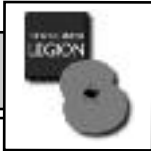


THE *Cresset*

April 2016



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



The Royal British Legion Social Club

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AT THE LEGION SOCIAL CLUB

Line Dancing every Tuesday and Wednesday
(except the first Wednesday in the month.)

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Saturday April 23rd - St. Georges Disco

8 'till late Entry £2

Saturday 16th April - Bowling Club Quiz Night

Open to all

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Welcome to your April Cresset.

*Spring is sprung the grass is riz
I wonder where the boidies is.
The boidies on the wing
But that is obsoid
For the wing is on de boid!*



On looking this up I discovered that there are endless versions of this, but that is the one my dad used to recite. I also came across a different rhyme of a seasonal theme, which took me back. Credit for this goes to that genius creator of Lobby Dosses, Bud Neill.

(Think Glasgow accent when you read this.)

*Winter's come, the snow has fell
Wee Josie's nose has froze as well
Wee Josie's frozen nose is skintit
Winter's diabolic - In'tit !*

Hopefully winter has receded and spring is in the air. The grass will indeed be growing and lawnmowers will need to be dusted off. Having said that, recent mild wet winters have meant that we often had to get the mower going in the middle of December!

As for wet, we in this neck of the woods have been lucky. Watching the news you just can't appreciate the impact that flooding has when you see the people of the North West mopping up after recent floods. Even once mopped up, houses are often uninhabitable for months, many with no insurance.

We had a brief experience of flooding recently on returning from Warwick direction along by Kimbolton and St Neots. I try to avoid the A14 route as the endless nose to tail lorries make it a horrible journey. But after three turn rounds at 'Road Closed' signs and diversions at Covington, Kimbolton and Tilbrook, I had to give up and take to higher ground with all the lorries. The folks in those villages had a fraught couple of days.

Tony Jolley sent me a nice picture of what he thinks may be our youngest reader. Nice to see them starting early, but I wonder how many bits of paper had to be picked up when she'd finished!

Still, my experience of grandchildren is that whatever mess they make, if it keeps them happy for a bit, you're happy and it is worth it.

If you have snaps like this with a story that is worth sharing, then do let me know.



I hear the discussions about trying to achieve an equipped play area for the village is continuing with pros and cons being, as they should be, aired. It may be a nettle which somebody at sometime in the future will grasp, but I feel the arguments could go on for a long time yet. There are always people who have a vested interest in particular areas and the ideal spot would be one which did not affect individuals. But with the College grounds now out of bounds (and about to be covered in a car park according to plans you can see on their website),

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

that opportunity has all but gone. The other obvious one, which was one before, is the 'dirt hills', next to the primary school. However a change of view by the park estate committee would be needed for that.

In this Cresset, Jolley Old World's article last month attracts comment from a reader. Also his article this month certainly gets one from me.

I have long objected to The 'British' National anthem being high-jacked by England sports fans and used as some sort of English national song. His suggestions for an alternative is long overdue, but by his own admission, some are more about Britain than England. He talks of the need for a more passionate song to sing. I could not agree more. If you want to hear the best example of passionate singing I know go back to the 6 Nations rugby last month and Scotland V France. God Save the Queen at Twickenham can never come close to the unaccompanied second verse of Flower of Scotland at Murrayfield sung by 60,000 passionate Scots!

Swing low sweet chariot is sung in the stands, and plans afoot may well make it official. Amazing it needs an act of parliament to do it. As far as I know none of the other ones did!

Our Thanks and credits to **John Overton** for our seasonal front cover photograph this month. E-mail BottishamCresset@gmail.com



LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College. We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

23rd April · 14th May (Black and White Ball)
Time: **7.30pm to 10.30pm**

The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site. For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159 or check out our website: www.letsdanceclub.org.uk

*Let's Dance Club is a "not for profit" organisation established to provide dances for the community.

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at the Legion

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£3 per person

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to book a table (Max. 8 people)

Nibbles available at the bar

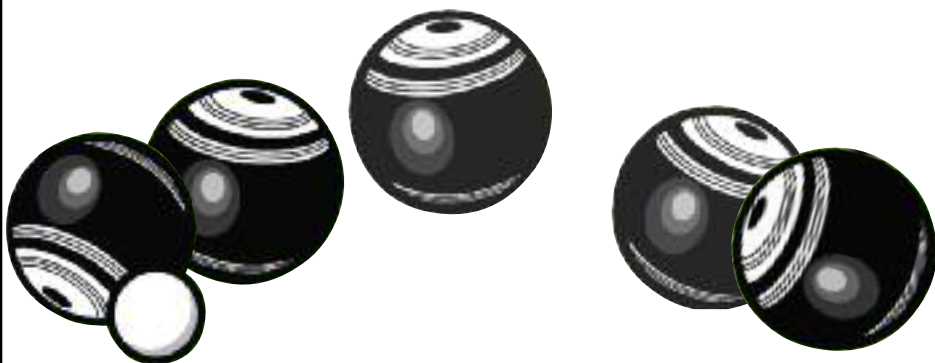
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The Royal British Legion Social Club

A message from the chair...

Hello everyone, I wanted to introduce myself as the recently elected Chair of The Royal British Legion Social Club in Bottisham. My name is Vicky Crown, I've lived in Bottisham for 12 years and I am the Caretaker at the Primary School.

