenbrookes.

In view of this, Megan, Jean's granddaughter, decided to take up the Challenge Fundraiser by walking a Marathon along cliff paths and promenades whilst in Devon on holiday. "I wanted to do this challenge for EAAA because they recently came out to my Auntie who had a burst brain aneurism. If the Air Ambulance and Paramedics hadn't reached her as fast as they did she probably would not be here today."

Megan helped raise over £700 - the total raised to date is in excess of £16,000 - and rising! East Anglian Air Ambulance is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year - having progressed a long way since its inception when the AA and Frankie Detroit helped with its founding.

Once more, a huge THANK YOU to all of our supporters. Please go online to see how you too can help support this vital work. Please.

Michael White

ONE OF THE CITY'S HIDDEN GEMS IS NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

WITH RECYCLING NOW MAINSTREAM, CAMBRIDGE RE-USE IS SELLING GOOD QUALITY SECOND HAND FURNITURE TO ALL.

Founded 30 years ago as Cambridge Sofa, the charity has been providing a full range of furniture and furnishings to those on low incomes. This will continue, with discounted prices for those in this situation but at the same time, anyone can now visit the warehouse off Cherry Hinton Road to find bargains. Open 10-4pm Monday- Saturday.

Cara Moorey, Cambridge Re-Use manager, said, "We are lucky as we have some beautiful furniture donated from the Cambridge area. There is a real mix of modern and antique pieces, often items that would cost a lot more elsewhere."

Cambridge Re-Use is largely staffed by volunteers and is always interested to hear from people looking to volunteer for half a day or a full day per week on the van or in the warehouse helping customers.

Unit H, The Paddocks, 347 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 8DH

01223 576535. www.cambridgereuse.org.uk

(A selection of stock can be also be found on Gumtree.)

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Remembrance Service at Lode Church

Sunday 8th November 2020

JOINT VILLAGE

**Remembrance Service at Lode Church
10.50 am**

Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

11.00 am

Service in the Lode Church

Due to the Covid Virus restrictions, this will be a shorter service than usual. We will only be able to seat representatives from each organisation in the church.

You are welcome to listen to the service outside.

These arrangements may change following any further government restrictions



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” - John 1.5

These words resonate so strongly with me as I reflect on 2020.

I don't like to be a draining doom-and-gloom-type person, but I am committed to authenticity, honesty, vulnerability, and the truth is, for many, 2020 has been a very dark year.

Maybe your darkness has been rooted in relationship breakdown, job loss, loneliness, illness, bereavement, empty-nest syndrome, financial difficulties, [insert other situation] - all very difficult things to go through, only accentuated due to the nature of life with Covid-19.

For me, 2020 has been a very dark year, with struggles and battles not rooted in the pandemic, but certainly compounded by it. I have struggled with symptoms of depression and anxiety and on doctor's advice took some time away from 'work' to seek to get to a more healthy place.

I have been struck throughout this year by how the depth of the darkness enables the light, however small, to shine much brighter.

A single candle flame, in a bright room during the day will have minimal impact on the environment; as evening approaches, the light's influence on the surroundings will be more noticeable; in the depth of the night, that single flame will be sufficient to lighten the whole room.

I want to encourage you, **the light is shining in your darkness.**

For me, this looked like: my incredible wife who was beside me, loving me, praying for me, supporting me, covering my shortcomings throughout my darkest times; my fantastic GP who genuinely cares, is wise, encouraging and challenging where appropriate; my children, who bring me joy by their love for me, their joyfulness, their simplicity, their need for a drink, a biscuit, a bit longer on their devices; the beauty of my surroundings, and the deep joy and brightness experienced when walking Barney (our 9 month old labradoodle) for miles everyday, in all weathers, through the amazing countryside around me; the gift of good friends who were close enough to let me know they care, without being too intrusive and demanding of me.

