

January 2018



THE
Cresset

*A very
Happy New Year
for 2018*

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



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First off, can I wish all our readers a very Happy New Year. To take last month's editorial quote, may this year end even better for you than it starts.

As I write this before Christmas, I should really preface that greeting with a "when it comes" caveat. North of the border it is always regarded as bad luck to wish somebody a Happy New Year before midnight on Hogmanay! However believe it or not down here, I heard my first "and a Happy New Year" on Saturday 9th December! Not superstitious or anything, but I just had to cross my fingers and not step on the cracks in the pavement, when I heard it!



I hope you all had a great Christmas and Santa was good to you. I know several little ones who will have had a great time and the usual levels of excitement were reached. (by the adults as well!)

A New Year brings new challenges and I think we have our fair share to come. Whether locally, nationally, or globally, there are risks and hurdles at every turn. Let's hope that fair play and common sense prevails at every level.

To our January issue now and we have our regular contributions which all make interesting and thought provoking points.

In my usual peruse through the articles submitted, I am always interested in what Cambridge past present and future has to offer. This month something particularly caught my eye.

'Keeping Cambridge Special', Cambridge's Spaces and Streets Workshop on Saturday 13 January.

"Come and discuss your views on how Cambridge can address the challenge of having more people moving around the city, whilst enhancing quality of life and preserving the city's heritage". The workshop will include thought provoking presentations and discussions that will be led by Councillor Lewis Herbert (leader of Cambridge City Council).

Bottisham has a workshop like that as well, called the Parish Council meeting. Anybody can go along and hear what is being discussed and there is always 10mins. before the meeting starts for people to make suggestions. We should make use of that, not just once a year at the annual Parish meeting. (If we even do that!)

My usual weather comment now. We actually got some snow last month! Strange to say, but that seems to be unusual these days. My memories of way back, (in the flood, as my friend Frosty says) was that we got fairly regular coverings of snow each winter. However recent winters have been very mild and the grass has needed cutting almost right through. Little snow has fallen over the last few years. Of course now that I have said that we will probably get a deep freeze start to the year.

It is interesting to look back in the archives at the sort of problems that we have had in earlier years. The Youtube website has some great clips of the likes of 1963 and the horrendous winter that we had then. Temperatures down to -19deg. and nowhere in the UK

(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

frost free from 1st Jan until March. The sea froze at Margate and a car was able to be driven across the Thames at Oxford. (Bet that was some student prank!) 20ft Snow drifts on frozen ground meant the country came to a standstill for weeks. Entire railway trains, engine and carriages were buried in snowdrifts and had to be dug out by hand.

One thing which would be very different nowadays if we were to experience the same today, is the vastly greater number of cars on the road and also the commuter travelling that is done now, that was not done then. Yes there were traffic jams, but nowhere near the density of people on the move in their daily lives.

On the other hand we did not have the internet then and the ability to organise our lives without so much of the need to travel. Some can work from home and we can shop from home, but that simply means that it is white van man who has to brave the snow!

Whatever the weather stay warm and have an enjoyable January.

Peter Walker



Our cover is a view of the winter walk at Anglesey Abbey on a lovely crisp day. Worth a visit.

Cambridge, Past, Present & Future *- A colourful month of activities*



New Year's Day Guided Walk at Coton Reserve, CB23 7PZ. Monday 1 January:

11am-1pm Join the Cambridge PPF team for a revitalising, social walk through the Coton Reserve. Enjoy the stunning winter landscapes and learn about the reserve's history and current management as a wildlife friendly farm. Meet outside the village pub, The Plough on Grantchester Road, at 11am. A free event but donations towards upkeep of the reserve are always welcome!

Healthy Walking at Wandlebury Country Park, CB22 3AE Every Thursday: 10am or

10.30am-11am Keep fit and greet the changing of the season by joining our healthy walkers this January for a sociable walk around the park. Meet at the Stable Rooms at 10am for a longer walk, or 10.30am for a shorter stroll. Walks end around 11am with tea and coffee in the Stable Rooms. All welcome, suitable for all abilities. Free of charge and no need to book, please arrive 10 minutes early to register if it's your first session. A free event but donations towards the upkeep of the park are always welcome!