We (the Committee) have a really busy and exciting year ahead!

There's already an extensive programme of entertainment being planned with something for everyone, so **Mums and Dads, put your babysitters on standby!** Our aim is to put on at least one event each month. Look out for more events for children.

Our major project this year is to redecorate the main hall, a massive undertaking but following the recent redecoration of the lounge it seems like the next logical step. All the wood will be painted making it much lighter and airier. The hall is available to hire as is the Poppy room, suitable for smaller gatherings.

And now to the bar...where our steward Katy and her team have just achieved the '**Cask Marque**' which reflects the excellent way our extensive range of **beers and ever changing guest ales** are kept. I am also proud to say that we haven't increased our prices for the last four years! (I am writing this just before the budget) so unless GO drops a huge tax increase I don't anticipate any increase this year either.

Apart from our entertainment programme you can also play a **range of traditional pub games**. We have two snooker tables, two pool tables, a bar billiards table and numerous dart boards. We have league teams in all (except snooker - at the moment, but watch this space), so if you fancy joining a team or just playing with friends it's all there for you!! If you prefer watching rather than participating, we have **Sky** and (recently installed) **BT Sports 1** for all major sporting events.

Finally, it has been mentioned that there are people living in the village who don't know where the legion is! So **here's how to find us**: Turn off the High St. into Beechwood Avenue (shop end) and take the 1st right into Downing close, past Queens Court and we're at the end of the road. You can't miss us!

Come and join us for a beer or glass of **Prosecco (£9 a bottle! Bargain!)** and sign up for regular emails or follow us on facebook and twitter.

Look out for our monthly page in the Cresset and this space for an update later on in the year.

Happy Easter - Vicky

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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

****NB new email contact****

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RE:NEW
Lode Chapel - Great Witleyham Chapel

RE:NEW Church Family

BE VIGI-LENT...

Lessons I have learned through Lent this year transcend the observance of a 40 day fast. I spent Ash Wednesday in Manchester city centre on an 'Urban Retreat' - taking time to be still and attentive in the extreme busyness. Stopping; not just to look, but to notice; asking, "Where is God?" and experiencing Him and others in a deeper way. During this exercise I realised how much I have adapted to rural Cambridgeshire, as I struggled to be attentive and find peace amidst the constant noise of buses, trams, people rushing from A to B and the almost constant sound of sirens.

As hard as it was to retreat in this environment, I did indeed see God.

For me, this is what Lent has been about - Taking time out to look for God; hence, vigi-lent! I noticed God in the creativity and beauty of an outstanding female guitarist & vocalist, talented enough to be signed to a label and touring the world - busking in Piccadilly Gardens with only a dozen people taking the time to watch and listen.

I felt genuine compassion for the homeless men and women, and those who appeared to be in pain. I felt confusion and frustration at the vast numbers of people out 'together' but not engaging with one another. Friends, family members, couples, gazing at small screens rather than at the faces of those they were with; present, but not fully present.

I smiled at the joy, grace and kindness of people giving 'free hugs' and white roses to passers-by.

Much of the beauty I noticed and the experiences I had that day were momentary, there one moment and gone the next. I was challenged to be attentive and make every moment count, to recognise opportunities to experience God in the beauty of my surroundings and the people I share them with.

I hope to continue to be vigi-lent, beyond Lent. I want to go beyond the surface, beyond the book cover, beyond first impressions, beyond my current experience of something or someone - to see situations and people as God sees them, indeed to see God in them. Will you join me?

May you see God today.

Alan.

RE:NEW Services in April 2016.

We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services. A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

3rd April	10.30am	RE:NEW The Bigger Picture. With Communion (Bottisham Primary School)
10th Apr	10.30am	RE:NEW Café style (at the School)
10th April	6.20pm	Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)
17th April	10.30am	RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)
24th April	10.30am	RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)
24th April	6.20 pm	Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)

For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact:

Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alanbrand77@icloud.com
or Peter Wells on C.812388. Email: pandawells@cheerful.com

Or visit our website at www.re-new.me.uk



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Our new District Councillor who was elected last month, Alan Sharp, came to introduce himself at our March meeting. He reported that the District Council have frozen their budget for 2016/17 so their part of council tax will remain the same.

Our County Councillor Mathew Shuter was also at the meeting. Following on from a resident request for an improvement to the bus stop on the A1303 Cambridge route, he reported that he had spoken with the Highways Officer. It was accepted that it would not be possible to put a bus shelter here due to the location of the farmer's gate but the Highways Officer will liaise with the farmer about putting an area of hard standing down on one side which would be an improvement on the current situation. It is unlikely that any improvement to footpaths by the A1303 bus stops will happen though as this would be too costly. There had been some damage to one of the speed humps in Bell Road which had been reported and the County Council have said this will be repaired within the next few days.

We have been unsuccessful in our bid for County Council Highways funding for lay-bys to be put in at the 'triangle' area. We will now have to consider if we want to proceed with this project at our own cost and this will be discussed at our next meeting. County Councillor Shuter submitted an application for funding to reduce the speed limit through Six Mile Bottom, part of which comes under the parish of Bottisham. This bid was also unsuccessful and he is talking to local residents to try and see if he can raise the funds locally to get this work done.