Each of these light-shining-people, I believe, carry and reflect light from a particular source; the same source being talked about in *John Chapter 1.5* - the loving, creative, joyous, gracious, generous, hopeful, kind, gentle, good, patient - LIGHT of God, seen in creation, **“let there be light”** (*Genesis 1.3*) and experienced in the person of Jesus Christ whose coming Christians will celebrate next month, **“the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.”** (*John 1.9*)

Sometimes I need to be reminded to open my eyes, look around, and see the light around me rather than keeping my eyes closed, looking down and dwelling in the darkness. When I look around I see the beauty, I see the light shining in and through the world and in and through others - the light of God.

You are very welcome to join us for worship via zoom at 10.30 each Sunday morning: Meeting ID: 785 882 4660 Password: Renew. We are just a group of ordinary people trying to follow Jesus and live right, encouraging each other on the way. Please also consider joining us for our online Alpha Course starting in January if you'd like to explore the Christian faith.

Thank you for reading, I pray you will know the love of God deep within your being.

Revd. Alan

Holy Trinity, Bottisham

We are sorry that Holy Trinity, Bottisham is temporarily closed to visitors. This is because work is being carried out to deal with a serious case of dry rot in the North Aisle of the building. The work will take several weeks.

Meanwhile, services continue in the other churches of the Benefice (at Lode, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior) and there is also a weekly Sunday morning service held via Zoom.

You will find up to date details of services and other activities on the Benefice website, <https://angleseygroupparishes.co.uk> and to obtain the Zoom link please email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk.



Mothers' Union

WHAT IS 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM?

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign. It takes place each year from **25 November** (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until **10 December** (International Human Rights Day).

Throughout the campaign, Mothers' Union joins with around 6,000 organisations from approximately 187 countries who participate in the campaign, to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies. There is often a theme for the campaign but as of the production of this pack (September 2020) this has not been announced.

As part of the campaign this year we will be holding our first Global Day which is centred around the disturbing figure that "1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse" and that Mothers' Union, as a leading women's organisation, believe this to be unacceptable.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign is an extension of the day-to-day grassroots work of Mothers' Union. We work alongside communities to help end gender-based violence and to support those affected by it, every day of the year.

We pray for all to follow Christ's example of treating children, women and men with equality and respect.

WE PRAY for all who live in fear of violence and despair that life will ever change.

Bring to an end their suffering, restore their sense of worth.

WE PRAY for those who perpetrate abuse with no sense of guilt or shame.

Bring to justice their actions, change their inner hearts.

WE PRAY against regimes that endorse violence.

Shatter their influence, initiate peace.

Loving Lord, we pray for a better world where love, justice and peace may flourish. - *Amen*

It was with great sadness we received the news that Susan Baker passed away on 23rd September. She was branch leader in Burwell, and our Diocesan President over 12 years 2012-2018. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Ann Langran



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OPENING TIMES

Monday and Wednesday
9am-3pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9am-12.30pm



My first task is to introduce myself, as this is the first time I have written the Parish Notes. My name is **Jonathan Giles** and I have just taken on the role of Parish Clerk. I have lived in Bottisham since 2012 and, for the last three and a half years, have been Parish Clerk for Lode. While that gives me experience of the tasks I will have to undertake here, I know that each village and Parish Council is unique. So my first priority is to catch up on the huge amount of knowledge built up by Claire Fullwood in her 15 years in the role. I am grateful to her for the guidance she has given so far and for the assurance that I can go back and ask more questions!