Hedge Laying at Wandlebury Country Park, CB22 3AE Wednesday 10 January:

10am-3pm Join our volunteer work party to learn the ancient rural practice of hedge laying and help us care for the park and its wildlife. Wear warm waterproof clothing and tough shoes, bring a packed lunch and drink. All instruction, equipment and tools provided. All welcome, no need to book. Meet at the car park notice board.

Keeping Cambridge Special: Cambridge's Spaces and Streets Workshop Saturday

13 January: 9am-1pm, Centre for Mathematical Sciences CB3 0WA Come and discuss your views on how Cambridge can address the challenge of having more people moving around the city, whilst enhancing quality of life and preserving the city's heritage. The workshop will include

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for thought provoking presentations and discussions will be led by Councillor Lewis Herbert (leader of Cambridge City Council). Advanced booking required online at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keeping-cambridge-special-tickets or via bookings@cambridgeppf.org. More information can be found at www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on.

Orienteering for All at Wandlebury Country Park, Sunday 14 January: 11am-3pm Come and have some fun exercising and enjoying the outdoors whilst navigating your way around beautiful Wandlebury Park. Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult), with three course of varying lengths and complexity. Walk or run in sensible footwear and clothing. £10 per family/group, individuals £5 (members £8/£4). No need to book, the registration area will be signposted from the main car park.

Winter Tree Identification at Wandlebury Country Park, Saturday 20 January: 1pm-4pm Join our fascinating workshop to learn the basic skills needed to identify our common native trees in the winter using bark, buds, shape and form (leaves and seeds when available!). Followed by a guided stroll around the beautiful winter scenery of Wandlebury Country Park - a perfect relaxing afternoon in the outdoors. Adult only event, booking essential. £8 per person (members £6). Wear sensible clothing according to weather and sturdy shoes.

Coppicing Woodland at Wandlebury Country Park, CB22 3AE Wednesday 24 January: 10am-3pm Join our volunteer work party to learn the magic of this ancient technique which provides a constant supply of useful wood, whilst rejuvenating trees and increasing biodiversity for the benefit of the park and wildlife. Wear warm, waterproof clothing and tough shoes, bring a packed lunch and drink. All instruction, equipment and tools provided. All are welcome, no need to book. Meet at Wandlebury car park notice board.

For more information on any of the events and booking email: admin@cambridgeppf.org, call 01223 243830 extension 207 or visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on



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Veolia Waste collection dates over Christmas

Normal collection date/waste will be collected

Thursday 28 December (B)

Saturday 30 December(B)

Thursday 4 January (G)

Saturday 6 January(G)

Thursday 11 January (B)

Friday 12 January(B)

Monday 15 January Normal collection days resume

BLUE BIN:

Christmas/greetings cards
Cardboard packaging
Wrapping paper - **NOT** foil based or plastic coated

GREEN BIN:

All food waste, including meal leftovers & bones
Please do not use cornstarch or biodegradable plastic bags. Wrap food in paper or use paper bags only.
Real Christmas trees - will be collected if left next to the green bin on collection day until Friday 26th January.

Witchford & Milton Recycling Centres will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS?

Customer Helpline: 01353 665555 Website: www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Pre-School Play Area Working Party

As many of you know, a Working Party set up by the Parish Council earlier this year has been looking into pre-school play provision in the village.

In 2011, the Bottisham Village Vision Questionnaire asked residents “How you would like you see the village/parish change in improve in the future?”. The most common response after “no further development” was “Provide more facilities for children/young people”.

Bottisham is an unusual village because despite its size, the Parish Council owns no land. This makes meeting that vision very difficult.

