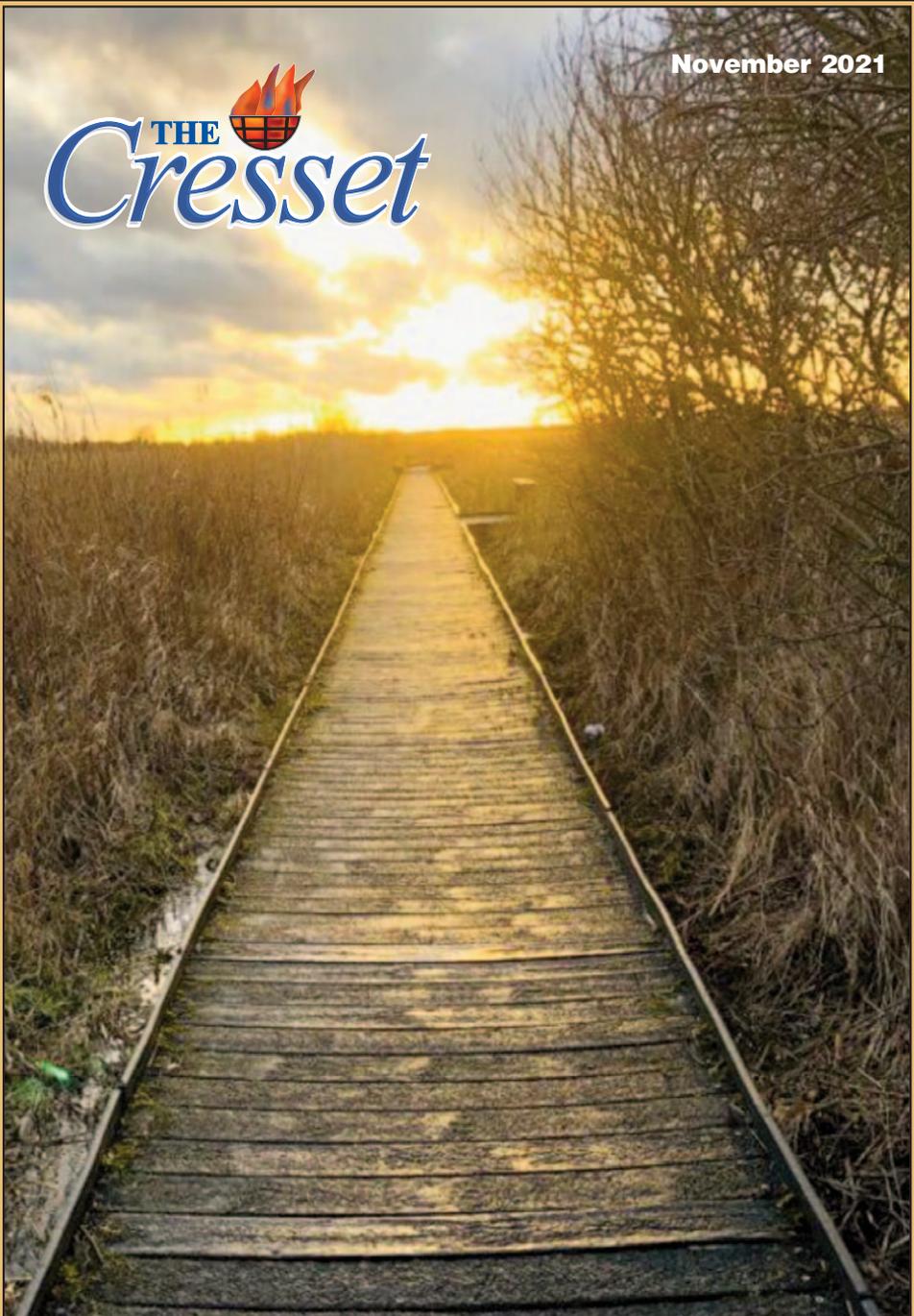


November 2021



THE
Cresset



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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, BOTTISHAM & DISTRICT BRANCH

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2021 at 10.45am at Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham

The Bottisham and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding its Remembrance Day Service this year in Bottisham.

The Remembrance Service will commence at 10.45am outside the Church with the reading of the names of the fallen from our district together with the remembrance service, being held outside, if the weather is good.

It is hoped that taking part will be standards and representation from local organisations, together with members of the affiliated Burwell detachment of the Cambridgeshire ACF. The reading of the names and the silence will be held outside before going into church for the laying up of the standards and the church service.

THE 11th HOUR of the 11th DAY of the 11th MONTH

At 11 o'clock on Thursday the 11th of November, the Nation will pause for the Annual TWO MINUTES SILENCE to remember the fallen, including those from recent conflicts. The Bottisham Royal British Legion Branch will hold a brief service of remembrance at the village sign and garden of remembrance, opposite the church. To which all are welcome. Assemble next the village sign at 10.45am.

LEST WE FORGET, GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

The Bottisham Royal British Legion Branch has erected a small Garden of Remembrance, situated by the Village Sign opposite Holy Trinity Church. Anyone who may wish to do so is invited to place a Poppy Cross for personal remembrance. The Garden will be in place from Saturday 30th October until Thursday 18th November. Poppy Crosses may be obtained from any Poppy Seller, from the Community Social Club in Bottisham or the Village Shop.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO YOUR NOVEMBER EDITION OF THE CRESSET.



Well done to those who spotted the typo on last month's cover. I know we often use the phrase "How time flies" but going ahead of myself by twelve months to 2022 was a bit much. They say don't wish your life away. I know what they mean!

Having enjoyed a relatively mild September and October, I get the feeling that we might have to forget Autumn and will be heading straight into winter. However, looking on the bright side, we should be able to cut down on the grass cutting!

Many of you will recall Dr. Neville Silverston who was the Doctor in the village from 1959 until he retired in 1986. A hugely respected figure in the area, he was responsible for many things including the creation of MAGPAS which celebrates 50 Years of operations this year. I enjoyed a meeting recently with Dr. Silverston at his home near Addenbrooks. For a man of 93, he is very 'on the ball' and still involved in the activities of MAGPAS.

He has written a brief history of the Doctors who have practiced in Bottisham as far back as 1847. With his agreement I am including a summary of his history which will, I am sure, make interesting reading for many. It brings that history up to the time of his retirement and the arrival of Dr. Mark Towriss whom many of you will have known. Dr. Towriss was a very well-liked doctor, who looked after our family from when we arrived from Scotland in 1985 up until his tragic early death in 2008. He was instrumental in creating the surgery we have now with many more Doctors in the practice. Dr. Higham, now having retired, Dr. Shackleton is the Senior partner in what is now a very busy practice. I hope you enjoy the read.

I attended the annual parish meeting last month. (One of the few). New user friendly format saw a shorter formal part and then a much less formal set up with all the representatives from school, police, parish, district and county councillors available to talk with over a sociable refreshment at the Community Social Club bar. If they keep that format, I am sure more than this time will attend. It meant you could get the answers you wanted direct from the relevant person. Hope they keep it.