Given the challenging times we are living through, the Parish Council invited Mrs Rankine, Principal of Bottisham Village College, to outline how the staff are meeting the challenges presented by the pandemic. I think everyone was struck by the sheer number and complexity of the extra tasks required in order to reduce risk for students, staff and everyone living locally. She explained that the college is now organised into 5 year group “bubbles”. Young people are asked to follow the guidance to protect their friends, rather than under threat of sanction. She estimates that 97% of students are self-regulating and that issues arise with only a small minority. The precautions span the whole day, including the transport, where seating plans are used to reduce mixing beyond the “bubble” children are in during the day. Recognising that returning to college after the lockdown creates issues for young people, the College has devised a three point plan: i) refamiliarising students with the environment (90% of students returned in the first week which is now up to 97%) ii) rebuilding students’ confidence, and iii) catchup strategies to make up for the time lost during lockdown. As if this wasn’t enough, the College has also developed contingency plans to respond within 24 hours if government imposes tougher measures to prevent the spread of the virus

Referring to the arrival and departure of students, which is the factor having most impact on the village, she advised that parents were asked to use the sports centre car park. Parking near the entrance is discouraged, as this disrupts school buses and other traffic. While many have worked within this system, a few are continuing to park in Lode Road or the Triangle, often for some time and leaving engines running. Senior staff are seeking to keep things running smoothly but are, on occasion, sadly receiving abuse from parents.

Parish Council has received messages from local residents expressing concern about the congestion and risk to pedestrians and cyclists. So we would ask that parents and carers minimise this by using the sports centre car park as requested. Congestion in the area will also be reduced if you can delay your arrival until close to when the pupils are released. Please also be respectful of the staff, who are working under such extreme pressure at this time.

The application for the Retirement Care Village was due to be considered by the Planning Committee of East Cambridgeshire District Council on 7 October, at which Parish Council were to make a verbal submission opposing the development. In the event, this item was taken off the agenda to allow the applicant to respond to a recent submission from the County Council. We await further developments.

There is one vacancy for Parish Councillor. Anyone who is interested in finding out more can contact Jon Ogborn who is the Chair of the Council at jon.ogborn@bottishampc.co.uk.

I look forward to meeting you in my new role!

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District Councillors' Report

The District Council adopted the Custom and Self Build and Natural Environment Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD), which developers now must follow. We were impressed by how many individuals and Parish Councils responded with support and ideas to strengthen the measures further, particularly for the Natural Environment SPD. Unfortunately, SPDs can only strengthen and expand on policies already in the Local Plan. This meant that many of the suggestions, which Councillors also supported, could not be included as they could not be linked with policies in our current Local Plan. But they have all been recorded and will be brought forward again for consideration when we develop a new Local Plan. As the current plan dates back to 2015, John and Charlotte are keen that we should start work on drafting a new Local Plan which properly addresses the climate emergency and our need for affordable housing. Meanwhile, the Council is now consulting on a Climate Change SPD to ensure our Planning Policies reduce climate impact. We hope that many people will comment on this SPD by the closing date of 23 November – you can read the draft document on-line or request a copy from the Council.

We are also consulting on our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which seeks to ensure that we fully include everyone in service provision, job opportunities and other aspects of the District Council's activities. This is an important document and we are keen for many people to comment, so that we develop a policy which builds a community in which all can take part and all can take pride. The deadline for comments is the end of November.

To comment on any consultation, go to the Council's website - <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/> and click on the button for 'consultation' which will take you through to the document and details of how to comment.

Members of the Bus Working Party finally received feedback from the bus services consultation. This will be discussed by all members at a seminar at the end of October before Finance & Assets Committee decide on the Council's request to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority for improved bus services in East Cambs. John and Charlotte are pressing for the results of the walking and cycling surveys, which have still not been reported to members even though the consultation closed at the end of May. We were pleased to note that many people locally had responded to the bus survey with ideas for improvements to buses to Ely, Newmarket and Cambridge, including considering wider destinations such as Addenbrookes and Cambridge North.

We will be holding our next Councillors' **Surgery by Zoom on 17 November from 6.00pm**. The meeting code is: 631 542 4066 and the passcode is: 938720. If you prefer to follow a link, it will be on Charlotte's Facebook page - fb.me/charlottecanelibdem. The Surgery will be followed by 'Meet your Councillors' from 7.00pm on the same Zoom link. If you join for the surgery, you will be held in the waiting room if there is already someone in the meeting with us, so that any discussions during the surgery remain confidential.