We did report a couple of months ago that Bottisham had applied to become a 'neighbourhood area', which is the first stage of developing a neighbourhood plan. This has now been approved although we recognise that the next stage of developing a neighbourhood plan is a lengthy process which we will proceed with in the future. The local plan is being re-visited, which forms part of the neighbourhood plan and this is the priority for parish council at the moment.

We are proceeding with plans to purchase land in Lode Road for a new cemetery. We have contracted a professional cemetery consultant who is liaising with the District Council and other agencies for us. We hope to begin a Tier 1 assessment of the land for the Environment Agency this summer which is one of many tests required.

Bottisham Parish Council's new website will be launched soon. Find out details on upcoming events, village announcements as well as walks around Bottisham etc. More information will be available in the next edition of The Cresset.

Just a reminder that residents are welcome to come to our Parish Council meetings, the next one is on April 4th, 7.30pm in the Poppy Room at the Royal British Legion. We also have our Annual Meeting on Thursday May 26th which everyone is welcome to attend and it is a good opportunity to find out what is going on in the village.

Outlined below are the contact details for the Committees within Parish Council which may be useful to you if you have any enquiries.

PLANNING Councillor *Hilda Buchanan* Tel: 811689

hildabuchanan@waitrose.com

ENVIRONMENT AND CEMETERY Councillor *Steven O'Dell* 812230

Sjodell1@btinternet.com

FINANCE Councillor *Jon Ogborn* Tel: 81263 Jon.ogborn@bottishampc.co.uk

NEW CEMETERY Councillor *Jon Ogborn* as above

(Parish Notes continued on page 15.)

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(Parish Notes continued.)

Clean For The Queen

We had an excellent response from the Primary School pupils who took part in the poster design competition and would like to thank them all for taking part. Well done to the winner and runners up!

Also thank you to all those residents of Bottisham who took part in the Clean for the Queen event and helped to make it a success.

We can all appreciate how the village looks at its best when people use the bins provided or take their litter home with them rather than just dropping it on the ground. Hopefully this event will encourage all of us to try and make a difference in the future and keep our village tidy.

Thank you once again. *Councillor Sarah Brown on behalf of Bottisham Parish Council*

To the Editor

My husband and I are soon to set off on one of the most challenging journeys of our 22 years together. On 23rd May we will set off to hike the 268 miles of the Pennine Way. This will take us around 3 weeks. It was originally something that Pete was planning to do 2 years ago but he put it off to stay and support me through a tough time. We are hoping to raise lots of money for 5 local charities that are close to our hearts:

- Queen's Court minibus fund
- Bottisham Royal British Legion Branch Fund
- 1st Bottisham Scouts
- Bottisham children's football club and
- The Primrose Trust at Arthur Rank Hospice (this was set up in memory of Pete's cousin Nifty).

If you feel you would like to sponsor us there will be forms available at the village stores and in Queens Court. Alternatively you can drop something through our door (25, High Street) or email us at Krayment9@gmail.com or thehikemaster@gmail.com.

Kat & Pete Rayment

AN INVITATION TO THE RESIDENTS OF BOTTISHAM

ANNUAL MEETING OF BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

THURSDAY 26TH MAY 2016, 7.30PM

IN THE POPPY ROOM

At the ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SOCIAL CLUB

If you have any items which you wish to be put on the agenda or an organisation wishes to report on their activities during the past year please contact the clerk by Thursday 12th May.

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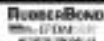
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Shed Security

Unfortunately thefts from sheds are common. Many people store things such as cycles, motor bikes, golf clubs, DIY power tools, lawn mowers and other garden equipment in their sheds. It is no wonder thieves are targeting them to get access to such valuable items.

The following are some tips to help secure your shed and prevent a thief walking away with your belongings.

Access - How easy is it to access your rear garden? Protect the boundary and access of your garden. A hedge or fencing at a height of 2metres is a good barrier. Fit a strong, lockable high gate to deny easy access to the rear of the property. Thieves dislike gravel as it is noisy to walk on

Do not use barbed or razor wire or other harsh toppings on top of a fence or wall. You could be held legally responsible for any injuries caused.

Location - Locate your garden shed so that you can clearly see the door and window while you are still within your property.

Locks - Use a good quality padlock/hasp or a mortice lock on the door. If using a hasp ensure the screws are covered and cannot be easily tampered with. Anti-tamper screws are available or the use of coach bolts a closed shackle padlock is less easy to access and cut with a bolt cropper. If fitting a mortice lock ensure the door panel and frame are strong enough to hold the fixtures.

Hinges - Having protected the locking side of the shed door, look at the hinges to make sure they are not easily removed. Again, use anti-tamper screws.

Doors - Make sure the door panels are strong enough preventing them being easily kicked in or forced using bodily pressure.

Windows - Deter window shopping by obscuring the view inside the shed, use netting or even a black bin bag on the interior. Fitting Perspex or laminated glass will offer good protection.

Lighting - Illuminate the shed with PIR lighting, thieves dislike being seen, the light will be a good deterrent.

Alarms - If you have a house alarm, consider extending the coverage to your shed. Stand alone shed alarms are available or a contact alarm that fits to the door. Alarms are available from East Cambs Crime Reduction Officer, Sue Loaker at a cost of £8:50 Tel: 101

Valuables - Use a ground or wall anchor to secure cycles, lawn mowers and other valuable items. Visibly and permanently mark your property, this helps to identify the property as being yours and makes it less desirable for a thief.