We have quite a lot for you this month including responses to previous articles and letters. With that a reminder that we will not publish anonymous letters.

There are the regular articles and notices of village activities and some seasonal event. With Christmas fast approaching there are opportunities to do some seasonal browsing at local Christmas fairs.

One event in particular that I would draw your attention to, is the notice for the Armistice Day services. Still affected by some Covid restrictions, but worth noting. They hope to involve the local youth organisations as usual, but restrictions and new rules mean that the days of marching along the road are no more.

You will also see a further edition of the new "What's on" feature. Mirroring the detail which appears on the Bottisham Facebook page. It gives a good summary of most of the things that are happening now or in the near future.

This month's cover is a November view from Wicken Fen by Ruth Tingay from Mark Avery.com.

Stay warm and safe and see you next month.

Your Editor

Services in the Anglesey Benefice

EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME AT ANY OF THESE SERVICES!

- Wed. 3 Nov. 8 pm** C by C (a short contemplative service), Online service on Zoom
- Sun. 7 Nov.**
- 9am Online service on Zoom
Village Worship, Village Hall, Quy
- 10.30am. Holy Communion, Bottisham
- Sun. 14 Nov. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
- 9am Online service on Zoom
- 10.45am Royal British Legion Service, Bottisham
Remembrance Service, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck,
Swaffham Prior
- Sun. 21 Nov. CHRIST THE KING**
- 9am Online service on Zoom
Morning Prayer, Quy
- 10.30am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck
Morning Prayer, Bottisham
- Sun. 28 Nov. ADVENT SUNDAY**
- 9am Online service on Zoom
- 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP), Swaffham Prior
- 6pm Advent by Candlelight, Swaffham Bulbeck
- Each Thur. 10.30am Holy Communion, Lode**
Subject to current Covid restrictions

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Website: www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Email: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk – to request Zoom link

Bottisham Adult Learning Association (BALA)

There has been a good response to the current course 'How the British Isles were Formed.' After an introduction to the main types of rock: Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic including recognition of various samples, we are beginning to build up a geological map of the British Isles.

We've been pleased to welcome back many former members of the group while being encouraged by the number of new members.

See the December Cresset for details for January. Contact email bottishambala@btinternet.com

Helen Cole

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**Copy deadline for the next issue is
14 November.**

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



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Parish Council Report

I am writing this article following the launch of the Bottisham Parish website. We went live on 12 October and I would like to encourage everyone to take a tour! While the Parish Council must use the website to publicise its meetings and provide information, we have taken the opportunity to ensure that our new website can do much more.

A key role for the Council is to comment on planning applications received by East Cambridgeshire District Council. A feature of the new website is a direct link to the District Council's Planning Portal so that all applications are automatically uploaded onto the village website. A single click will take you straight through to the application itself where all documents can be viewed online.

Council members and the Clerk have often been approached with questions about how to report faults of different kinds; we have now, in effect, provided a signpost to the bodies actually responsible for dealing with the problem. The new website has a "Report It" section: here you will find direct links to enable you to report problems to the appropriate organisation. If you find further links that would be useful, please let us know.

You will also find information about local amenities, including clubs and societies operating within the village.

Finally, the website celebrates the wonderful environment in which we are privileged to live. We will be uploading photographs which will reawaken old memories. There will also be new ones, specially taken for the website by Rosolie, who lives in the village and is a student at Long Road. We are most grateful to her and to everyone who has supported us in creating such an attractive website. So it remains for me to give you the link so that you can explore it for yourself: www.bottisham-pc.gov.uk

As if this wasn't enough change, we have taken the opportunity to update our email system, so that it is both easier to use and more secure. As with the website, the new emails are located in the gov.uk domain. All Councillors will now have a dedicated Parish Council email, so that they can be reached more easily. Mine, for example, is jon.ogborn@bottisham-pc.gov.uk while that for Jonathan Giles, the Clerk, is clerk@bottisham-pc.gov.uk .

By the time you read this, our (Covid-delayed) Annual Parish Meeting will have taken place. We will be using the opportunity of that meeting to present the draft plans for the new Cemetery. If you would like to see the plan as it has been developed so far, please see the website reports of the meeting.

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!!

Joining the Parish Council gives residents an excellent and rewarding way to contribute to the life of the village. It also provides you with an opportunity to influence the development of the wider Cambridgeshire community, through interaction with our District and County councillors.

We have two vacancies on the Council we are looking to fill and would welcome enquiries from residents who might be interested in the role of councillor. In the first instance, could I please ask you to contact our Clerk (address above) for more information?

Jon Ogborn - Chair of Bottisham Parish Council

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Planning Notes

NEW APPLICATIONS

17/00297/DISA 52 High Street, Bottisham. To discharge Condition 3 (Details of gate) of decision dated 5/5/2017 for resubmission of previously approved 16/00858/FUL to include repositioning of access and inclusion of additional window to flat roof extension to rear. Condition discharged 5 October 2021

21/01345/TRE 109 High Street, Bottisham CB25 9BA. T1 Walnut – fell to 2.5m from ground level

PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY ECDC

21/01077/CLP 9 Stocks Close, Single storey rear extension and window on east elevation

21/01130/FUL 4 Mulberry Close, Proposed rear extension and associated internal alterations

21/01058/FUL 4 Maple Close, 2nd storey extension over existing storey, ground floor extension at rear, relocation of front door, new window in west elevation.

District Councillors' Report

Meetings of the County Council have been reduced by the ruling coalition, which gives less opportunity to scrutinize the decisions that are being made on your behalf.

Since my last report, there has been no meeting of Highways & Transport Committee or Children & Young People Committee, which are the policy committees that I am a member of.

By the time that you read this report, there will have been a meeting of the Children & Young People Committee to have an initial look at the budget situation for Education in the next financial year.

As a governor of two schools, I have attended zoom presentations of the likely budget outcome and will advise further once the outcome is known.

In terms of the Eastern Access proposals by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, there is a briefing for Councillors later in October and I will update residents next month of any issues that come out of that meeting.

Whilst talking about transport, there is a public consultation by Network Rail starting on 18th October on the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement. It may not directly affect your village, but there needs to be major work done at Ely to alleviate a rail bottleneck, where three from the North merge into one, as do two lines from the South. This work is needed so that the number of trains going through Ely can be increased, both passenger and freight, which will increase the container traffic that can be moved by rail, thus reducing the number of trucks on the A14. Please read and contribute to this consultation, as it is important for the rail traffic east of Cambridge.

The County Council have set up a Highways Improvement Board and it had its first meeting on 24th September. I am the East Cambs rep on that Committee and at our first meeting, we discussed the issues of gully cleaning and pothole repairs and improving the performance in those areas. We are due to meet every 6 weeks and I will update on the progress to improve outcomes in future reports.

If you are aware of an issue that concerns you, please let me know. If I am not aware of it, I cannot fix it.

