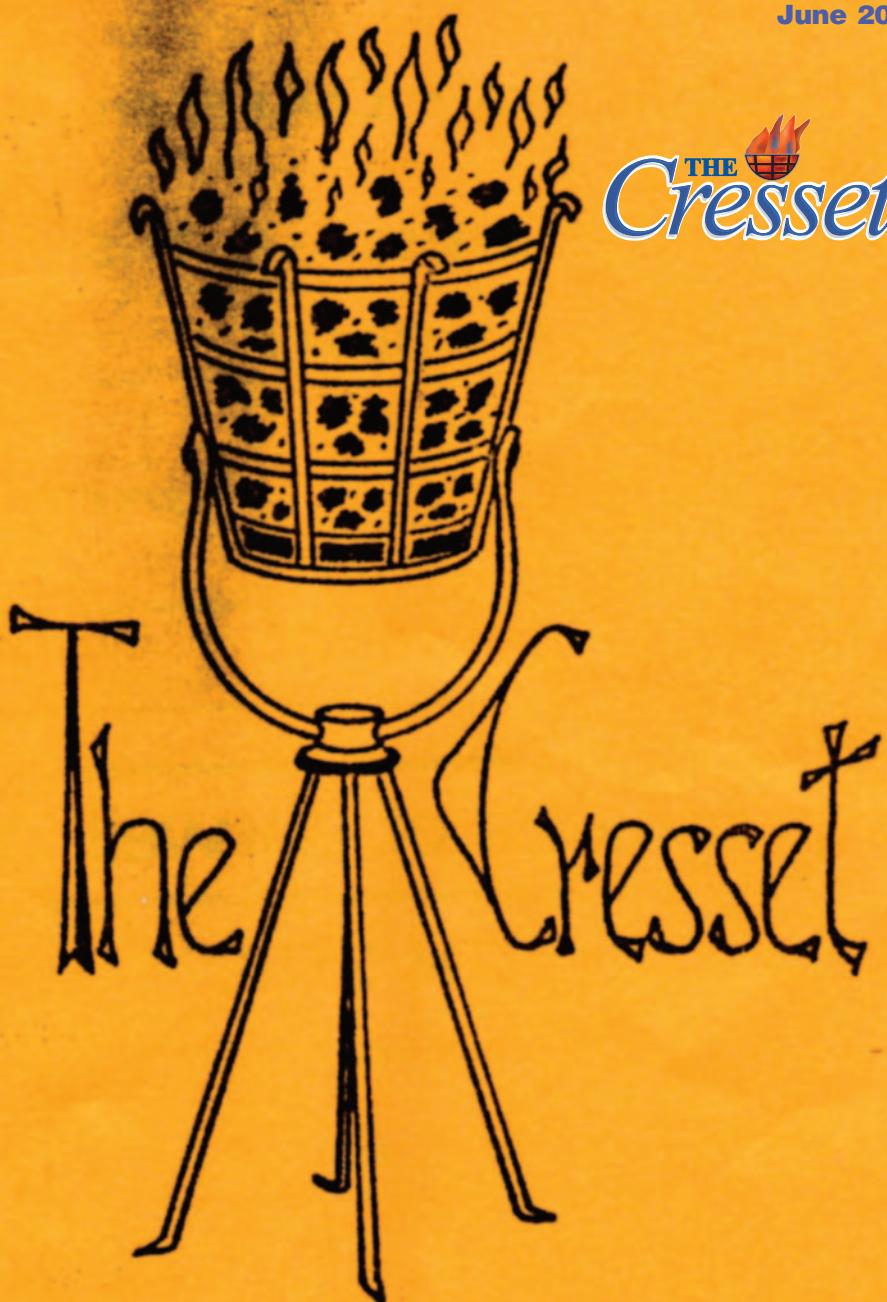


June 2021



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



Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club

It has been great to welcome back some of our members since the 12th April, and hopefully we will see many more now we are gradually getting back to normal.

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday- 5pm to 11pm

Saturday- 4pm to 11pm

Sunday- 12 noon to 8pm

TAKEAWAY SERVICE AVAILABLE

COME TO THE CLUB AND SUPPORT ENGLAND PLAY FOOTBALL ON THE BIG SCREEN.

2nd June v Austria kick off 20.00 Friendly

6th June v Romania kick off 17.00 Friendly

13th June v Croatia kick off 14.00 Euro 2020

18th June v Scotland kick off 20.00 Euro 2020

22nd June v Czech Republic kick off 20.00 Euro 2020

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.

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

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Welcome to the June edition of your village magazine, THE CRESSET.



As I write this, we are taking the biggest of recent steps, moving out of lockdown. The opportunity now to go into shops, pubs and restaurants which have been off the list for months. It seems that everybody is keen to take advantage where they can.

We decided to go out for a meal for my birthday which came just as the rules relaxed and by the time I went to book a table at the restaurant we wanted, they were fully booked for the rest of May and June with dates going fast in July. Of course it is not immediately a no holds barred freedom. We are still restricted in numbers and restaurants have to set up for socially distancing, so numbers available are still very restricted with time limits set between sittings. However it is all a step in the right direction.

Some of you may have seen the Royal British Legion flag flying on the flagpole at the village sign together with a wreath laid. This was done by the Bottisham Branch to commemorate the founding day of the Royal British Legion 100 years ago in 1921. It was done on the 15th May, the same day that a similar ceremony was held at the cenotaph in London. It was also to recognise the ongoing work that TRBL has been doing ever since. Our local Branch is one of the oldest branches in the country having been founded on 4th April 1922 just months after TRBL's founding. The Bottisham & District Branch of The Royal British Legion (to give it its full title) will celebrate its centenary in April next year, so watch out for what they will be doing when the time comes.