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.

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

NB new email contact

Services in Holy Trinity Bottisham

Sunday 3rd	11am	Morning Prayer <i>Mike Proctor</i>
Wednesday 6th	8pm	Compline by Candlelight <i>Led by Lucinda Collison</i>
Sunday 10th		No service in Bottisham
	9.30am	Benefice Communion in Swaffham Bulbeck
	11am	Benefice All-Age Service in Swaffham Prior
Sunday 17th	8am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>
	11am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 24th	9.30am	Benefice Communion <i>Revd Sue Giles</i>
	11am	Benefice All-Age Service in Lode

Please note the varying times of the services. Benefice services are services shared by the five churches in the Anglesey Group (Bottisham, Lode, Quay, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior).

JUMBLE SALE

Bottisham Scout Hut, Saturday 23rd April 2pm to 3.30pm
 1st Bottisham are raising money to replace windows in the scout hut.
Please bring any jumble to the scout hut from 10am-12noon on the morning of the sale.
 Any leftover clothes will be donated to Bottisham primary school for their Bags 2 School collection

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Bottisham & District Gardening Club

Daniel Lee gave the February talk on A Plantsman's Adventure in South America: a study of the diverse flora of Peru. Following a holiday in Peru in February of last year, Daniel was so taken with the people and the area around the Amazon that he followed it up, with the benefit of a personal guide, on a second more detailed visit in August. This is a very warm and humid area providing ideal conditions for many beautiful tropical rainforest plants. He trekked through the river banks of the Amazon, climbed the Andes Mountains with barren scrub on one side and, having coped with altitude sickness to reach the crest of the mountains, found a completely different lush rainforest on the other side. It was a very different climate and habitat to the one we're used to here.

Have you heard of Companion Planting, which is simply growing plants together for their mutual benefit? Many plants influence others within their vicinity and one of the best is the marigold, especially French or African marigolds. The flowers encourage hover flies which eat predators, the roots give off secretions which help prevent invasive weeds such as bindweed and thistles, and they also encourage strong growth. If you grow tomatoes outdoors, put a row of marigolds next to them for greenfly. If your tomatoes are in the greenhouse, put the marigolds in the growbags with them to prevent whitefly.

Another well-known companion is lavender planted under roses, which helps prevent both blackspot and greenfly. Interplanting with some allium, with its strong onion smell, also helps. Foxgloves are another good companion plant; they look good, encourage bees, and stimulate growth in surrounding plants.

Carrots grown on their own suffer from the carrot fly, which homes in on the smell of the carrots so disguise the smell with onions or herbs which mask the smell - leeks or onions do best, but rosemary or sage also work well.

If you have a weedy patch which you would like to cultivate, try planting potatoes for a season. The foliage shades the ground underneath making it difficult for the weeds to survive and 'earthing up' turns the soil over and weeds can be winkled out easily.

Some plants don't make good companions. Top of the list is fennel, nice foliage but it has a bad effect on the plants growing nearby. Dandelions should be eliminated for the gas they emit, and buttercups are greedy feeders and take the goodness from the soil.

Forthcoming speakers:
26 April: *Liz Mann* will be telling us about **The National Memorial Arboretum.**
24 May: *Roger Hance, FRCS,* on **Nature Through the Seasons.**
Tricia McLaughlin, Secretary - www.bottishamgardeningclub.co.uk

MARGARET MOFFAT 1940-2015

We would like to thank all those in Bottisham and the surrounding area for their kindness and the way that they made Margaret feel so welcome following her move down from Edinburgh just less than two years ago. We would particularly like to thank those who befriended her as near neighbours, at Meeting Point, Bottisham WI, Burwell Flower Club and the Church Family of RE:NEW, Your care and kindness was a major contribution to her happiness here.

We would also like to thank all of you who contributed towards the fund in memory of Margaret which went to Addenbrookes Charitable Trust - John Farman Intensive Care.
 Thank you.

Joy, Keith, William and Libby Morrison

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Stay and Play (£2 per family)
 Fun session for families and children under 5.
 Bottisham Children's Centre: Mondays 9.30-11.30am
 Soham Children's Centre: Tuesdays 9.15-11.15am
 Bowell Sports Centre: Thursdays 9.30-11.30am

Little Movers (Free)
 Chit and play session for families and children (ages 1 - 2)
 Soham Children's Centre: Wednesdays 2-3pm
 Bottisham Children's Centre: Wednesdays 12.30-2pm

NHS Well Baby Clinic (Free)
 Baby weighing and advice from NHS professionals.
 Mandeville Hall: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month 12.30-2pm
 Bottisham Children's Centre: 1st and 3rd Tuesday 12.30-2pm
 Soham Children's Centre: Every Thursday, 1.30-3pm.

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Bottisham Community Library Association

We now have the 2016 Costa Award books and several new Large Print titles. You can place reservations for books that we do not have in stock, from other libraries free of charge and these usually arrive quite quickly. Adults please come to the library as borrowing numbers have fallen recently in this category. There are some new children's picture books too.

We have WiFi available now in the library and we also have a recommended book of the month.