I look forward to updating residents further next month.

Alan Sharp Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Woodditton Division
Tel: 01638 507485/ 07794292941 E-Mail: Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



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Monday and Wednesday

9am-3pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9am-12.30pm



We were so pleased to be together for our first official meeting since February 2020. Jan Mott came along to outline the work of the Salvation Army and told us that when lockdown happened many of the usual organisations came to a full stop so they stepped in to provide hot meals and food parcels to people in need.

She then explained that they run a Christmas Appeal every year and gave us detail about how it is organised and how the parcels are then distributed to needy families in time for Christmas.

If our members would like to contribute items they will need food, toys and new clothes for children. Also wrapping paper and Sellotape, as these are given to the parents so they can wrap gifts themselves.

We helped ourselves to a variety of cheeses with wine or squash and spent time chatting with friends and catching up. After we held our AGM to elect officers and committee for the coming year.

Our next meeting is on 17th November at 7.30pm. and our speaker is Tamsin Wimhurst who will give a talk on the David Parr House in Cambridge. It will be held in the Community Sports and Social Club and visitors are welcome to join us.

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.

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TEL
Personal trampoline 1 metre diameter	£5.00	813183
Telescope with stand , almost unused	£15.00	813183
Mens - Padders Lunar Black shoes (Brand New) Size 10	£25	812158
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Bottisham Community Events



Welcome to Bottisham

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Every Sunday 10:30-16:00 Bottisham Airfield Museum is open and serving refreshments.

Every Wednesday 10:30 Meeting Point in the Poppy Room, Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club

Every Wednesday 19:15 Carpet Bowls at Bottisham Village College

Every (first) Wednesday of the month 19:30 Bottisham Book Club at The Bell

Every (last) Friday of the month 09:30 Bottisham Men's Walking Group

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 29th October, 19th November and 10th December. Pam Daish is in the Community Sports & Social Club on 3 Friday nights singing your favourite songs from the decades -7.30pm to 9.30pm- Members free entry, Non-members £2. Great night!

Wednesday 3rd November 2021 Bottisham Book Club A cosy evening starting at 7:30pm at The Bell (TBC), for more information contact helenlslone@gmail.com

Saturday 6th November 2021 Story Telling At the village Library starting at 10am, for further details contact olindaliddiard@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 6th November 2021 Music at The Bell Pub The band Loaded Dice return to the stage in the local village pub, at 8:30pm, for more information call 811483

Saturday 4th December 2021 Litter Pick Gather from 10:30am BVC car park (Sports Centre end), please register in advance if you can, or where possible bring your own equipment, for more information email bottishamcommunityevents@gmail.com

Sunday 5th December 2021 Christmas Fair Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club are hosting a Christmas Fair for all to enjoy, for further details email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com

Monday 13th December Social Club host the annual Christmas event with raffle and Newmarket Town Band

RECENTLY ENJOYED

4th October Bottisham Community Events Group Meeting A lovely evening in The Bell and online, getting to know neighbours and bringing event ideas to life

9th October Bowls Club Quiz Night An opportunity to engage in friendly competition at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club

16th October Community Yard Sale Raising money for the local Scout group and supported by the Red2Green Café, a weekend of bargain hunting and a chance to clear the clutter

16th October Legionaires 77 High energy Ska, New Wave, Rock & Pop tunes from the 60's, 70's and 80's at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club

Continued on page 13

M&P

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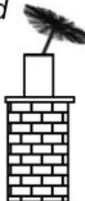
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17th October 2021 Re-enactment Weekend Authentic uniforms and vehicles at the Bottisham Airfield Museum, check Facebook page for future events

30th October 2021 Halloween Party at BCSSC A spooky celebration to mark the end of the month, by the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club

THINGS IN THE MAKING

Lego Club - the Community Library are still looking for volunteers to support the re-start the Lego Club, if you're interested email enquiries@bottishamvc.org

Community Meal – if you're interested in supporting this fabulous idea sometime in the new year, please email bottishamcommunityevents@gmail.com

Winter Lights Walk – if you're interested in supporting this sparkling event this December to celebrate the darker evenings and raise funds for Red2Green, please email bottishamcommunityevents@gmail.com

Bottisham Village College – are looking for volunteers to provide a cafe facility to support village events, if interested email enquiries@bottishamvc.org

COMMUNITY HERB BED PROJECT UPDATE by Sarah Brown

Jan, Bernadette and I have made a start on maintaining the flower beds by our village sign and war memorial, with kind permission from the Parish Council.

The intention is to create herb beds for the community, which we will work on developing further in Spring. We hope that residents will take a 'snip for dinner' when they wish to, once the beds are established.

There will also be some winter and spring flowers to go in, bringing some added colour to the beds. Any donations of unwanted seeds or cuttings are gratefully received.

If you're interested in lending a hand, please contact brownsjc46@gmail.com, help with the following is appreciated:

- Donations of unwanted herb seeds, plants, or wintering bedding plants
- Designing a community herb bed sign
- Planting

HERB OF THE MONTH by Sarah Brown – 'Chives'

Chives are one of the most well-known of culinary herbs. The delicate onion flavour can enhance a salad, or be added to sandwiches, sprinkled on soups or pep up an omelette for example. With bonfire night approaching, how about trying a sour cream and chive dip with mini baked potatoes?

RECIPE - This simple recipe has just 2 ingredients:

6 tablespoons of sour cream, or non-dairy alternative. Plus a handful of chives.

METHOD - Simply snip the chives into your sour cream and mix. Serve on the jacket potatoes or use as a dip.

GROWING CHIVES - Chives can be grown from seed on a warm windowsill, ready to plant out in warmer weather. They can be picked outdoors from February to November and for longer if given protection. If left to flower, you will have fewer leaves, but the attractive flowers are also edible, but remember to leave some for the bees

Enjoy!

Swaffham Prior

Pop up gallery and art café

Ten artists living in the Swaffhams have gathered their work together to help you find some unique and wonderful Christmas gifts, along with delicious homemade cakes.



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Swaffham Prior Village Hall

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News from Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

AUTUMN WALKS

Autumn sees the return of migrant birds to the fen such as wigeon, redwing and fieldfare and the first hen harriers have also been spotted. The wetter areas of the reserve attract wildfowl in large numbers over the colder months too; often 5000 or more birds.

If you enjoy the walk past Baker's Fen hide, along Harrison's Drove towards Wicken Lode, it's starting to get muddy so wellies are a good idea. It's worth stopping off at Bakers' Fen hide as the views of the open water are well worth seeing, and it's also a quiet and tranquil place to pause for a few moments of reflection.

Footprints project latest

We're looking forward to starting some more new activities as part of our community engagement project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. In November we will be training our new community archaeology volunteers ready to support local people to get involved with fieldwalking on 20th/21st November. It will be interesting to see what evidence we can find of those whose footprints crossed the land in the past. We hope to connect people with the heritage of this landscape.