I can't break the habit of commenting on the weather. What has been going on this year? For several years we had got used to having great weather in March and April, to the point of thinking we were having an early summer!

But this year March and April were really cool and more relevant really dry, with virtually no rain for weeks on end. This held all the growth back and the grass hardly needing cut. Then along comes May and He starts playing catchup. Lots of rain, spurts of growth, but still pretty cool.

Hopefully June should see the start of some warmer weather and a summer which we can enjoy, now that we are easing out of lockdown. After all, the 21st of this month is marked as Midsummer Day! It could be all downhill from then!

All the usual articles this month and also some good news about clubs and societies starting up again. However, as we are still reminded, we all need to continue to exercise caution and be sensible about social contact and distancing. I for one will continue to use my facemask in shops etc. Indeed, most venues will continue to insist on customers wearing them.

You will also read in the Parish Council report about some useful links on their website to

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

often requested contact details for various problems including, **Highways/ Fly Tipping/ Street Lighting / Graffiti / Litter and Dog Bins / Needles or Drug Litter / Street Cleaning and Gas emergencies.**

The website links would be too long to write out and copy from here, but if you go to the PC website you can click on direct links there.

Our cover this Month may have been seen before by some, but I often get asked “Why The Cresset” Well as the message beacon in times past for warning neighbours of impending danger its namesake serves a slightly gentler purpose. This image comes from the cover of one of the earliest magazines that was produced.

Finally, an early note for those of you who may want to contribute to the content of The Cresset in the next month or so. There will be a combined July/August edition, so if you want something in that relates to August early September, **I need to get it by 14th June to get it in the July issue in time.**

Services in the Anglesey Benefice

Wednesday June 1st 8 pm C by C (a short contemplative service)

Online via Zoom

Sunday June 6th 9am Holy Communion, Quy

Online service on Zoom

Sunday June 13th 9am Holy Communion, Swaffham Prior 10.30am

Online service on Zoom

Sunday June 20th 9am Holy Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

Online service on Zoom

Sunday June 27th 9am Holy Communion, Bottisham

Online service on Zoom

Each Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion in Lode

All subject to Covid restrictions.

Please check <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7378/benefice> for up to date information; or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk, who will also be able to send you the Zoom link.

Copy deadline for July/August issue is 14 June.

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



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Dear Editor

During Covid we have turned a 'blind eye' to people walking along the grass margins around these fields near Bottisham college, but as the Spring has progressed, we have also seen increased levels of foot traffic across the rest of the farm as well.

Now that we are seeing an end to various restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic, we wish to highlight that there are no public rights of way on any of the land which lies to the West or North of the College at Northfield farm.

We also wish to highlight that much of the land is entering into a Countryside Stewardship Scheme and many of the grass margins have been established to try and encourage ground nesting birds, as well as mammals etc.

We have tried to be as tactful as possible when explaining these points face-to-face, but the level of foot traffic seems to be only increasing. We do not really want to erect signage around the farm but may unfortunately have to do so if walkers do not stay on the public rights of way moving forward.

Please can we respectfully ask all walkers to be responsible and only walk on public rights of way.

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Planning Notes

A) APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

21/00501/FUL, 17 Peacock Drive, Proposed rear extension, window alterations and new front porch

21/00591/FUL, The Glebe, 113 High Street, Demolish single storey rear extension and replace with new. 2 replacement windows to side elevation of existing house - resubmission

21/00638/FUL, 52 Lode Road, Bottisham, Add render finish to existing property, form new vehicular access and parking; removal of existing vehicular parking and access, and erection of new boundary fencing

B) PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED BY ECDC

21/00439/FUL, 4 Lysander Close, Single storey rear extension and internal alterations.

Parish Council Notes

The May Parish Council meeting is always designated as the Annual Meeting. This means that we confirm who will take lead responsibilities within the Council for the next year. I was re-elected as Chair of the Council and Cllr William Clarke was re-elected as Vice Chair. He was also returned to the role of Chair of the Finance Committee.

The Council has a Planning Working Group, which makes recommendations to the Council in relation to planning applications we have been invited to comment on by East Cambridgeshire District Council. We gave grateful thanks to Cllr Hilda Buchanan, who has decided to step back as Chair after over 45 years involvement in planning - although she will still remain a member of the Group. We are grateful that Cllr John Wilson has accepted the Chair in her place, bringing extensive experience of planning from a previous role with another parish council. Cllr John Wilson expressed his appreciation that he would still be able to draw on the enormous well of experience and local knowledge that Cllr Hilda Buchanan has acquired over the years.

I am also delighted to be able to announce that Nadene Cundell was co-opted onto the Council at the meeting, bringing to the role valuable experience from her professional life, as well as a clear commitment to work for the benefit of our community. This means the Parish Council now has its full complement of 12 members.

At our April meeting we thanked and bade farewell to Cllr Mathew Shuter, who was retiring from his role as County Councillor representing our area. A couple of days following the May meeting, Cllr Alan Sharp was elected to the County Council in his place. He knows Bottisham well, having previously been the District Council member for this Ward. He is now the District Council member for the Woodditton Ward and was elected Chair of East Cambridgeshire at its annual meeting this month – a busy life!