Some residents may remember play equipment used to be in place at the Village College and behind the British Legion many years ago. Both were removed when they fell into disrepair. For safeguarding reasons, neither the Primary School nor the Village College can be accessed during the day. The Working Party wanted to establish if there was a particular need for pre-school play provision during the day in light of this hence the questionnaire which was sent out last month.

169 responded to the questionnaire. 88% said they believed there was insufficient pre-school play provision in the village. 75% also said that they would support the Parish Council acquiring land if it became available for that purpose with 83% also in favour of installing some play equipment. The full results are available on the Parish Council website. A lot of valuable comments and suggestions were also received which the Working Party plan to now work through. Many of you have offered to help and we plan to contact volunteers in the New Year to ask if they would like to be involved.

In the meantime, the Working Party would like to thank those involved in distributing and collecting the questionnaires and to you for taking the time to fill them in.

Lino Di Lorenzo - Parish Councillor

Services in Holy Trinity Bottisham in January

Wednesday 3rd	8pm	Compline by Candlelight
Sunday 7th	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th		No service in Bottisham
	10am	Benefice Communion in Quy
Sunday 21st	8am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	11am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th		No service in Bottisham
	8am	Holy Communion in Swaffham Prior
	9.30am	Children's Church in Lode
	10am	Benefice Morning Worship in Swaffham Bulbeck

Benefice services are services shared by the five churches in the Anglesey Group (Bottisham, Lode, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior). Details of these services can also be found on the Bottisham pages of the Anglesey website (angleseygroupparishes.co.uk). Any late changes in times or places of services will be given there, along with details of any funerals or weddings in Holy Trinity.

Letter from the Anglesey Group of Churches

Dottie my aged bantam finally succumbed and literally “fell off her perch” one night recently. She wasn’t much of a looker – and when she moulted she looked an absolute sight – more fitting for the roasting tin than roaming around the garden. Apparently it is what is expected from her breed – a “frizzle” – basically she looked as if she stuck her beak in the electric socket and all her feathers stood up on end. She, dear thing, was not one of life’s beauties. Yet she had many endearing qualities – or so her mate Bertie thought. He was devoted, and seemed not to care one jot that she was quite honestly the ugliest hen in Dullingham.

Maybe we could learn something from the bantams. Perhaps we need to see beyond the superficial, what people look like, how they dress, how they speak, whether they “fit in.” Perhaps we need to look underneath all this, to see people as they are, not so much as we see them.

I was accosted the other evening as I was tiredly waiting for a delayed train in London, by a young lad who was begging. At first, all I saw was another beggar hustling for money – sadly a too frequent occurrence on the streets of London and elsewhere. My immediate reaction was to shake my head. He walked on to try someone else – and so it went through the crowd of commuters. No-one even made eye contact with him, we all saw him as one more nuisance as we waited for the train. I was brought up short and sharp. Because he wasn’t, and isn’t, one more anything. He is a unique person, beloved of God. He is someone’s child and my fellow resident here on earth. I tried to find him to give him something, but he had gone, I had lost him in the crowd.

That nameless young man and dear old Dottie have brought home to me how superficial and instant can be our judgements. Yet Jesus bucked the trend – he sought out

those society judged – the poor, the ostracised, the outcasts. The Bible – both Old and New testaments, tell us repeatedly to care for those in need and who are “different” as part not only of our human solidarity, but also as part of God’s reaching out in love.

I have a short prayer I say each morning – and I leave it with you

God, grant me this day generosity of spirit, clarity of mind, and warmth of affection.

May that generosity and warmth be each of ours in the coming days.

God’s blessings - *Gina Radford, Curate*



Every day is a gift...

11th February, 13th March, 5th May, 9th July, 19th October, 3rd November, 26th November: these dates are all special to the Brand household as we celebrate a member of our family being one year older; and 30th November, another year of marriage for Tammy & I. Add into the mix Easter, Christmas, family holidays, half-term visits from Grandma - there is always some sort of family event or celebration coming soon, something to count down to. “Only 50 days until we go on holiday!”, “It’s my birthday in 20 days”, “8 sleeps ’til Grandma comes to stay”.