We hope that those members who attended our tea and tablet evening found it useful. Thanks to Tony Jolley who led the meeting.

We are holding our next Triangle Book Sale on Saturday 14th May together with the Gardening Club Plant stall and the WI Cake Stall. More information in the next issue.

Sylvia Overton



Copy deadline for next issue is 14 April.
 Please send material to the editor at BottishamCresset@gmail.com
 NB new email contact

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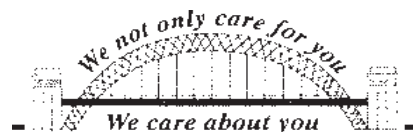
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- **Wednesday 6 April: 2.00pm to 4.00pm - Survival!**
Ages 6-8 years, children must remain accompanied throughout. Booking essential. £8 per child (£6 members), adults free.
- **Friday 8 April: 10am to 4pm - Unaccompanied Fun – A Day in the Woods**
For unaccompanied children aged 8-12 years. Booking essential. £40 per child (£35 members).
- **Sunday 17 April: 7.30pm to 9pm. - Bat Appreciation Evening**
Adults only, £4 (members £3). Booking essential.
- **Wednesday 20 April: 7.30pm. - Climate Change and Chalk Landscape Talk**
Free event but places are limited so early booking advised, by April 14 at latest.
- **Sunday 1 May: 5.30am to 6.30am - May Day Morris Dancing**
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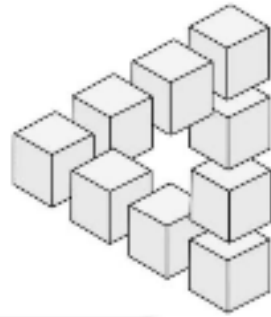
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NEWS RELEASE



April Bulletin

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To the Editor

I know I've said it before (and perhaps, this too, doesn't deserve space!); alas, it's far removed from a jolly world; the same old diatribe and fit only to be a space-filler - but not in a parish magazine! It tarnishes the taste of my early-morning porridge! In fact, I'd rather see a blank page, with a smiley face drawn on it by one of the primary school pupils.

There are plenty of illuminating, professional books (take 'Reclaiming Conversation' by Sherry Turkle) one can read on this subject; why do we need this awful regurgitation in the Cresset? This matter is merely part of the 'accidental evolutionary phenomenon', Mr Jolley!

And on the subject of Cecil Rhodes (Elgin & co), I believe that we should give back all the treasures we pillaged and plundered from defenceless, vulnerable nations in our heady, rapacious, arrogant, colonial days. Little wonder the chickens have come home to roost, and we are getting our comeuppance!

Nick Martin

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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

As the RBS Six Nations Championship took shape, with England settling into a state that looked like 'form', it was more than a little ironic that a section of the medical profession declared their support for a ban on tackling in schools rugby. I can't see such a policy helping the development of the necessary skills to ensure safety and success in years to come, can you? The southern hemisphere countries would doubtless be gleeful at the prospect of competing against future home nations' teams who hadn't got a clue how to tackle!

But for now, the pugnacious Aussie coach Eddie Jones, seems to have galvanised his 'New England' squad with a robustness that was sadly lacking in last year's world cup. His abrasive mind games before the England v Wales match - casting the Welsh scrimmaging as 'illegal' - heightened the anticipation for the event and, if he created a siege mentality in the England camp, it came in handy in the last 10 minutes as England - stupidly a man down after conceding a surfeit of penalties - fended off the Welsh onslaught to clinch the Triple Crown. Jones went on, "I reckon I understand what makes English sport tick and we need to be aggressive." Maybe he does and maybe we do!

Another Australian, Shane Sutton, heads British cycling these days and - hey - the Brits are back in business! The World Track Cycling Championships provided the usual array of thrills and spills with many of the big British names out in force vying for seats on the plane to Rio and the GB team finishing top of the medal table with nine medals including five golds. The Men's Pursuit team were pipped by the Aussies for gold but look in decent shape for the Olympics. Then normal service was resumed as Jason Kenny rode a brilliant final in the men's sprint, and Wiggins and Cavendish rolled back the years to take the Madison title. What an event that is... heart pounding, lungs heaving, stress levels 'maxing out'... and that's just me sitting on the settee watching!

And what about new boy John Dibben, blowing away his opponents on the last lap of the Points Race to pilfer the gold medal from his Austrian rival Andreas Graff? I hate to say this but - such was his speed - let's hope that incredible lap wasn't just a bit too incredible. Dibben could yet be beating Cavendish to a British Olympic Omnium & Pursuit place in the summer! Watch this space...

Diminutive powerhouse Laura Trott was the star of the show, again, with Gold in both the Scratch Race, by virtue of a blistering final couple of laps, and the Omnium, where her consistency across the disciplines was unparalleled. But the best thing about Trott - surely a Dame in the making - is her genuine, girl-next-door personality, don't you think? She must train and compete utterly ruthlessly to be a multiple Olympic and World Champion, but she shines with humility, enthusiasm and sheer love of life in her post-race interviews. Imagine the Trott-Kenny household in the evening: "Good day at the office dear?" "Not bad, I won the World Championship. How about you?" "Mmm, pretty good for me too, actually. I'm a double World Champion! Pass the electrolyte recovery formula, would you darling?"