We're also going to be planting just over 1000 trees at Oily Hall and White Fen in the wider reserve between 27 and 29 November. The planting is to enhance the community woodland as part of our Footprints project, and to plant blossom trees as part of the National Trust's Blossom Together project. Both areas should provide not only new habitats for wildlife, but also places for people to enjoy walks and picnics, whether on foot or as a stop off along the Lodes Way cycle route.

We will be inviting local communities to come along and join in, so keep the dates in mind and an eye on our website and social media channels for more details.

Father Christmas at the Fen

We're pleased to announce that Father Christmas has made time in his busy schedule to visit us at the Fen! Join the elves to make a decoration, and to collect a Christmas craft pack for taking home, before popping into Fen Cottage where Father Christmas will be warming his toes by the fire. He will have a present for you too of course! On the 4th and 5th December, it will be Mother Christmas who is visiting the Fen this year, sharing the workload as the man himself is pretty busy. For more details and to book, go to our website.

For all the latest Wicken Fen information please visit our website and keep an eye on our social media feeds www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Letter

Would anyone who knew the late John Sarll of Bell Road, Bottisham, please contact me. I am particularly interested in hearing from any of his living siblings.

Thank you - Henry Fitch,

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 November.

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

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At our September meeting, Richard Ayres gave us a colourful slide show and talk on the gardens at Kirtling, and his time working there. Covering the initial planting of bulbs and plants to their full bloom and maturity. He also very kindly played the organ for our hymn during the service.

Our short programme for 2021 will continue as follows;

Thursday 18th November – Speaker: Jean Webb, MU Faith in Action Coordinator

Updates on new and on-going projects, including the Christmas Wish List

Thursday 9th December – Christmas Carols and Mince Pies

(Please note a week earlier than usual)

You are most welcome to come and join us

Ann Langran

Bottisham Community Library

We are now fully open for our original 6 sessions. Hopefully we shall not have more lockdowns forced upon us.

Saturday mornings will be returning to normal with Story and Rhyme times for younger members with Olinda Liddiard commencing at 10.30am on Saturday 6th November and then every first Saturday of the month. We hope that our Lego Club will re start in the New Year also on Saturdays.

We are very grateful to our 6 new volunteers. An excellent response to my plea for help in last months' issue. They will be a great help to many of our long- standing team who have been asked recently to cover for extra sessions. We have to fill over 50 slots each month, not an easy task for our rota organizer.

Numbers of borrowers are steadily returning but we should be more than pleased for more to come back and new members to join. We have many new books on our sales shelves please come and browse and buy. There are several new jigsaws available too and these are free to borrow for an undated loan.

At our recent AGM covering 2 years (how time flies) we were pleased that our finances are healthy. We were sorry that Valerie Leake has stepped down as Chairman. She has done an admirable job. Marian Earle has taken on this responsibility, and we wish her well.

We shall be having a Booksale at The Bottisham CSASC Christmas Fair on December 5th and are arranging for another quiz early in the New Year.

Please support us

Sylvia Overton

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WHICH IS BEST? NEW WORLD OR OLD WORLD? WHAT DOES THAT ACTUALLY MEAN?

One definition is “Old World wine refers primarily to wine made in Europe but can also include other regions of the Mediterranean basin with long histories of winemaking such as North Africa and the Near East. By comparison, “New World” wines, while also being food friendly, are created to meet the tastes of contemporary wine drinkers.” Technically, that makes England part of the new world which might be the first time we’ve been put in that category!

As a rule of thumb most old world wines tend to be a blend of two or three (or more) grapes and new world wines are predominantly made from a single grape variety (which is why they are often called varietals). For example, a claret from Bordeaux would be a blend of cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and merlot whereas you might buy a cabernet sauvignon from Australia or a merlot from Chile. Even more confusing is the Cotes du Rhone appellation. Often compared to new world shiraz (syrah is the French equivalent grape) it’s a blend of predominantly grenache and a whole range of different grapes. In some ways drinking new world wines is a much easier way to learn about wine. Discover which grape you enjoy and then compare different countries. A good starting point would be chardonnay which can be very buttery (Australia) or dry and fruity (California). Buy a few different bottles, get some friends or family round and have your very own tasting evening.

Over the last 20-30 years the lines have become somewhat blurred. Australian winemakers have moved to France where they produce good quality single grape wines. Conversely, new world winemakers have experimented with different blends to create their own specialities. Not surprisingly the older wine producers were initially a bit sniffy about the upstarts from the new world. Over time it’s fair to say that they have, somewhat begrudgingly, learnt to accept that it doesn’t always require a family run chateau that’s been making wine for many generations to produce delicious wine.

All this is great news for you and me. Quality has improved dramatically, and wines are consistently much better now than they ever have been.

I’d love to hear what you enjoy drinking. Drop me an email vinophile7@gmail.com

Recommendations for your Chardonnay Tasting (all available from Majestic, Newmarket
2020 Alamos Chardonnay, Argentina, 13.5 per cent, £8.99. Think tropical fruits, vanilla and sweet spices that are best with fish cakes.

2020 Luis Felipe Edwards Gran Reserva Chardonnay, Chile, 13.5% £7.99. This is a rich and textured Chardonnay, with notes of pineapple, apricot, vanilla and butterscotch. It has a gentle nuttiness that matches well with creamy chicken.

2018 Soumah Chardonnay £8.49 Expect lingering notes of apple, white stone fruit and hint of cashew-esque nuttiness.

2020/21 Gabb Family Chardonnay, South Africa, 13.5% £10.99. It’s fresh yet full-bodied, with notes of citrus, peach and butterscotch on the finish. Enjoy with meaty fish, like baked halibut, or mushroom risotto sprinkled with pine nuts.

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Christmas Fair- Sunday 5th December

Still tables available. Email the club for details.

Monday 13th December- Newmarket Town Band

England World Cup Qualifiers being shown at the club;

Friday 12th November - England v Albania K.O. 19.45

Monday 15th November - San Marino v England 19.45.

BT Sport available throughout the year. Saturday morning premier league games and most European games being shown.

Just a reminder that membership was due for renewal on the 1st October. The cost to existing members stays at £20 each with new members subscriptions being £21 which includes their £1 share in the club. New members are always welcomed.

Please come along and join us.

Please refer to the website. www.bottishamsocialclub.co.uk for the latest information. If you wish to be kept up to date with the latest news, please email bottishamcsasc@gmail.com with your email address and you will be added to the mailing list.

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One Hundred and Eighty Seven Years of Medical Care In Bottisham

A synopsis by Dr. Neville Silverston

I have spent half a lifetime trying to discover something of my predecessors in general practice in Bottisham and District.

What I have discovered is a story of intrigue, deceit, tragedy, promiscuity and exploitation -- a heady mix! It is also the story of how the Second World War changed the life of a small village on the edge of the Fens.