Of course I understand that we look forward to milestones in our lives, and eagerly await opportunities to get together and celebrate with friends and family. At times however, through my life, and I’ve seen it in others too, we can be so preoccupied with counting down or waiting for a special day, that we neglect to make the most of every day we have been given.

“Every day is a gift, that’s why it’s called the present”

Every day we have an opportunity to show love and kindness, to do something that makes someone, somewhere, smile - to make a difference for good.

Who could you bless today? What could you do? How could you do it?

“Don’t count the days ... make the days count”

In this spirit of making the most of every day, I’d like to make you aware of the start date of our next Alpha course so you can get it in your diary in plenty of time - Monday April 16th, 7.30pm. Alpha is an opportunity to gather and consider questions of life and faith with others who want to do the same. More info nearer the time, check out www.alpha.org and let me know if you’d like to join us.

You are also, as ever, very welcome to join us at RENEW any time!

Happy New Year - *Rev. Alan Brand*

We have activities for children and young people at all our RENEW morning services.

A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

Croissants and drinks are available before Morning Worship from 10.10 am.

Sunday 7th January **Morning Worship.** 10.30am Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 14th January **Morning Worship.** 10.30am (at the School) Followed by shared lunch

Sunday 21st January **Morning Worship.** 10.30am (at the School)

Sunday 28th January **Morning Worship.** 10.30am (at the School)

For more information about any of the activities of RENEW Church please contact:

Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk

Or visit our website at www.renewchurch.org.uk



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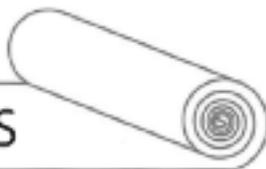


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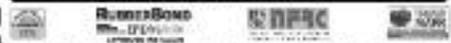
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Firstly, news of some major changes to the A1303 were presented to us by County Council Highways at our December meeting.

The County Council have secured significant funding from the Department for Transport Safer Roads Fund to improve the A1303 from the Quy roundabout to the A11 flyover. Over £175M has been allocated to the 50 most dangerous 'A' roads in the country based on accident statistics and volume of traffic using the road. The A1303 was identified as the highest risk road in East Anglia. Eight Councils were supported by the EuroRAP Pathfinders Project which is funded by the RAC Foundation. Roads are inspected and software is used to provide an objective measure of the level of safety built into the road, the road is then given a star rating by road user type between 1 and 5. The A1303 achieved a 2 star rating. All 50 roads have gone through the same method using the same software. The software then suggests countermeasures to reduce the risk to road users based on international research. It has taken 2 months to survey the road and put the proposals together and the County Council now have 6 months to spend the majority of the £1.3M given to them for the project and the £145K they have also contributed before the end of the financial year.

Funded countermeasures will include rumble strips which will warn drivers if they are too near the grass verge and there will be a protected turn lane into the two entrances into Wilbraham. There will also be street lighting at these junctions. The curve delineation on the route to Newmarket will be improved with extra lighting built into the road and there will be improvements in the layout to all existing junctions. There will also be a lay-by for the bus stop on both sides of the road on the A1303 by Hilton Park and a safer crossing route to the bus stop. The software does not like large trees by the road. Where there is a large cluster of trees, a safety barrier will be installed which will be timber clad to fit in with the surroundings. It was explained that a safety barrier has to be installed 30 metres either side of a tree so it makes more sense to remove lone trees and replant in one area that can then be protected by the barrier. Queries were made by Parish Council regarding the Quy roundabout and the priorities coming off of the A14 which had been looked into approximately 18 months ago. Highways will talk to Highways England again regarding this as this was their responsibility. We also queried whether there would be any speed restrictions but apparently the software did not show that a speed limit reduction was needed as there were no built up areas although there will obviously be temporary speed restrictions whilst the work takes place.