Talking of formulae, was anyone taken in by Maria Sharapova's carefully scripted announcement of her failed drug test precipitated by the 'medicine' she'd been taking for 10 years suddenly being placed on the banned list? "Reckless beyond description" was how former WADA President Dick Pound put it. I'd call it cheating. And, frankly, I'd call it cheating even before Meldonium was prohibited. What on earth was one of the most

(Sports Nut continued on page 45.)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

successful athletes on the earth - five-time world no.1, winner of 5 grand slam titles, and a \$30m earner – doing taking a drug developed for sufferers of ischaemic heart disease? I'll submit a printed, public apology if it transpires that the poor girl did, in fact, become a great champion whilst hiding a chronic heart condition. But could it be that she might have been a somewhat ordinary exponent of bat and ball without chemical assistance in the transportation of oxygenated blood to her muscles?

In football, Aloysius van Gaal continues to amuse us with his bizarre interviews. After the recent Premier League defeat by West Bromwich Albion he actually suggested that Juan Mata should not have been dismissed for two yellow cards because he's never been sent off before and he's not 'that' kind of player... it's really unfair of referees not to take into account a player's character and disciplinary record before taking action against them. Priceless! Perhaps in future, referees could interview players and psychoanalyse them whilst waiting for the video replays to make their decisions for them, if the 'modernisers' have their way?

And while we're on referees reading the minds of players, have you seen what the International Football Association Board has been up to? There's a change of law coming, allowing a referee to show only a yellow card (instead of red) to a player who concedes a penalty by denying an opponent an obvious goal scoring opportunity IF the player is "attempting to play the ball." Just have a think for a moment what that actually means... The stated aim of IFAB is to reduce controversy! Does anyone think this 'brainwave' will prove effective?

Meanwhile... Leicester City, who were sitting bottom of the Premier League a little over a year ago, are edging closer to the title... what a story that could be!

TTFN - Gerry Daish

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IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL OR WANT TO BUY OR EVEN TO SWAP, THEN THIS PAGE IS YOURS TO USE. Please e-mail details of item, price and landline phone number to the Editor at the Cresset. E-mail details to Cresset@Bottishampc.org.uk. Entries by 12th of the month for next months issue. Max 5 items.

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Jolley Old World

A National Anthem for England!

Having attended a number of events, sporting in particular, I have always been slightly embarrassed by the fervour that spectators from other nations put in to the singing of their representative anthems. For example the 'home nations' and the Welsh with 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' - "Old Land of My Fathers"; the Scots with 'Flower of Scotland'; and the Irish with 'Amhrán na bhFiann' - "A Soldiers' Song". The passion and emotion that is exerted in the singing of these anthems is nothing short of astounding verging on possibly intimidating. I honestly cannot say that I notice the same fervency and 'hunger' when English sides sing the National Anthem - it seems too well-mannered and gentlemanly for such sporting contests. This is not to say that I am against the National Anthem, after all I am a committed Monarchist, and the Anthem truly has its place at all state occasions and at diplomatic functions. But the English do need to find something that can inspire a zealous patriot.

The British National Anthem, as we refer to it today, dates back to the eighteenth century. 'God Save The King', was a patriotic song first publicly performed in London in 1745. The words and tune are attributed to the 18th century composer Thomas Augustine Arne, but may even date back to the seventeenth century. The practice and custom of greeting monarchs with the song as he or she entered a public place was thus established and became known as The National Anthem. The words we use today are still those sung in 1745, but substituting 'Queen' for 'King' where appropriate.

Well, that aside, the debate is now on I understand to find a suitable song or piece of music that can be played or sung at events where England is represented as a distinct nation. So what's on offer and let's have a look at some of the contenders?

"Land of Hope and Glory" is a British patriotic song, with music by Sir Edward Elgar and lyrics by A. C. Benson, written in 1902. In 2006 a survey conducted by the BBC suggested that 55% of the English public would rather have "Land of Hope and Glory" sung at sporting events in which England competes as a separate nation than "God Save the Queen". The music to which the words of the refrain, "Land of Hope and Glory, are set is the "trio" theme from Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1. The words were fitted to the melody on the suggestion of King Edward VII who told Elgar he thought the melody would make a great song. In fact, only the first of the seven stanzas of the Ode's final section was re-used, as the first four lines of the second stanza. It's this stanza which is the part popularly sung today at the 'Last Night of the Proms.'

*Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the Free,
How shall we extol thee, who are born of thee?
Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set;
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet,
God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet.*

"I Vow to Thee my Country" is also a British patriotic song, created in 1921, when a poem by Sir Cecil Spring Rice was set to music by Gustav Holst. The poem described how a Christian owes his loyalties to both his homeland and the heavenly kingdom. The first verse, and the rarely sung second verse, refer to the United Kingdom, and particularly to the sacrifice of those who died during the First World War. The last verse, starting "And there's another country", is a reference to God's kingdom. Gustav Holst adapted the music from a section of 'Jupiter' from his suite 'The Planets' to create a setting for the poem.

*I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.*

Now unlike the two contenders above "Nimrod" is a delightful haunting melody that builds to a

(Jolley Old World continued on page 50.)