I noted with interest that one of the questions posed on “Look East” to the new Mayor for Cambridge and Peterborough was about litter - something that blights many villages. We employ two young people to pick up litter from the streets in the village. However they

Continued on page 7



Bottisham  Pharmacy

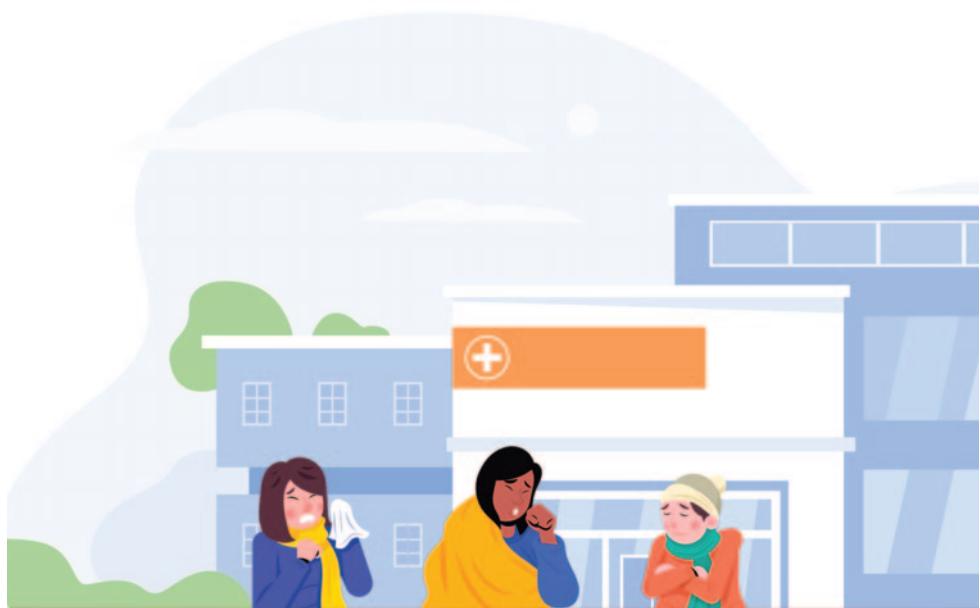
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Continued from page 5

only walk their “patch” once a week, so there is inevitably a build up in between - and of course they cannot visit every corner of the village. So I want to thank a number of you who have recently been volunteering to remove litter from our green spaces. We can only keep the village really tidy with the support of residents and, of course, everyone playing their part in taking care of their own litter in the first place.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a new section on the parish website. The single largest portion of the mail we receive from local people concerns faults they have identified in our environment. Frequently they are sent to the Parish Council, because it is not immediately obvious where they need to be directed. For that reason we have set up a new page on the website with links to relevant websites for the most commonly occurring faults. If you know of any others we should add, please let us know! I would encourage residents to make the report themselves, as you will be best acquainted with an issue on your doorstep - and so be able to provide better detail. The link is: www.bottishampc.co.uk/index.php?id=63

I hope you will all be able to enjoy greater freedom as the easing of lockdown progresses.

With best wishes

Jon Ogborn Chair - Bottisham Parish Council

District Councillors' Report

At the Annual Council meeting, appointments on committees for the next year were confirmed. Alan Sharp was elected Chair, and Dan Schumann Vice-chair, of Council. Charlotte and John remain on the Finance & Assets committee; Charlotte is a member of the newly formed Audit Committee and the Bus Working Group. John remains on the Planning Committee, and he is a new appointee on the Operational Services committee. The government is not allowing English Councils to continue remote meetings, so we are returning to face-to-face meetings. Officers are currently looking at how to do this safely and it may be that some meetings are not held at the Council Offices because a larger venue is needed. Virtual meetings have had their challenges, but the great advantage was that many more residents were able to engage with debates than happens with face-to-face. The Government is consulting on allowing remote meetings, if you would like to express your views, the consultation is open until 17th June at - www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence

The Council agreed to lend £390,000 to the East Cambs Community Land Trust (CLT) to allow them to buy and then sell shared ownership housing on the former MOD site at Ely. We were concerned about the terms on which the CLT would be offering these so-called affordable houses, because the houses would be sold at full market value, even though the CLT was buying them at a discount from the East Cambs Trading Company. The only affordable element was that the new owners would only part own the properties, with the CLT owning the rest; there would be rent paid on the non-owned share, as well as possible service charges, so we questioned whether there would be any saving for the

Continued on page 9



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9am-3pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9am-12.30pm



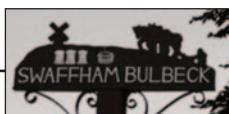
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owners after paying the extra charges. We were also concerned about the security of the loan, as with the other lender the total loans would be 114% of the value of the CLT's share of the equity, against which the loans are secured.

East Cambs CLT's only members are the 5 Trustees, 2 of whom are District Councillors, appointed by the District Council. One of these appointments is also Leader of the District Council and sits as an Observer on the Board of the East Cambs Trading Company and she is a member of the Combined Authority. The role of Observer is not limited to observing at the meetings – they speak at the meetings and steer matters, such as how the Business Plan should be presented. So, this Councillor leads the District Council which lent over £1m to the Trading Company to develop the MOD site, is a member of the Combined Authority which lent several million pounds to the Trading Company to develop the MOD site, attends Board meetings of the Trading Company, which sold the houses at a discount to the CLT, is a Trustee of the CLT which is buying the houses at a discount but selling them on at full market value and leads the District Council which is lending the CLT some of the money with which to buy the houses. As your District Councillors, we are deeply concerned about the accountability and transparency of these arrangements.