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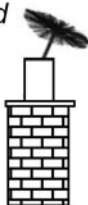
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NEW APPLICATION

20/01247/FUL, Bottisham Post Office, 12 High Street, Subdivision of existing flat into two flats
NEW APPLICATION

20/00929/FUL, Stocks, 76-78 High Street, Change of use from part residential/part curtain showroom to 100% residential, APPLICATION APPROVED

D.K.TILL & SON IN LAW

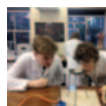
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We have now been open for two months and are getting into new routines. A lot of our learners have returned on reduced days, and we are slowly introducing more learners back in. Throughout lockdown Red2Green kept in touch with our learners through new online systems and by telephone. Like everyone we have had to get used to technology and get through teething problems! Our learners have struggled without us, and we were very grateful when we could reopen to the highest priority learners. Opening in a COVID-19 secure manner has been expensive, and we have been grateful for all the help and donations that we have received. If you are able to raise funds for us, then please get in touch. If you would like to donate you can do so at:-

<https://justgiving.com/campaign/Red2GreenCovidSecure>

RED2GREEN COMMUNITY CAFÉ AND GARDEN

Having been forced to close the Red2Green Café for the duration of the pandemic, we have been really grateful for the support of the local people in buying plants from us. We soon sold out of summer bedding. We are still selling plants and have an honesty box and plant display on the edge of our Bottisham site from 9:30 to 4 p.m, Monday to Friday. We have a variety of winter bedding available and this can be ordered for collection, or for a £3 charge we will deliver within 5 miles of Bottisham. You can support a local charity and get your plants through us at www.red2green.org

The Red2Green Community Café is still closed. Whilst other cafes have been able to open, we need the space for our learners to be able to socially distance and we are keeping our learners away from the general public.

We are looking forward to being able to reopen, but this will be when we can do so safely.

COGS2COMPUTERS

Our Cogs2Computers project was suspended when we closed our services. We are really happy to be back with it, despite some changes being made to the project as COVID-19 has had a bit of an impact on how we can deliver this.

We are currently learning all about the Antikythera Mechanism which has been described as the first analogue computer and originating in ancient Greece. The mechanism was used to predict astronomical positions and eclipses for calendars – decades in advance!

Our Steering Committee will be meeting (virtually, of course) on the 22nd October at 10:30 am, where we will be discussing our new way of going forward with the project and planning some exciting virtual events which will bring everyone together for fun and learning. Watch this space!

THE GREAT BRITISH CLEAN UP

Aspirations took part in the "Great British September Clean" for Keep Britain Tidy. Our learners devised their own safety checks, ensured they had the correct equipment and then searched everywhere for rubbish. The first week they went to the Denny in Swaffham Bulbeck and the graveyard. The following week they did the road to Bottisham. They collected a big bag of plastic bottles, tins cans and general waste both weeks. This activity and photos have been uploaded to the Great British September Clean-up page.



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MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Membership renewal was due on the 1st October 2020. Many thanks to all members who have renewed. We would be grateful if you could renew your membership as soon as possible.

Any queries please email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com

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.

BT Sport is available throughout the year. Why not come along and watch your fa-vorite team with company and a great pint.

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SHOW RESPECT THIS BONFIRE NIGHT

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is joining forces with local authority partners and emergency services to help keep people safe this bonfire and fireworks season.

With many organised events cancelled across the county, emergency services are preparing for a busier night than usual. There is an emerging concern that more people will plan displays and bonfires to celebrate in their own gardens, which could pose significant risk for those who choose to use them.

We are asking everyone to show respect this Bonfire Night.