The first reference to a doctor in Bottisham that I could find was in 1847. He was Dr Henry James Calthrop – described as a “Surgeon Apothecary”. It would be many years before the term, ‘general practitioner’ came into use. I don’t know when Dr Calthrop came to the village, nor where he lived. Bottisham then had a population of about 1,000. Lode and Longmeadow added a further 500. It was about half this number when I came to the village in 1958.

In 1853 he was replaced by a Dr Robert Lucas who was a bachelor and lived in the Tudor House on the High Street. He was born in Soham in 1825 and died 60 years later in harness in Bottisham on 18 November 1885. He had a brother, Charles, who was a surgeon and the 1861 Census informs that he lived in Burwell with his wife, Catharine, eight children (two of whom were medical students), three servants and another medical student. He was the author of an erudite and interesting book entitled “The Fenman”.

The following year, 1886, Doctor Sidney Wood moved into the village. The 1911 Census reveals that he was born in Rochdale, Lancashire, in 1865 and, at the date of the Census, he was 46 years old, married to Catharine (aged 40) who was born in Newmarket. They had 5 children, the youngest being 7 months old. They also had a domestic servant, Elizabeth Cooper, aged 14, who came from Swaffham Bulbeck.

Many of my patients remembered Dr Wood. He was a popular and conscientious doctor. One of his public health duties was to ascertain that the ales and beers sold in the many pubs and ale houses were of good flavour and free from noxious substances. He took this duty seriously. There were then eight pubs in Bottisham & Lode and many ale houses. In 1916 he acquired a car which was said to have been the first in the village, but I rather doubt this.

We’ll leave Dr Wood, for the moment and move to Burwell where Dr Octavius Ennion was the village GP. He lived in Harlech House on Doctor’s Corner. He was born in 1874 in Newmarket. During the 1st World War Dr Ennion was called up and was posted out to the Middle East. He was wounded at Gallipoli.

During the 1st WW, Eric Ennion (Dr Octavius’ son) went to medical school and, once qualified, joined his father in the Burwell practice. He wrote a fascinating book entitled “Adventurer’s Fen” – an area of land between Burwell Fen and Wicken Fen. Eric later abandoned medical practice and became an ornithologist first at Wicken Fen and then at Lindesfarne on Holy Island off the coast of Northumbria. John Humphries, one time deputy headmaster of Bottisham College, whom we all remember with fond memory, stayed with Dr Eric Ennion on Holy Island for some weeks whilst teacher training and rewrote the second edition of Eric’s book.

continued on page 25



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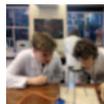
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Back to Dr Sidney Woods in his bull nose Morris automobile. On 2nd January 1927 he was involved in a terrible and tragic accident outside the White Swan public House in Quy. He was 62 years old. This awful accident occurred only 30 years before I acquired the Bottisham practice – so many of my patients vividly recalled the event.

The Report of the Coroner's Inquest gave the full details which showed that, having visited a patient Dr. Wood returned to his car and went to start it. In 1927, cars didn't have starters as modern cars do, they had to be 'hand cranked'. Not realising he had left the car in gear and without the handbrake on, he started the car which immediately started forward and ran Dr. Wood over, before continuing until it hit a wall and stopped. Dr. Wood suffered extensive injuries including 6 broken ribs and a broken spine which left him paralyzed. He died later that day in Addenbrooke's hospital.

Dr Ennion then bought Dr Wood's practice. This would have given poor Mrs Wood, his elder sister, some money at a tragic time in her life. She would have been 56 years old. Medical practices were valued on the basis of two years' gross income.

Then to Dr Gilbert – known to everyone as "Dick or Dickie". He was born in Warsaw on 10 May 1895 and studied medicine at the Middlesex Hospital. His family background is still a mystery. His actual surname was 'Gilberg' and he was almost certainly Jewish although he always denied this. He told me that he was an army officer in the British Expeditionary Forces in Arabia during the 1st WW. and that he took part in camel racing with 'Laurence of Arabia'.

He qualified in 1924 and next year joined the Burwell practice living with the Ennion family in Harlech House. Dr Ennion's daughter, Ruth, found him very attractive. His good looks and continental charm overwhelmed her and, in 1927, they became engaged.

"Ockie", as Dr Ennion was affectionately known, had retired from practice due to ill health and set about building a new house, "Larkmead", on the banks of the River Lark at Barton Mills. Once his daughter and Dick had announced their engagement, he purchased an acre of land in Bottisham on which the young couple could build a new house cum surgery. But Ockie was an ill man and he died in March 21st, 1928 of coronary heart disease. In an amazing coincidence, this was the very date that I was born! He was just 52. Dick and Ruth married later that same year on 19 September.

During the summer of 1927 Dick moved a Romany caravan on to his land in Bottisham and designed the house and garden which I was to purchase exactly 30 years later. They called it Beaulieu House. It was – and still is, a beautiful house containing 18 rooms. It was built by Howlett brothers of Bottisham and the 250 year old hand made bricks came from Cheveley Hall which was demolished in 1919. The gardens were spacious with long herbaceous borders, a rockery, a tennis court and a swimming pool. The Gilberts employed a live-in cook, a housekeeper and a nurse for the children – and a gardener. Ruth had never cooked a meal in her life. The children's nurse was Katie Palmer from Soham who married the baker boy, Maurice Coleman. Katie Coleman is still alive and lives on the High Street in Lode. She is 99 years old. I visited her only two days ago and she is sprightly and has the same twinkle in her eyes that I noticed 60 years ago.

The war disrupted this idyllic life. Firstly, evacuees from London were billeted with the Gilberts. Then, one day, in 1941, the army arrived. Tanks trundled down Swaffham Road and into Bottisham Hall Park. Scores of Nissen huts were built in the park and all over the

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village. The evacuees returned to London and army officers were allocated to households in the village including to the Gilberts. Dick became a captain of the Local Defence Volunteers – the precursor of the Home Guard.

The army departed and the RAF arrived. A runway was built – you can still see where this was. The WAAF quarters were across the road from Beaulieu House. There was, according to village gossip, a well worn path from the front door of Beaulieu House, through the hedge and across the road. Then the Americans arrived and Beaulieu House was full of Yanks and plenty of food.

I first met Dick in August 1958 when I replied to an advertisement in the BMJ. My experiences in seeking a practice in a country awash with young doctors is set out in my book, “Stories from a Country Practice”. My wife and I arrived for the interview in our little Morris Minor having driven down from Chester where I was doing a house job in obstetrics and we were greeted by Dick and Vroni with warmth and great hospitality. Joan, my late wife, was smitten by their charm and Dick’s good looks. Whilst Vroni showed her round the house and garden, Dick and I talked finance in his consulting room. I quickly identified that he was a very devious and calculating man. He firstly showed me the pile of ‘well over a hundred’ letters he had received in answer to his advertisement for a junior partner. But, after a lot of hard haggling, we agreed a price for the house and the terms for a three year partnership. I would be the junior partner for two years and equal parity for the third.