Our next Councillors' Surgery and meet your Councillors will be on **Wednesday 23 June at 6.30pm**. This will be held by zoom - Meeting ID: 865 7631 8040, Passcode: 490667. If you prefer to join by 'phone, the number is 01314 601196.

Charlotte Cane – 01638 741064 John Trapp – 01223 812120



SWAFFHAM BULBECK PARISH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Following the promotion of the current Clerk, a vacancy has arisen for the appointment of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council.

This is a home-based, part time, permanent vacancy for typically 12.5 hours per week. The salary range is SCP 13-25 (£22627-29577 pro-rata) depending on experience and qualifications, plus home working allowance.

The role includes monthly attendance at evening meetings plus occasional evening meetings with working groups as they arise, preparing agendas, taking minutes, financial accounting, budgeting, cemetery management, communicating with organisations and members of the public, administration of the Parish Council website and providing guidance and information to the Parish Council.

The successful candidate will be CILCA-qualified or willing to work towards this qualification, a competent communicator, computer literate and well organised.

The job description and person specification is available from the Clerk or at www.swaffhambulbeckpc.org.uk. Applicants should forward their CV with a covering letter explaining their suitability for the role to clerk@swaffhambulbeckpc.org.uk

Closing date for applications 18th June 2021



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In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities. - Archbishop Justin Welby

A 'Thy Kingdom Come' online socially distanced service for Mothers' Union members and friends was held on 14 May. This was uplifting and encouraging, featuring contributions from across the UK and around the world. Our Central Chaplain, Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Penrith gave the address, The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York opened the service and gave the blessing. Revd Tim Williams, Mothers' Union Provincial Chaplin of Wales led the service.

Hopefully next month we will have some news of when our meetings are likely to resume.

Ann Langran

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
Lloyd Loom chair x 1 – seat needs some repair	£15.00	813183
Vintage-style bedroom chair (1940s) x 1, VGC	£15.00	813183
Telescope – unused but slight damage to lens area	£20.00	813183
Chest of drawers - Satin wood, w107cm x d49cm x h84cm	£60.00	813183
Dressing table – Satin wood, w83cm x d51cm x h158	£60.00	813183
Dark brown wooden bookcase with lighter decorative inlay. 3 drawers at top. W150cms H90 cms D33 cms	£30.00	813327



Copy deadline for July/August issue is 14 June.

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

Have you thought of advertising your business in ***The Cresset***?

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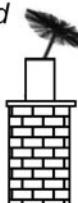
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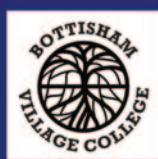
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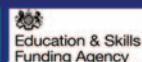
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Cambridge Open Studios



THE REGION'S LARGEST ART EVENT IS BACK THIS JULY.

Cambridge Open Studios has announced the 2021 dates for its month-long summer art event, which will feature an exciting range of exhibitions by over 300 artists at a selection of locations in the city and surrounding areas. This year there will be 40 new members taking part in the region.

FIVE WAYS TO ENJOY

For many artist members it will be Open Studios as usual with exhibitors opening their doors to the public over the four weekends in July. Some artists have chosen to 'open by appointment' and others have opted to participate with 'open windows' where artworks will be displayed in windows and outside spaces such as gazebos.

In addition to home studios, Cambridge Open Studios are delighted to be partnering with The Pitt Building located on Trumpington Road in the heart of historic Cambridge. The Pitt Building will be hosting a wide range of artists adhering to COVID guidelines over the course of the four weekends.

Nine art galleries in the regions will also be hosting resident Open Studios artists over the course of the four weekends. Further information can be found online, on the App and in the E-Guide Book.

Full details of how artists will be participating can be found in the artist's E-Guide Book listing and on the App.

For the first time in the history of Cambridge Open Studios there will be no printed guide - for two reasons, the planned move into the digital age, and to reduce the number of guides to save the planet has been accelerated by the pandemic and fear of possible transmission through contact.

Over the last few years, the App has become extremely popular and is expected to see record numbers of download this year. Incredibly easy to use allowing the user to search by medium, location, weekend and artist name, it's the quickest and easiest way to find participating artists so don't leave home without it!

Both the E-Guide Book and App will be available to download from the website from late May onwards so avid art lovers can start planning their studio routes in good time.

Visit <https://www.camopenstudios.co.uk/> to download the E-Guide Book and 2021 App.

What and Where?

For many artists 2020 was a year for creating and surviving the pandemic. This year is set to be an explosion of colour and fine array of work with specialisms including fine art, photography, pottery, glass making, sculpture, illustration, textiles, jewellery and furniture

continued on page 17



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continued from page 15

making, and more besides.

The studios are spread throughout the whole region including many villages around Royston, Saffron Walden, St Ives and Chatteris as well as Ely and central Cambridge. The distinctive yellow COS flags will be out to identify participating studios.

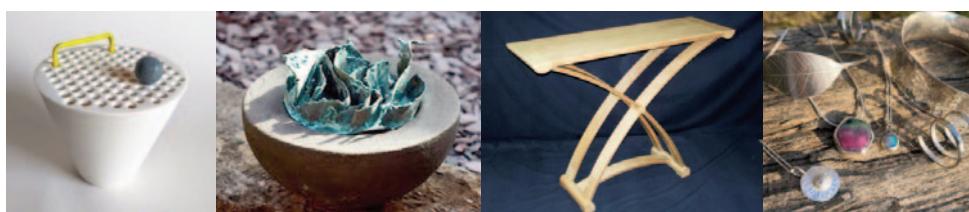
The weekends are: July 3/4, 10/11, 17/18 and 24/25. Studios are open to visit between 11am and 6pm except those opting to take visitors via appointment.