Head of Community Fire Safety, Group Commander Per Middleton, said: “Bonfire Night is historically a very popular fixture in the calendar where people come together to enjoy firework displays, however this year is very different. With the COVID-19 pandemic still with us, the organised displays we would usually enjoy cannot take place and we are concerned that some people may look to hold their own displays.

“While most people enjoy fireworks responsibly, they can quickly become a disaster and, in the wrong hands, they can cause injury and damage to property. Fireworks are explosives and should be treated with respect. Only use fireworks in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and the firework safety code, ensuring all necessary safety precautions are taken.

“We would strongly discourage people from lighting bonfires in back gardens as they present significant risks to residents if they get out of hand. Not only this, but the smoke can also aggravate coronavirus symptoms for those that might be shielding or isolating.”

“We would encourage residents across the county to think twice before having their own displays and lighting bonfires in their gardens this year. Not only do these present risks for residents and our crews, but with the pandemic still with us we all have a responsibility to ensure we don't put unnecessary strain on emergency services. Please show respect this Bonfire Night and think twice about having your own display.”

Group Commander Middleton added: “Although bonfire night might look a little different this year, there are still ways families can enjoy it safely. There are lots of family friendly activities people can do at home, such as watching a virtual display, or doing some crafts together to mark the occasion, without putting their loved ones at risk.

“It’s also really important that residents remember the government’s rule of six to help control the spread of COVID-19.”

If you intend on buying fireworks for a home display, please follow the firework safety code:

- Only buy fireworks marked with a CE mark
- Don't drink alcohol if you're setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed box and always follow the instructions carefully when using them

Continued on page 19

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- Light them at arm's length using a taper and stand well back
- ever go back to them once they are lit. Even if a firework hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never throw fireworks, and never put them in your pocket
- Respect your neighbours – don't let off fireworks late at night and remember there are laws in place you must follow
- Take care with sparklers – never give them to children under five. Even when they've gone out they're still hot, so put sparklers in a bucket of water after use
- Keep your pets indoors throughout the evening.

Fireworks can also cause a great deal of distress to animals. In a recent survey, 62 per cent of dog owners reported their pets showing signs of distress during fireworks season, with 54 per cent of cat owners experiencing the same. Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and the National Fire Chiefs Council are supporting the RSPCA's Bang Out Of Order campaign, encouraging the responsible use of fireworks and the adoption of tighter regulations concerning their use.

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.

This one is different, it doesn't start Dear Editor...

Dear Nora

How can I sum up the feelings, achievements, friendship (usually) and love we have shared over the past few years. It would tire me, and probably bore anyone else reading this.

I'll compromise with a few thank-yous and apologies.

Thank you for being you. Thank you for being there. For bearing our children, raising them, caring for them, even now.

Thank you for having skills so different to mine, in the house, in the garden, the different types of work you have learned and brought to use at home.

If I have hurt you by teasing you, it was unfair. If you feel I have not appreciated you then it is untrue, but my fault for not showing it. If I cannot be how you want me to be, then it is most likely because I am a man (shopping particularly).

You have worked hard beside me, and for our children, in so many ways, and you still do.

What I would do without you, I don't know.

What the next 50 years will bring is a total mystery, but the past 50 have been so memorable.

The "official" celebration at the end of November has had to be postponed, but I'm sure we will be able to find some way of making it notable.

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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

We are still in increasingly difficult times with more to come, it seems. We are now in the same situation as at the beginning of March according to an announcement today. I still wonder how Stagecoach is coping. Buses and trains do now have a few more passengers as people have been encouraged to go back to work. In my experience people are wearing masks and maintaining their distance from each other.

Private coaches are now back to work taking children to school and college but social distancing cannot be maintained although mask wearing is obligatory. People returning from France via the channel tunnel report that officials don't seem interested in the paperwork that people wave at them.