We took possession of the house-cum-surgery early in December, 1958. The following day Dickie and Vroni flew to Switzerland where her brother had built them a chalet in Ticino overlooking the Lago di Maggiore. I don’t recollect seeing him again. I was doing 100% of the work and he was taking 2/3rds of the income. During my second year, GP’s received a large back pay from the NHS. This was quickly followed, of course, by a large tax demand. Dick apparently wrote to the Inland Revenue informing them that, by a private agreement, I had agreed to pay his tax. That was the last straw. I told the Local Medical Committee that, unless they recalled him from Switzerland and forced him to retire from the NHS as he was in default of his Terms of Service, I would expose the lot of them. I had a patient who was a reporter on the Daily Express. They did exactly as I requested. A week later I was a single handed doctor.

I held my first surgery on New Year’s Day in 1959. No patients came. All the records were in alphabetical order on my desk. I counted them. There were just over 700 patients whereas the average size of a country practice was about 2,000. I was soon to discover that a practice in Newmarket had been persuaded to open a branch surgery on the High Street in Bottisham and most of Dickie’s patients had joined there. But I persevered as all the “necklace” villages around Cambridge were expanding and new inhabitants knew nothing about Dr Gilbert. I opened a branch surgery in Fulbourn and another in Cherry Hinton. I took on three partners and built a new surgery in Bottisham. It was opened by Sir Francis Pym, our MP who lived in Burwell. He was to become Mrs Thatcher’s Foreign Secretary. By the end of the 1960’s the practice had increased tenfold.

In 1985 I took on a young doctor as a trainee. I was so impressed by his competence and personality that I had an instinctive faith that he would look after my patients with skill, care and compassion. I offered to retire two years before my 60th birthday in order that this doctor could come into the practice as a partner. His name was Dr Mark Towriss.



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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Covid Booster Jabs: These are being arranged nationally and you will receive an invitation letter when yours is due. You will need to book an appointment either via 119 or on line for a local site such as the Grafton Centre or Chesterton Bowls Club. Do not ring the surgery for an appointment.

Calls into the practice: The practice has seen a significant increase to the number of calls being received in practice. On Monday 11 October the practice received over 1,100 calls. The usual call rate for a Monday is approx. 350. This means 1/6th of the practices' patients tried to call in one day.

In order to ensure that the practice's clinical team can continue to offer safe and timely care to all patients in the face of this unprecedented demand, please consider whether an appointment is necessary, or if one of the services below may be more appropriate.

- Pharmacies can provide over the counter medications for hay fever, insect bites, colds, sore throats and much more along with general advice for minor ailments.
- The Minor Injuries Unit in Ely is available if you think you need an x-ray or have minor cuts and bruises which need dressing.
- Please contact your local dentist in relation to dental issues, we cannot prescribe medications for dental problems.
- Patients are also able to refer themselves to Physiotherapy Services and to the Psychological Wellbeing service without seeing a GP – details available on the surgery website www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk
- 111 are available for general advice and will guide you to the right service if you're unsure where you need to go.

Please note the practice is offering pre-bookable appointments for routine appointments with on the day appointments now only for acute and emergency care.

The practice has seen an increase in aggressive behaviour towards staff. This will not be tolerated under any circumstances. All staff are doing their very best to help all patients who make contact with the practice.

Next meeting: If you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. Next regular meeting November 24th at 2pm.

Letter

BURY CATTERY - As many of you will have noticed, Bury Boarding Cattery has closed after 45 years of trading. My mother, Daphne Smith is now in her 98th year and is enjoying her retirement in a care home near us in Hertford.

Following a series of falls she became unable to look after herself, even with carers 3 times a day, and difficulty in walking meant full time care was required. Her last fall resulted in a long stay in hospital.

The property has now been sold to a local family as a private dwelling and not as a cattery.

We would like to thank all her long-term local customers who kept returning with their cats year after year, those from the US forces who often boarded their cats long term whilst going back and forth to America, members of the WI and Blue Cross who my parents supported over the years and the annual gymkhana.

If you wish to contact, please mail, email, or phone.

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Public Transport Matters

People often ask where all this public transport information is sourced. No I don't belong to any organisations. It is just a question of sitting down each evening with a nice cup of coffee and 3 newspapers or 4 on a Thursday if the Newmarket Journal is delivered on time. The Cambridge News is a good source for local information and the business sections of The Times and the Daily Mail cover bus, coach and railway matters for the UK and also our connections with Europe.

Locally people are getting back on the buses, coaches and trains as schools and businesses return to some sort of normality. A main problem for bus, coach and train companies is a lack of drivers and there are different views as to the cause of this. Many bus drivers have caught the virus and died as they can't wear protective gear.

I am in touch with Stagecoach regarding the lack of information at the bus stops as not everyone sources this information on their phone. At the moment they don't have the staff to do it.

Stagecoach has its own problems and is considering a link with National Express. There are so many local proposals by local government on bus, coach and rail routes and sometimes I wonder whether they use the services. They want every 10 minutes services in some areas and to extend the services for this area out as far as Newmarket. Better services for the villages at present covered only every hour in our area and of course Lode and Reach don't even get that. There is a suggestion of one pound fares and express routes to tempt people out of their cars. It is the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership - GCP. Do we really need another consultation, or can we just have some sensible decisions is what people are saying? Letters in the Cambridge News and Newmarket Journal can be interesting! Bottisham has a good local contributor.

A proposed transport interchange and 500 space car park near Foxton railway station has been branded a danger to pedestrians and cyclists by local villagers. The new local plan goes for consultation on November 1st. So many houses are being planned for most local areas and this, of course, needs planning for transport as well as schools, doctors, etc.

There is much information about the railways both locally and our links with Europe. Hollywood star Gary Oldman was recently filming at Cambridge railway station for a new Apple TV series. It will be called Embankment.

The government hopes to open some stations closed under the Beeching cuts. This would involve a Green Shuttle line and trains with electric batteries and a diesel range-extending engine. This is by Eversholt. Battersea power station Nine Elms is to have 2 new tube stations and this is opening up the local area. Network Rail is being allowed to keep £217,000 for the Cambridge South station project.

The HS2 project still stumbles on but it might not open until 2041, 10 years later than planned with an energy requirement 5 times that of conventional rail. Is it the end for privatised railways? Renationalisation is under consideration by the government. Southeastern is now being run by a government appointed operator. It will be run like Transport for London. The Man in Seat 61 website has details of the new overnight sleeper trains revival. People are becoming more climate conscious and considering train travel rather than flying.

The scheme to outclass St. Pancras by an upgrade of the Gare du Nord in Paris for the 2023 Rugby world cup by SNCF has been abandoned as it wouldn't have been completed in time. It was proposed after a comment by a former managing director of John Lewis on the dirty and squalid conditions.