Visitors are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome with absolutely no pressure whatsoever to buy. All Cambridge Open Studios including The Pitt Building and participating galleries are completely free to visitors for all ages.

Find Out More By visiting the website you'll be able to see a full list of members along with their social handles, latest news and links to download the new E-E-Guide Book and 2021 App.

Follow on Twitter @CamOpenStudios Instagram @CamOpenStudios

Facebook @CambridgeOpenStudios and look for #COSart2021



Bottisham Community Events

Bottisham Village Litter Pick

Saturday 12th June 10:30am

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News from Tim...a Vinophile

This month I'm going to focus on one of the fastest growing wine categories, rosé.

Rosé wine has transformed itself from a rather sweet sickly confection to become one of the hottest wine types around. Interestingly, celebrities have jumped on the bandwagon including offerings such as the excellent Miraval (Brad Pitt) and the eponymous Kylie (Minogue).

What is rosé and how is it made? Most rosés are made by the processes of skin contact or by saignée (bleeding). There are other production processes including blending red and white wines together although this is somewhat discouraged these days, in fact it is illegal in France except in the Champagne region. They can be made from a wide variety of grapes from all over the globe with as broad a range of sweetness from highly dry Provencal to sweet White Zinfandels. This means there is a huge choice and variety of flavours.

When rosé wine is the primary product from the grapes, it is produced with the skin contact method. Black-skinned grapes are crushed and the skins are allowed to remain in contact with the juice for a short period, typically two to twenty hours. The grape must is then pressed and the skins discarded, rather than left in contact throughout fermentation (as with red wine making). The longer the skins are left in contact with the juice, the more intense the colour of the final wine. The fashion for very pale pinks means that the skin contact time is a key part of the process when it comes to marketing the wine.

When a winemaker wants to impart more tannin and colour to red wine, some of the pink juice from the must can be removed at an early stage in what is known as the saignée (from French bleeding) method. The red wine remaining in the vats is intensified as a result of the bleeding, because the volume of juice in the must is reduced, and the must involved in the maceration becomes more concentrated. The pink juice that is removed can be fermented separately to produce rosé

Recently the trend has been for pale Provencal style rosé wines with plenty of fruit but without the sweetness. The whole world has followed suit and if you want to experiment outside the south of France check out Vondeling (chwinemerchants.co.uk and Cambridge Wine Merchants) from South Africa or even one of the many new English producers such as Gorsley (gorsleyvineyard.co.uk).

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

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La Vieille Ferme Rosé - £7.75 Co-op - Crisp and thoroughly delicious pink has a delicate palate of strawberries, raspberries and a touch of nectarine

Domaine de Pellehaut 2020 Cotes de Gascogne - £8.75 Cambridge Wine Merchants - A lovely clove spiciness making for an excellent dinner rosé wine. Plenty of fruit without the sugar.

Mirabeau Pure - £11.49 when on offer at Waitrose - A fabulous example of classic Provencal pink. Pale in colour, packed with fruit this is as good an example as you will find for the money.



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Bottisham Community Library Association

I am writing this report a few days before our planned re-opening on 18th May

**TUESDAYS 6.00-8.00
THURSDAYS 3.00-5.00
SATURDAYS 10.00-1200**

and we hope to be fully back in business by September when hopefully all our volunteers have returned.

We still need to follow the same restrictions as before

- Masks to be worn indoors.
- Visitors to use the NHS App or to sign in
- Both double doors and some windows open
- Returned items to be left on the trolley in the foyer
- Stay at least 1 metre apart

Please bring cash if you need to pay a fine or to purchase books from our well filled sales shelves.

We hope too to have the community computers and photocopying machines back in use as soon as possible

We have plans for another Triangle book sale in early summer.

While our volunteers were cleaning shelves in the Easter holidays we found a copy of Rudyard Kipling's "Jungle book" on the shelves - a gift from Ms Tunley the Library Co-ordinator who left the College in 2017. There is a lovely inscription inside which I invite you to read.

Life is slowly returning to "normal" and we look forward to seeing our existing customers and some new faces.

Sylvia Overton

Bottisham WI

More positive news to report this month. 45 members have re-joined.

We have arranged our first meeting for many months for Wednesday 21st September at the Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club at 7.30pm.

It will be our delayed AGM and will also be by way of a reunion as we have not met together for such a long time.

The committee are also trying to arrange an event for the afternoon of 14th July but arrangements have yet to be finalised. Watch this space.

If you have been knitting hats for the Rosie premature baby unit please can let me have them (at 49 Beechwood Avenue) in plastic bags before the end of June and I will see that they are delivered. I have 30 plus so far and I am more than happy to receive more.

Continue to take care, even though many of us have had our second vaccination and perhaps see the end of restrictions in sight.

Sylvia Overton



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High temperatures and dry areas of land can be perfect conditions for a fire to spread.

Something as simple as not stubbing a cigarette out properly, or using a disposable barbecue on grass, can start a fire that can get out of control quickly.

There are some simple steps we urge residents to take to help prevent an outdoor fire:

1. Use barbecues on a hard, flat surface, away from grass, shrubs or fencing.
2. Put disposable barbecues on bricks, do not place directly on grass.
3. Ensure cigarettes are completely out
4. Do not throw cigarettes out of car windows onto grass verges or vegetation
5. Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground, the sun's rays reflect through the glass and can start a fire
6. Talk to your children about the dangers of starting a fire.