If there is a further lockdown, will schools, colleges and universities remain open? Just tuition by information and course work on their computers is not very satisfying and the very limited access to the libraries is disappointing. My granddaughter texted that she was working in a cafe. I was puzzled as I didn't think she had a job. When I enquired, she replied that the cafe had good Wi-Fi and she was doing her course work there! If things close, public transport will lose customers again and drivers will be furloughed or lose their jobs.

Articles continue almost daily in the Cambridge News regarding the plans to improve transport connections throughout the county particularly from the West to the East including the Marleigh development. Mayor James Palmer has great plans but the arguments rage as to how to do it all.

The metro system to go under Cambridge is very much part of this. How much will it cost and how long will it take are really unanswerable questions. Comments are being invited by Network Rail regarding the Cambridge South station. It will be by the Cambridge Biomedical Campus near Addenbrookes hospital. It should ease travelling across the city. Comments to be made between October 19th and November 29th. There is also a Bus Reform Task Force led by the Mayor. There are now doubts about introducing a flexible rail season ticket to help part time commuters.

Rail info: 08457 48 49 50 Traveline: 08712 00 22 33

Happy travelling - take care! Keep safe and well.

Paddy James.

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 November.

*Please send material to the editor
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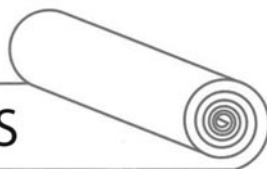


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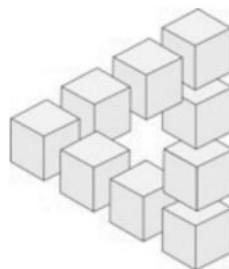
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

WHAT a race this year's Tour de France was! It's a unique event anyway, with its history, its three-week duration, individual and team interests, races within races, alliances and feuds, awards for riders with different skills, all culminating in a glorious sprint finish on the Champs Elysees on the 21st day of racing. To put it simply, each stage is a separate race, timed to the second, and the overall winner is the rider with the quickest aggregate time. But he can achieve this only with the assistance of seven team members who take turns providing him a slipstream in which to ride more easily and also chase down attacks from opponents. On the way to Paris, in addition to the overall 'General Classification' (Yellow Jersey) there are four side competitions: for best sprinter (Green Jersey), best mountain climber (Polka Dot Jersey), best young rider (White Jersey), and best team (based on aggregate time of the teams' first three riders). And, as if that isn't enough, there is also a daily award for the most 'Combative' rider, as judged by the organisers. So, although most riders' jobs are primarily in the service of their respective team leaders, there are plenty of opportunities, not only for some personal glory, but also to put the names of the team sponsors in front of the world's cameras.

Anyway, may I straight away admit that I called the race winner wrongly! Against all expectations, the favourite Primož Roglič, the Vuelta Espagna reigning champion, suffered a catastrophic loss of form on the Stage 20 Individual Time Trial, and was overhauled in dramatic fashion by his powerful young compatriot, Tadej Pogačar, who snatched the 'Maillot Jaune' to become the first Slovenian to win the Tour and the youngest winner in 116 years! Poor Roglič! He sat disconsolately on the tarmac for a couple of minutes at the end of his ride, a picture of wretched desolation, then hauled himself up to go and congratulate Pogačar, who was mid-interview with French TV... a classy, touching moment that speaks volumes about the respect between the participants in this brutal sport!

And talking of 'brutal', please spare a thought for poor Geraint Thomas (the 2018 Tour de France champion) who crashed out of the Giro d'Italia for the second successive time with a fractured hip, after hitting a stray water bottle in the neutralised zone even before racing had begun! He still rode for a full day with the injury though... tough boy!