(Jolley Old World continued.)

glorious crescendo. Also composed by Sir Edward Elgar; Elgar described how on the evening of 21 October 1898, after a tiring day's teaching, he sat down at the piano. A melody he played caught the attention of his wife, and he began to improvise variations on it in styles which reflected the character of some of his friends. These improvisations, expanded and orchestrated, became the 'Enigma Variations' of which Nimrod is one variation. As it's such an emotional melody the Nimrod tune has had different lyrics added over time ranging from sacred to secular. There is a version titled 'We will stand together' and the words shown below are those sung in the final climax of the piece. To listen/watch go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRcwRFOrcPg it can be pitched lower so don't worry!!

We will stand together

Even in the darkest moment

Destiny will guide us and we'll dare to raise our eyes to heaven

History will say...

We shall win the day

We shall win the day

We will stand together... till then.

And now to "Jerusalem" a seemingly firm favourite. As we are approaching the 100th anniversary of the death of Sir Charles Hubert Parry what could be more fitting a tribute to a great English choral composer! While there is no official national anthem of England, 'Jerusalem' is considered to fill such a role and moves are afoot for England to have this as its own anthem. Words by the poet William Blake, set to music by Parry, are frequently sung as an office or recessional hymn in English cathedrals, churches and chapels on St George's Day. In January 2015, Member of Parliament Toby Perkins introduced the 'English National Anthem Bill' to the House of Commons which was later adopted by the house. The bill will be debated in a second reading on 11th March 2016. So, by the time you read this article we may know how the debate went. Personally I feel the words to the second verse are probably the most appropriate:

Bring me my bow of burning gold!

Bring me my arrows of desire!

Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!

Bring me my chariot of fire!

I will not cease from mental fight,

Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,

Till we have built Jerusalem

In England's green and pleasant land.

And finally for a more secular choice "There'll Always Be an England" has a strong following. An English patriotic song, written and distributed in 1940, was highly popular throughout World War II. It was composed and written by Ross Parker. The words were written by Hughie Charles, and the most popular version was sung by Vera Lynn.

Red, white and blue; what does it mean to you?

Surely you're proud, shout it aloud,

"Britons, awake!"

The empire too, we can depend on you.

Freedom remains. These are the chains

Nothing can break.

There'll always be an England,

And England shall be free

If England means as much to you

As England means to me.

So what would your choice be? Me! I'd go for "I Vow to Thee My Country" by Gustav Holst. May be you'd like to have your say...

TJ

"May the sun in its course visit no land more free, more happy, more lovely, than this our own country!" Anon.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

The NHS and, in particular, General Practice appears as a news item in the media, almost on a daily basis. A question that has been posed recently is this: "Is General Practice value for money?" General Practice receives less than 9% of the NHS budget to care for patients and their families, yet over 90% of all contacts with the NHS occur in general practice. Recent figures demonstrate that GP services are delivering comprehensive care for a whole year with funding of approx. £136 per person.

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Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 8th and 27th April, 13th and 25th May, 10th and 22nd June. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

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Once again - LOOKING FOR SUPPORT - in the Bottisham area

As I wrote in the Spring of last year, living with physical impairments can be hard, but isn't the end of the world. What you need is the help of a few wonderful people. Writing in the Cresset last year generated some fantastic responses and allowed me to develop a small team, which has worked really well. All team members have been fantastic in supporting me to live my life in the best possible way.

Now a loyal long term (7 years!) member of my team is planning to leave and I need to find a replacement; but how will I do this?

How does one find the right person? Sometimes, I think it is sheer luck, a chance meeting, a friend of a friend, just someone who happens to know..., a positive response to a shop ad, a paper ad? I've certainly many times 'been lucky', some would call it Providence. So, as writing in the Cresset last year really worked, I'm trying this route again.

I have been living with the effects of Multiple Sclerosis and been disabled for more than 15 years. Before that I was working as a health professional in the Health Service. I've always experienced 'my illness' as a double-edged sword. And on the right day and at the right time it can certainly be experienced as a spiritual process and it has led to much creativity. But don't get me wrong, it can also be extremely frustrating, limiting and infuriating.

Going back to finding the right support, it can be really challenging. Times when it seems really hard to find that 'right person', matching availability with need. Always a process of fine tuning, good communication and negotiation - it is not a thing that comes necessarily easy. Intuition, personal preference and the right time for something can all be part of it. Even clarifying what one precisely needs can be hard.

Presently I happily share my life with my partner, who mostly provides me with support in the evenings, and ensures my safety at night. However during the week and during the day time we both wish to be able to do our own thing; he needs to be able to go out to work and I like to pursue my own interests. Also sometimes he might want to do something for himself in the evenings, or go away for a weekend, which means someone else needs to step in to give me some essential assistance. I also go away from time to time, to go and see my family, or friends 'back home'.

As said above, I presently am recruiting again as one loyal staff member is leaving and I want to and need to develop and strengthen my small team of people, who support me in living a full and creative life. We work with a rota and each team member has regular slots (respecting other work/family commitments) and a specific role. As well as that there are some slots which are shared and taken in turns, for example a half hour lunch time or evening slot, or an hour Saturday slot. Holiday and sickness cover will also be required.

So I am looking for a competent, flexible and versatile person to strengthen my team and help aid further development of this enterprising disabled household.