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Happy travelling - keep safe and well. - Paddy James

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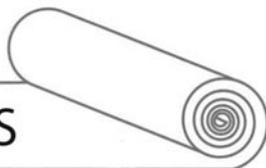


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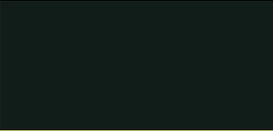


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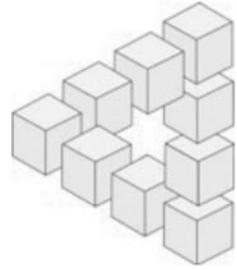
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

Sporting competition is always going to feature winners and losers. But, for a number of reasons during this past month or so, I can't help feeling that the biggest loser has been 'Sport' itself...

In mid-September, Jimmy Greaves finally succumbed to the effects of a stroke in 2015, a sad end for England's greatest ever goalscorer who subsequently enjoyed a successful second career as a broadcaster after establishing himself on the wonderful 'Saint and Greavesie' show. It's worth dwelling for a moment on his playing record, though, as we are unlikely to see the like of his sublime finishing talents again: 382 goals in 579 games at club level, and 44 goals in 57 games for England. If Jack Grealish is worth £100m in today's transfer market, what price for a Jimmy Greaves?

Then a week later, his England team mate, Roger Hunt – darling of the Liverpool kop and a stalwart of Sir Alf Ramsey's 1966 World Cup winning team – also left us. 'Sir Roger', as he is affectionately known in Merseyside, somehow represented all the best traditional values of football – a quiet, tough man, as honest as the day is long, and a ruthlessly efficient striker who built a successful haulage company with his brother after his playing days. What must he have thought of the diamond-studded poseurs in the modern game?

And what would these two giants of football have made of the vile, racist abuse suffered by England players during their recent World Cup qualifier in Hungary, for which the Hungarian FA incurred yet another meaningless fine and yet another order to play matches behind closed doors? Incredibly, Hungary is already subject to such an order – from UEFA, following problems in European Championship games – but, as this was a FIFA match, that sanction did not apply to this particular encounter. You couldn't make it up, eh! Is this really what FIFA's "zero tolerance" looks like?! How about no more home games at all? Or, even better, kick the country out of future competitions altogether until they can demonstrate some decent sporting values?

As if we weren't sad enough at the end of December, the United States golf team inflicted a crushing 19-9 defeat on an ageing European outfit to take the Ryder Cup back to America for only the third time in the last 10 meetings. "We should have done more" lamented Rory McIlroy, but Europe should have no complaints about losing to superior opponents. However, the graceless way in which the Americans rubbed the losers' noses in it, through petty behaviour on the course and boorishness off it, does the sport no credit at all. The relatively young team from 'across the pond' look set, now, to dominate the competition for several years to come, but there will be a time when the circle of fortune turns again and they might be advised to heed Rudyard Kipling's advice to "meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two imposters just the same!"

I was also sad to see Moeen Ali announce his retirement from Test Cricket only a few short weeks after vice-captaining England in the 4th Test against India... another sign that the pressure of all-year-round cricket is taking its toll. Moeen, for me, has been one of the most entertaining players of his generation and has not always been valued by the selectors as highly as he might, despite being the third highest wicket taker among English spinners (behind Underwood and Swann) and scoring almost 3,000 test runs. Happily, 32-year-old Moeen will continue to bring his joie de vivre to the limited overs formats, but I fear that, if we don't review the punishing calendar of international cricket touring, then we'll continue to lose top players who will prefer to look after their families and their health.

Boxing has seen an interesting month in the heavyweight division, with both world champions putting their belts on the line. As a result, the hotly anticipated match between

(Sports Nut continued on page 43)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

fellow Brits Anthony Joshua and Tyson Fury looks further away than ever! AJ ‘talked a good game’ before fighting Ukrainian Oleksandr Usyk,

but he failed to lay a glove on the skillful challenger who won a unanimous points decision together with all three of AJ’s World Champions’ belts (WBA, WBO, IBF). A rematch is already being negotiated but it’s difficult to see a different outcome unless Joshua is brave enough to box in a much more aggressive way next time.

So, it was up to Tyson Fury to save British blushes when he faced Deontay Wilder in the third and final fight of their ‘trilogy’, with the WBC and ‘The Ring’ belts at stake. And what a fight it was! Both men had to pick themselves up off the canvas twice before Fury’s superior skill and power proved decisive in the 11th round. A crunching right hook caught the exhausted challenger on the side of the head and the lights went out. Thankfully, he recovered physically, but surely there was no need for him to refuse Fury’s offer of a handshake afterwards! Fury had even complimented him on his courage, but left the ring calling Wilder a “sore loser” and “an idiot”... a disappointing note on which to conclude one of the biggest bouts of all time.

Now let us finish with a good, positive story as the cycling season draws to a close. The notorious Paris-Roubaix cycle race is known as the “Hell of the North”, due to its tricky, windswept conditions and its treacherous cobble-strewn route. For 125 years, this one-day race – one of the ‘monuments’ of the European calendar – has been a men-only event. But in October 2021, the Amour Sport Organisation made history by staging a women’s race, too, and our own Lizzie Deignan wrote her name in the record books as the first winner following an 80-kilometre solo breakaway whilst the rest of the peloton battled the driving rain and freezing mud in vain. This was a spectacular victory for the Yorkshire lass, not just because of the historical context, or the foul weather, or because she is now combining professional sport with motherhood, but because she outclassed the world’s best women riders on the day. Second was the legendary Dutch champion Marianne Vos (who was the first to embrace Deignan at the finishing line) and third was Italian champion Elisa Longo Borghini. Enough said. Chapeau, Lizzie, you’re a class act, and a major force in bringing women’s sport into the 21st Century!

TTFN - Gerry Daish

Letter

Can I thank the writer of the very articulate article in the September Cresset that challenges the JOW July article concerning the fracas going on at Oxford University over a statue of Cecil Rhodes? After a somewhat dubious analogy with racial tensions in the US the contributor asks, “For what reason should we care if they’re (statues) taken down?”

Whilst certain statues may be offensive to a minority in this country because of the claim of ‘psychological trauma’; statues in themselves are neither the source nor the cause of injustices. Mary Beard suggests it is “more important to look history in the eye and reflect on our awkward relationship to it...not to simply expunge the nasty bits”. These statues, wherever they may be in Britain, were erected mostly by good hearted townsfolk through public subscription. They certainly were not erected to celebrate or to glorify any assumed injustice experienced by other human beings. On the contrary, such effigies were put in place because that was the custom at the time afforded to a person or persons who made a valuable contribution to national and or to civic life.

Individuals and events of the past are legitimate parts of the narrative and fabric of this island’s history – for good or for bad. Thus taking them down is to censor, whitewash, and potentially forget. What’s more, removing statues is a slippery slope that could lead to the hot-headed removal of monuments to any slightly problematic person. There are examples everywhere; a case in point being Ghandi whose statue stands in Parliament Square. His belief was that Indians were higher up on the civilised scale than Africans. I think I can predict the hullabaloo that would follow if his statue was removed...

Anthony Jolley



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‘THINK SMARTER...’