Despite a few weather-related frustrations, we enjoyed a summer of scintillating international cricket in all its forms, culminating in a mini-series of One Day Internationals against our traditional foes from Down Under. As with West Indies, Pakistan and Ireland, huge respect is due to our opponents, and also the ground staff of both Old Trafford and the Ageas Bowl, for entering the "bio-bubbles" to make the games happen. At one game each, the climax of the ODIs in Manchester was adorned by three centuries, 600 runs and 14 wickets in the day. Australia squeaked home in the run-chase with two balls to spare, and England were left to rue a number of costly mistakes but, all things considered, this was sporting drama of the highest level in the most difficult of times, summed up graciously by Eoin Morgan, the 'English' captain: "Sometimes when you're beaten by the better side you've just got to put your hand up and today was one of those games."

Respect is also due to the West Indian Women Cricketers who came over for an entertaining T20 series against England. Unfortunately, they were outclassed by the home side in all departments but the skill level of both teams was impressive and one would hope that a closer contest would develop next time round.

(Sports Nut continued on page 39)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

I won't bore you with any lamentations over England's lacklustre Nations League matches versus Iceland and Denmark in September but, while we were fretting, something remarkable happened in Stockholm (at the beautiful Friends Arena, in fact, where the Bottisham boys had witnessed Zlatan Ibrahimovic putting England to the sword back in 2012). Cristiano Ronaldo, now almost 36, scored his 100th (and 101st) goal for Portugal in his 165th international appearance. It's fair to say that I have not always been Ronaldo's greatest admirer, particularly in his early days at Manchester United, where he was as noted for his double-somersault-with-pike as much as his goalscoring! However, having escaped the clutches of United's megalomaniac manager (may I just say how I chuckled at the Wikipedia description of Ferguson as "former football player"!), Ronaldo went on to grace the biggest stages of Europe with his ability to carry his teams to honours whilst apparently plundering goals at will.

This boy from Funchal, Madeira is a record-breaking machine! He has won the European Championship and Nations League with Portugal and, at club level, he has won seven League Championships in three different countries - England, Spain and Italy. Here's a small selection of his other records:

- Five times winner of European Champions League
- Five times winner of Ballon D'Or (leading European goalscorer in a season)
- First player to score more than 50 club goals in four, five and six consecutive seasons
- Most World Club Trophies (4 – shared with German, Toni Kroos)
- Scored 450 goals for Real Madrid including 35 League hat-tricks
- Most goals in Champions League history – 130 including 20 headers
- Only player to score for Portugal in four different World Cups (17 matches in total)
- Portugal's most capped player with a goal tally unlikely ever to be beaten

And he needs only nine more goals to take Iranian Ali Daei's record as the leading international goalscorer of all time! So... respect, Mr Ronaldo, for a stellar career. You're not Pele, but you are genuinely a 'great' of the game!

From a footballing point of view, I wouldn't expect most people to care much about the saga of Gareth Bale's long-winded departure from Real Madrid and eventual return to Tottenham Hotspur in September... However, I would hope that any true football fan would be outraged at the sums of money involved at a time when we are about to see an unprecedented number of lower league clubs going bust! The Bale deal is that the player is receiving half of his preposterous £500K per week wage from each club whilst on loan for a year. How can anyone involved sleep at night when this sum is more or less the same as the debt that has put Macclesfield Town FC out of existence after 146 years, and is shortly to do the same to Southend United under a winding up order? With Bury Town already consigned to history, this could become a familiar pattern over the coming months as those clubs who rely on gate money for a significant proportion of their revenue find themselves unable to cover players' (and their bloodsucking agents') contracts.

I suppose this state of affairs is not exactly the fault of Bale's, or his two clubs. This time bomb has been ticking ever since the formation of the Premier League, the sell-out to Sky TV and the failure of FIFA, UEFA and the various national Football Associations to regulate the game in the best interests of all. Club owners, too, many of them only half a step ahead of the law (or not yet caught!) are complicit in this mess. Why could a relatively small levy not be introduced on Premier League club transfers and players' wages to support the game at lower levels? If the ridiculous wealth in football is not re-distributed more equitably soon, then the Football League as we know it will go the way of Nero's Rome!

TTFN - Gerry Daish

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