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To those who responded to my advert last year but did not receive a reply, please accept my sincere apologies. Due to circumstances outside my control shortly after publication, I was unable to honour all responses as I would have wished. Please do re-apply if you are still interested.

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Bottisham WI

Ellee Seymour was our speaker for the February meeting. Her book, "The Shop Girls" is about the history of Heyworth's, a department store in Cambridge. It was originally opened by George Heyworth, who had moved from working in a Lancashire cotton mill to become an assistant at a Luton draper's shop. He came to Cambridge and in 1914 he opened a store in Burleigh Street with a thriving hat department. It later transferred to Sidney Street with his son, Herbert taking over from his father. Ellee's research tells the stories of the lives of four of the shop assistants working there from the late 1940's to the 1960's. It is a true story of hard work, friendship and fashion in an exclusive fashion store. There were many comparisons with the TV series "Mr Selfridge." A few members remembered shopping at the store which closed in 1965 and commented on the more glamorous fashions of the time and the excellent quality of Horrocks's cotton dresses which were sold there.

We plan to have a cake stall on 14th May, at The Triangle along with the Library's book stall and the Gardening Club's plant sale. Items for Ward S at Addenbrookes continue to be made. Our Dart's Team is doing well and has won the first two matches against Milton WI.

If you would like to join the WI, please do come along – maybe as a visitor in the first instance?

Our next meeting is on **TUESDAY 19th APRIL at 7.30** in The Lecture Room at the Village College and the Speaker is Clare Mulley - "**The spy who loved – the secrets of Britain's wartime heroines.**"

Public Transport Matters

We continue to enjoy the slightly smoother ride of the recycled bio-buses but the seats are also rather smoother! Greener, smarter is the claim on the bus exterior but as fellow travellers also report, you do have to hold tight if the bus slows suddenly. Stagecoach did a good job of coping with the blocked A1303 when there was the horrific accident recently. The 11 and 12 were diverted to come down the High St. and I saw a 10 come down the High St., reverse into Beechwood Avenue opposite the new bus shelter and check if anyone was waiting. I am not sure how often that happened. I wrote to thank Stagecoach and had an appreciative reply saying they did hope to provide a good standard. The Bikebus Explorer service is to be suspended on March 27th due to lower passenger numbers than expected. It is run by S. Cambs. district council and the initial pilot scheme was extended but it hasn't covered its costs.

Booking offices at Huntingdon, St. Neots and Royston stations are to be closed at off-peak times but there will be new Station Hosts on the concourses, who will be on duty for longer than the booking offices are currently open. The stations will be staffed from the first train in the morning until the last at night - important station facilities such as waiting rooms and toilets can also be open for longer.

City Deal, Cambridge Connect, Smarter Cambridge Transport - all sorts of plans are being discussed to alleviate the problems of congestion in Cambridge. Now again there is talk of tunnels and light railway routes even out to Newmarket via the Marshall village Wing and then the connecting buses. All lines would connect with the central railway station and park and ride sites. Inter-city coaches would deliver passengers to the light rail network at the periphery reducing coach traffic in the inner city and providing passengers

(Public Transport Matters continued on page 56.)

(Public Transport Matters continued.)

with faster access to the centre or other stops on the network. However, the County Council and the City Deal say that busways cost one fifth of light rail and do not involve digging up the streets to install the rails or overhead power lines.

My e-mail correspondence with National Express since 2013 regarding the lack of information at the bus stops on Newmarket High St. regarding the services (727, 497) that are available from there continues. I have now been promised paper timetables to display in the library and also been given messages to give to Newmarket library, TIC, Premier Travel and the information desk in the Grafton Centre so they can request paper timetables. No timetables received so far but the promise is progress! The tracker service on their website does give details of all the services and I think the 370 also calls.

North-south Crossrail 2, planned to cut congestion on trains and the tube, has effectively been approved after receiving endorsement from the National Infrastructure Commission. It could cost £32 billion and be completed by 2033 - from Tottenham Hale in the northeast to Wimbledon in the southwest. It could be financed by a levy on new building developments, a 2p levy on business rates and a rise in local bus and train fares. The Queen is delighted that Crossrail 1 will become the Elizabeth Line in 2018. Her 25 years on the throne were marked by the Jubilee Line in 1979.

There are plans for a high-speed rail network across the Pennines halving rail travel time in the north - Leeds to Liverpool in 50 minutes not the present hour and a half. This is part of Mr. Osborne's 'northern powerhouse strategy' - 6 cities to be linked with 140 mph trains.

Did you see the Flying Scotsman as it passed nearby? There are other great British steam train rides - the Kent and East Sussex Railway, Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways, Vale of Rheidol Railway, Ceredigion, West Somerset Railway, the Jacobite West Coast Railways, Scotland and the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway.

Planning a holiday? Forget the tiring airports and take one of the many ferry crossings from the British Isles, recently featured in a National Ferry Fortnight. Visit discoverferries.com - the one-stop shop for up-to-date news about travelling by ferry - you could save 20% when you book your ferry crossing. There are 12 ferry companies that are part of the Discover Ferries organisation - DFDS, Brittany Ferries, Isle of Man Steam Packet Co., Irish Ferries, Caledonian MacBrayne, Condor Ferries, Isles of Scilly Steamship Group, Northlink Ferries, Red Funnel, Stena Line, P and O and Wightlink.

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Paddy James



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