All I have heard over past weeks is gripe, gripe, and more gripes that the UK has a scarcity of HGV drivers, a shortage of warehouse staff, not enough horticultural workers, an energy crisis and so forth. Where have the inner strength, resolve, character, perseverance and courage - otherwise known as the ‘British Bulldog Spirit’ - gone? And where is this policy to influence perception by disseminating negative and dubious information coming from? Yes you’ve guessed it, the media in all of its ‘trash Britain’ guises. Not helped of course by the jaundiced analysis by the BBC et al to the point of utter tedium intensified by the briefings organised by UK Trade, Transport and Retail Associations with their partisan grievances - but more about this later.

Is the shortage of fuel in the pumps and a few empty shelves in the shops really the fault of the Government? Well, they have certainly made some ‘howlers’ but it would be grossly unfair of me (in my opinion) if I were to say that it was. On reflection I seem to have come to the defence of the Government several times recently but this is to try to balance the narrow-minded narrative rather than for any political purpose. We then ask, “If not Government then who?” To which the answer is glaringly obvious to all really – it is us, the British public. We have been brainwashed, or some of us have, by the sensationalist use of headlines such as “UK running dry” and “Retailers warn of a nightmare Christmas”. This kind of irresponsible media garbage has caused a major shift in purchasing habits. It’s undeniable that abnormal shopping behaviour is solely to blame for the turmoil seen at our petrol pumps. Perhaps we should all ponder on the meaning of British fairness of play and consideration and respect for our ‘fellow man’. These days it seems to be all about so called ‘rights and entitlement’ if the retort by the lady challenged for filling up three jerry cans is anything to go by. Where is the accountability that surely must go hand in hand with such freedoms – do people no longer consider the consequences of what they’re doing?

The shortage of HGV drivers and low wage workers has been long coming and is widespread across Europe. The transport sector, along with the care and retail sectors have an enduring culture of increasing profit by reducing costs with frontline staff paying the price. I read that both transport and care in particular are primarily agency dominated sectors which seem to “do little for the pounds of flesh that they extract from staff and clients”. Unsurprisingly then people are choosing to earn a living in other ways. Ask the CEO of Wagamama who complains of mass staff defections to logistics companies where underpaid staff can earn better pay - just exactly whose fault is that? There is also a recognition by low wage EU countries that better wages and conditions were needed at home to discourage workers from relocating. The wages now paid have caught up with or are higher than those low skilled wages being paid in the UK so what incentive is there to migrate? Those UK companies in labour intensive sectors and those in sectors that for decades have relied on low paid workers have known for five years that freedom of movement was ending and to ‘get ready’ – what have they been doing?

But that’s not all; the cynic in me says that all this mischief making over labour shortages and dysfunctional supply chains is nothing other than about ‘profit’. From the point of view of the economy, for far too long now businesses have taken the easy way out and the cheapest route. The real ‘moan’ then is all about the loss of access to low cost EU labour. Access to this network of workers has managed to suppress wages amongst the less skilled workers in Britain for decades

Continued on page 47

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making such jobs unrealistic for local people to consider. Rather than accept that Britain is no longer a low wage economy these sectors are in effect holding the UK economy to ransom with their daily FUD briefings that do nothing other than feed exaggeration to the media and panic in the minds of the consumer - whereas what is really required is a 'smarter' approach to logistical and technological challenges.

Meanwhile, whilst all this carping is going on there are those getting on with the job such as the asparagus grower in Lincolnshire. He claimed he couldn't harvest his crop because of a shortage of cheap European labour. So he set his mind to work and has engineered an automated method of asparagus picking that has more than halved his need for additional labour - he has as a result become technologically savvy. Similarly, a 'smarter' means of conveying goods from docks and airports to the consumer other than road transport has been on the table for a while involving freight to rail. And there is a much more pragmatic learning scheme for our young adults other than university where they can get paid good money for harnessing practical, occupational and professional skills instead of amassing an enormous debt. Has there been anything quite so daft as to expect fifty per cent of school leavers go to university!

Don't expect Government or the consumer to surrender to economic intimidation. It's the responsibility of industry to resolve the challenges they are faced with and to identify solutions that reflect the new UK economic model. This will require businesses to invest in their supplychains and their people. Welcome to the brave new world of a high skilled, high wage economy... *JOW*

A former manager of mine once said, "I don't pay you to bring me problems. Bring me viable solutions instead".

Letter

Dear Editor, - I'd like to submit the following article for next month's edition of The Cresset in response to October's "Jolley Old World" article.

Hate crimes - I've just read last month's Jolley Old World article entitled "Imbecilic..." in which the writer expresses their aversion to "hate crime cars" - police cars displaying the pride flag with the intention of encouraging victims of hate crimes to report them to the police. The article falsely states that the reason for these cars is solely to "promote reporting of 'offensive' comments" which trivialises the very real, physical abuse that people face, as well as branding it as a "political statement" before describing being LGBT+ as "eccentricities" that societies "tolerate" and reminding everyone that they are not "obliged to accept them".

Regardless of anyone's opinion about how successful the police's plan has been in achieving its intentions, I just wanted to respond to these comments as hate crimes are an increasing problem in this country and I'd encourage the writer to think about the effect their words have, because they could give validation to someone with prejudiced opinions that results in someone else being harmed or losing their life from a hate crime. According to Home Office figures last year, hate crime reports have increased from 60,315 in 2015/16 to 105,090 in 2019/20, with sexual orientation seeing the largest percentage increase in the past year alone of 19%. Of these incidents, 38% of them involved violence against the person. Add to this the fact that, according to Stonewall, as many as 80% of LGBT+ people don't report hate crimes to the authorities, and it's clear that this is a significant and growing issue.

I'm not trying to infringe on anyone's freedom of speech, I just want to educate people so they can make more informed opinions based on facts. LGBT+ people are no different to anyone else, the writer themselves could have just as easily been born into this community and been a victim of a hate crime because of something they neither chose nor can change (and should have no desire to do so). Be kind.

Yours faithfully, JW

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However, looking forward, we are still in uncertain times financially as our ability to fundraise in traditional ways continues to be extremely unpredictable and challenging. Also, we cannot rely upon ongoing cost savings in areas such as our lottery and events. The pandemic has effectively deprived us of over a year of growth in income versus expenditure – and, mindful of this, it is incumbent upon us all to redouble our efforts to raise funds to ensure the continuation of the Life Saving work that East Anglian Air Ambulance, our Air Ambulance, performs, through collection boxes, events, legacies and our lottery.

To participate in the EAAA Winter Raffle 2021, please go to – eaaa.raffleentry.org.uk – for your chance to win £5,000 or £1,000, £500, £250(2) or £50(10). Remember, no direct regular government funding is received so, taking part in our Winter Raffle is a wonderful way to help EAAA save more lives.

Thank you - Michael White

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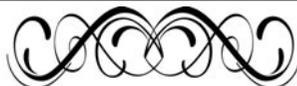
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