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook.

For more information or to get in touch contact us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or on 0800 9179994.

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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Dispensary: The prescription delivery service is in operation. If you have opted for delivery, but do go to pick up your medication please advise the staff of this when collecting as it will have been stored in a different place.

Acute Prescriptions: Please wait **3 hours** after a prescription that has been generated via a phone or video consultation before collecting it. This will ensure that the prescription has been received in dispensary and dispensed. If you cannot pick up your medication, please let the GP know so they can put arrangements in place to get your medication to you.

Repeat Prescriptions: Please do not attend the practice until **5 working days** after ordering these. Social distancing is still a challenge in the dispensary and there are fewer staff working in the actual dispensary because of this, which is why they are continuing to work to a five day turnaround time. This also means that if a certain drug has to be ordered it provides time to get drug supplies in. Please do not ring or attend the practice to see if the prescription is ready before the 5 days is up.

COVID-19 Vaccination programme – update: Over the last four months we have vaccinated thousands of patients and are so grateful to all our staff and local volunteers whose hard work, support and dedication has enabled us to help deliver the vaccine to our patients who are most at risk of Covid-19.

The vaccine programme is now entering Phase 2 which will focus on cohorts 10 -12 (ages 18 – 49). Whilst we will continue to provide second doses to our patients who received their first dose through the practice, we have taken the decision to opt out of offering vaccination services for Phase 2 cohorts to enable us to focus on our day-to-day GP services.

Patients in cohorts 10 – 12 (ages 18-49) will be invited for their vaccine via a text or letter from the National Booking Service and will be able to book an appointment online via nhs.uk/covidvaccination or by calling 119 at one of the local Vaccination Centres, which includes the Grafton Centre.

Patients awaiting their second doses are asked not to contact the practice – they will contact you when it is the right time to book your appointment.

Any patient in cohort 1-9 who has not yet received their vaccine can also still book online via nhs.uk/covidvaccination or by calling 119.

Whether you have had the vaccine or not, please continue to follow all the guidance in place to control the virus and save lives. Face, Hands, Space.

Further information on the COVID-19 vaccination programme, including frequently asked questions and patient information leaflets here www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughhccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/covid-19-national-vaccination-programme.

New Staff: Ali McCarthy is our new social prescriber. There will also be a physiotherapist available for Muscular Skeletal appointments attending the surgery on a Wednesday.

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 Wednesday July 21st at 2pm.

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Public Transport Matters

Things are gradually returning to whatever the new normal is going to be. Already there are more people using the buses as children return to school and people to work. Next week is the May 17th further reopening of things. I hope to catch a bus for the first time for many months. The new Cambridgeshire Mayor is looking to improve the bus services in the area and to cancel the Metro plan. There will now be much discussion with those who have been involved in all the planning for the Metro system.

I am going to mention the excellent little Citibus that used to run in a circle round Cambridge. I think it was provided by the city council. Stagecoach East is suspending the Milton Park and Ride temporarily due to the limit on the numbers that can use each bus and the need for the buses to be used on other services. This has caused problems for people who use it to get to work. Route 13 and other routes were experiencing capacity problems.

The UK is aiming to reduce its emissions by 78% by 2035. It is China that makes the electrical vehicle bus - 99%. There is now a commitment to build 4,000 British zero emission buses. There is the Zebra scheme with 120 million pounds allocated.

The founders of Stagecoach, Sir Brian Souter and his sister Dame Ann Gloag, have sold nearly 11.6 million of their shares and ownership will be reduced to 5% over the coming decade. They started with just 2 vehicles in Scotland over 30 years ago. Souter's father was a bus driver and he and his sister expanded Stagecoach in the 1980s and 1990s as the British bus sector was deregulated.

Trains have been much in the news as GWR and LNER trains are all having to be inspected for cracks on the lifting points under the carriages. Services into King's Cross and elsewhere have been temporarily suspended. Arguments continue over the route of the proposed new Oxford to Cambridge rail link as it will involve the destruction of some people's homes and also some green areas. We used to live on the Southern route so friends are in touch with their worries and how the problems can be solved. There is also concern about the freight trains increase. It takes lorries off the roads but it might mean noise at night.

The cost of leasing trains has doubled in 5 years due partly to the introduction of new express trains on the East coast and Great Western lines.

A new book, Lines around Newmarket, has just been published. The Cambridge News had a page of photos and an interesting description of the old rail lines and stations.

Rail info - 08457 48 49 50 Traveline - 0871 200 22 33

Happy travelling - take care and keep safe and well. - Paddy James

Copy deadline for July/August issue is 14 June.

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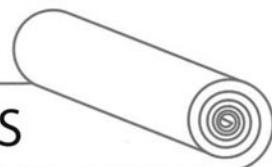


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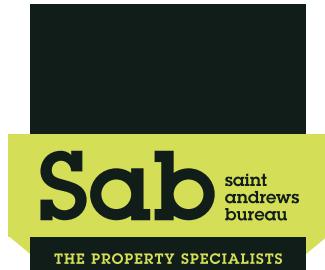


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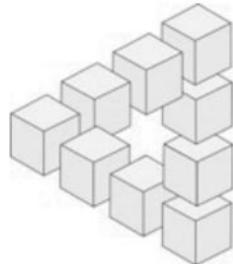
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

This month's missive comes with an apology from me to those readers who don't care for football. However, my nutty opinion has been sought by at least two readers of my submissions (possibly a majority?!) so here goes...

Anyone who has been living on another planet for the last couple of months may not have heard about the diabolical attempt of 12 football clubs from England, Spain and Italy to form a European Super League. The breathtaking level of greed and hypocrisy of the clubs' owners in hatching this plan to play in a private, closed competition sparked an unprecedented reaction from everybody on the outside of this would-be cartel and, indeed, from some players and managers inside those clubs. In England, in particular, the press and social media were red-hot with warnings from The Premier League, The FA, UEFA, even the Prime Minister, of dire consequences should they proceed with the ESL project. As the clubs quickly 'lost their bottle', despite threats of "binding contracts" from the odious president of Real Madrid, Florentino Pérez, the whole thing collapsed like a house of cards within 48 hours of announcement.

However, we should remember that there are some deep-rooted reasons why this breakaway was conceived in the first place. And they will not go away! The (mainly) foreign owners of the English clubs (Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham) are interested primarily in making money by increasing the value of their assets and, ever since the Premier League was formed in 1992, they have sought to maximise the opportunity afforded by worldwide media coverage. The desire for funds is even more pressing for the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus, who are almost bankrupt following years of paying inflated salaries and transfer fees. It's an issue of survival for them and they were dissatisfied with having to share the spoils from the existing Champions League in its new expanded format. So they managed to seduce the other owners with the prospect of billions of Euros of new money, not just from Europe but from rapidly emerging TV markets in America and the Far East.

We should also remember that football embarked upon this dirty road many years ago as TV money began to take a controlling interest in the structure of the game. The 20-club Premier League was, itself, a breakaway business from the Football League and the scraps of 'trickle-down' money for the other 72 league clubs was just enough to persuade them to 'play ball'. Nevertheless, the rich clubs (and players, and agents) continue to get ever richer while those in the lower reaches of the 'football pyramid' are going bust with alarming regularity.

My point is that the greed and hypocrisy is not solely the preserve of the big club owners. For instance, Sky Group was very quick to come out in support of the 'football family' and the pyramid, but they, more than anyone, are responsible for the current inequities in the English game and you can be sure that Murdoch's acolytes would have been even quicker to dip their big, fat noses in the trough of the ESL. Many players (Neville, Carragher, Keane, etc.), now involved in the media, voiced heartfelt opposition and disapproval of the greed at

(Sports Nut continued on page 43)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

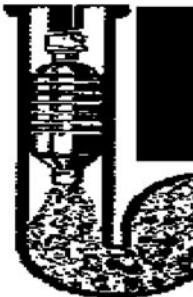
the heart of the ESL, but are they not members of the generation whose cynical wage demands crippled the ability of smaller clubs to ever again compete with the ‘big boys’? And what about the fans who are not only bleating about the attempt to ‘steal their working-class game’, but also apparently now demanding that owners relinquish their legitimately held businesses? Please! We didn’t hear too many complaints from the big clubs’ fans when their owners were investing millions of pounds in top players, massive stadiums and putting silverware on the table, so they could bask in reflected glory! Did anyone see any Manchester City fans complaining about winning the Premier League at a canter with their 500 million pound squad?

Admittedly, we could certainly do with a different ownership model in this country. The Premier League’s Owners and Directors Test, which purportedly keeps ill-gotten monies out of the game, is a joke! The German 50+1 rule (where it is unlawful for a club to have commercial investors with more than a 49 per cent stake) has a certain appeal, but I have no idea how the legal complexities of compensating current owners could be unraveled, should that idea be implemented. In fact, sadly, I don’t have any answers as to the way forward, but I am sure that invading grounds, fighting with police and having matches postponed is absolutely NOT the answer. At the time of writing, we are still waiting to hear what Manchester United’s sanction might be for hosting the riot at Old Trafford on the Bank Holiday weekend. Perhaps losing at home to Liverpool during the consequent fixture pile-up will be considered punishment enough!

In the aftermath of the ESL folly, the English Premier League has just announced a rollover of its existing TV deal with Sky Sports, BT Sport, Amazon Prime Video and BBC Sport, worth another £4.7 billion over the three years to 2025. The EPL proudly boasts that the £100 million which cascades into the football pyramid will help clubs to get back on their feet by offering them some financial certainty. The beneficiaries are said to include over 1,000 clubs in the National League system, and Girls’ & Women’s football, but my guess is that the people enjoying the lion’s share of ‘financial certainty’ will be the Premier League’s players and agents!

There’s a (tiny) part of me that would have liked to have seen the ESL go ahead. Share my vision for a minute, if you will... It’s possible that none of the European Leagues, FAs or teams would co-operate with the ‘super 12’. They would be disqualified from participating in their respective domestic leagues or cups and would have to play each other, ad nauseum, in a closed competition with no entry or exit. How long would it be before the entertainment became monotonous – six months, a year? The other question is: what players would want to sacrifice their domestic medals and international careers to perform in such a league? Not many, I would wager. The net result would be a ‘competition’ full of has-been players at the end of their careers, seeking one last lucrative contract to finance their ridiculous lifestyles... a Veterans’ League! Audiences would dwindle, contracts would be broken and the founding clubs would be left high and dry – a pale shadow of great institutions of yesteryear... and it would serve them right!

TTFN - Gerry Daish



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HOW THE “GREY HAIRIED” HAVE DESTROYED OUR PLANET!

I spoke with my cousin in Cornwall recently who told me that he had been subjected to a ticking-off from a younger member of the family over a recent TV programme on the topic of climate change. The implication being that people of my cousin's generation, (and mine for that matter), did not care enough about the environment back then in our early days. The consequence of which is that it's now up to the likes of Extinction Rebellion (XR) and Greta Thurnberg, along with 'millennials' and 'generation Z', to tackle the global warming problems that they say we, the 'grey haired', are responsible for.

Just like my cousin, I take umbrage at the charge being made by 'Climate Change Influencers' who have once again spectacularly failed to contextualise and properly inform themselves. As with Covid19, hindsight is a wonderful thing and had we known then what we know now I am sure matters concerning the state of our planet would be very different.

Nonetheless, as a retort to these accusations I would like to call upon a spoof that was doing the rounds a while ago. If I remember the parody correctly an older person was criticised by a 'millennial' for using a plastic bag and thus accused by this person of helping to destroy the planet. The older person apologised and explained that back then we didn't have this climate moralising thing – people used their common sense within the conventions applicable at the time. Although the story was satirical it did nevertheless contain some valid truths. So let me use this if I may in an attempt to set the record straight by recalling a few of the actions we, 'the grey haired', unconsciously took back then to limit waste and pollution...

For starters we returned glass milk bottles, lemonade bottles and beer bottles to the shop. The shop sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilised and refilled so the plant could use the same bottles over and over again. Grocery shops put our food and vegetables in brown paper bags. We re-used brown paper bags to make book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that the books were not defaced by our scribbling. We walked up stairs because we didn't have a lift in every supermarket, shop and office building. We walked to the local shop and didn't climb into a fuel guzzling automobile every time we had to go half a mile. Back then we used wind and solar power to dry our clothes, typically on a clothes line, not in an energy-gobbling machine requiring up to 3 kilowatts or more of energy. Back then, we had one radio or TV in the house - not a TV in every room and the TV had a small screen the size of a big handkerchief, not a screen the size of a garage door. Chores around the house and preparing meals were done manually because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used old screwed up newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't start up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. We pushed the mower that ran on human power. We exercised by playing with the kids, walking, gardening and

Continued on page 47

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DIY - we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. We drank from a tap or fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a plastic cup or bottle every time we had a drink of water. Sixty or so years ago people took the bus to town and children rode their bikes to school or walked. Unlike today where Mums' use the family's highly polluting 4x4's and SUVs for the 'school-run'. We didn't need a computerised gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites out in space in order to turn our appliances on or off, or to find the nearest pub. Our methods of communication comprised letters, telegrams, the telephone and face to face contact instead of digital media platforms whose energy-guzzling data centres use more power than the whole of the UK.

While most climate change activists are focused on limiting emissions from the automotive, aviation and energy sectors, it's the communications industry that generates more carbon emissions than all of the aforementioned sectors, and this is set to rise exponentially. In 2016, it was reported that the world's data centres consumed 416.2 terawatt hours, significantly higher than the UK's 300 terawatt hours. At three per cent of the global electricity supply and accounting for about two per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions, data centres alone have the same carbon footprint as the entire aviation industry. And all this just so that hand held devices can be used to broadcast to the entire world where we are, who we are with, what we had for breakfast and what our opinions are. Could this have something to do with the thousands of cases of identity theft, burglaries and fraud I wonder!! Back then we kept our personal information to ourselves and anything that needed to be said was said face to face – no cyber-bullying or anonymous social media vitriol.

Isn't it sad then that some of the current generation lament how wasteful we old folks were back then without stopping to think about their life styles and the direct contribution they are making to global warming? I think this 'holier than thou' attitude is suitably covered by the biblical adage, 'Take the plank out of your own eye before you take the speck out of others'. Thus perhaps modern day life should reassess itself to see if lessons can be learned and lifestyle changes made to reflect the pragmatics of the life style simplicities of past generations. For the sake of the planet a good place to start would be to bin Smartphones. As my cousin so eloquently puts it, "who needs a lesson in conservation from a load of 'woke' smart arses who claim the moral high ground without first doing their homework!?"

"It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it." Joseph Joubert.1754 – 1824. French essayist.

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You can also collect tests to complete at home or order tests to be delivered to your home. Secondary school pupils are also being asked to take a twice-weekly test.

You can find out more about all of these options at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

Dr Liz Robin, director of public health for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, said: “Getting into the habit of twice-weekly testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to keep each other safe. Alongside the ongoing vaccine rollout, it will help us to move forward with the roadmap out of lockdown.”



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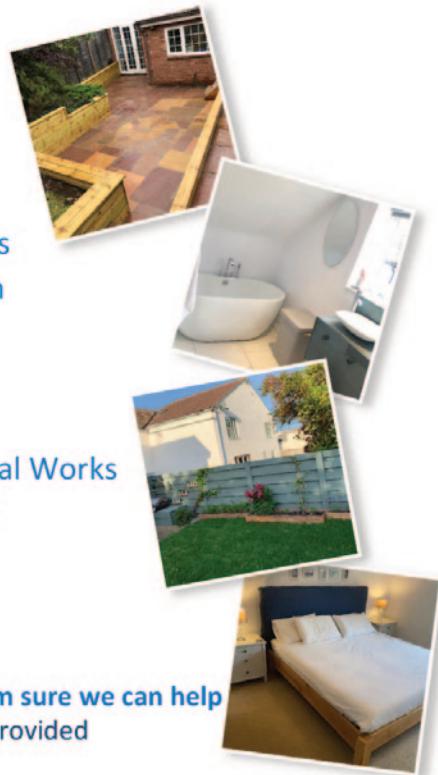
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