The successful DFT application can be found on the County Council website under transport bids. There will be a more detailed scheme plan available in the New Year on a dedicated webpage. Further detailed public consultation is planned next year on the roadside hazard element of the scheme. Construction on all other elements is due to start at the end of January 2018.

The Community and General Purposes Committee would like to thank Reg Webb who kindly planted the winter bedding plants by the village sign and also John Hutchinson for his continued work within the village. Work to several of the trees in the churchyard and cemetery will be completed before Christmas and we are also looking for some welding work to be done

Continued on page 17

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to the cemetery gate. We propose to re-new the contract with ECDC for the grass cutting which we have felt has been to a good standard this year. We have also been looking at re-locating the speed cushion which was removed from Tunbridge Lane. Various options and locations have been looked at with County Council Highways but it was agreed the best place was on Lode Road between the entrances of Bradfords Close and Arber Close. There will be a cost to re-install and for new signposting and notification documents and we await these before we agree to go ahead.

At our meeting in December councillors looked at current income and expenditure and compared this with requirements for the next financial year. It had been agreed that employment costs would increase from £9450 to £14000. With the development of a new cemetery and other projects and extra responsibilities coming in we needed extra admin support. The current Clerk did not want to take on any more extra hours and it was agreed the best idea would be to take on a part-time admin assistant who would have the responsibility for the cemeteries. Alongside this we would need provision for an additional computer etc. Regarding the future cemetery there will be additional consultancy fees and we have allowed £20K for construction as we hope to be able to purchase the field next year. It was therefore agreed that we would increase the precept by £10K for 2018/19 to £45K which was still very low in comparison to other villages in East Cambs.

Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire regarding pre-school play equipment and to those people who delivered and collated them. Of 936 delivered we had 170 responses. It will take some time to go through the helpful comments that many residents provided and we will look at doing that over the next month. Thank you also to those who said they would like to get more involved. Councillor Lino Di Lorenzo has been leading the Working Party looking into pre-school play equipment and has provided a separate report in the Cresset with more details on the results of the questionnaire and the way forward.

Planning Notes

17/01876/FUL Bottisham Place Farm, Creation of new farm access, NEW APPLICATION
17/02026/FUL, 12 Beechwood Avenue, Single storey rear extension, NEW APPLICATION
17/01712/FUL, 11 Tunbridge Close, Single storey front extension, APPROVED BY ECDC

STUDENT EXCHANGE

A French girl from Provence would like to exchange with an English girl of 15 or 16. Either at Easter, April 14 – 29th or in the Summer of 2018.

Please contact Barbara Walden on 01223 88478

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 January.

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



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Public Transport Matters

In a recent article in the Cambridge Magazine Andy Campbell, the managing director of Stagecoach East, mentioned that he likes to help when he realises the problems some bus times can cause and that he had been able to change the Newmarket service so that a chap, who had contacted him, could get home in time to see his baby son.

I also get contacted by people who have read my articles and I can pass comments on but not change the times! Some contacts, however, do prove helpful to me. Through a positive response about the new Cambridge North station I looked up a website and discovered there was to be an afternoon of discussion on the subject of The Future of Transport in Cambridge held by the Cambridge Network group. It was to be held at the new Post Doc centre at Eddington. By coincidence the evening before this I read a very positive article in the Bulbeck Beacon about what the writer, who works there, feels is the most far-sighted and impressive thing the University of Cambridge has done for a long time. He quotes me as the reason for his article as I wrote recently that Eddington was having very mixed reviews.

The main speaker at the talks was Professor Lord Robert Mair, who has worked on many transport tunnels. He talked positively about the geology of Cambridge and how the Cambridge gault clay is even better than the London clay. He works with the Soil Mechanics group of the Cambridge University Engineering Dept. Other speakers were from RAND Europe (Travel in Britain in 2035) and the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (connecting people and places) also Richard Fairchild, RDM and Nathan Wrench of Cambridge Consultants. Subjects mentioned included the Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, APPS, areas of growth in Cambridgeshire, the Milton Keynes/Oxford corridor, the Cambridge South station, DelivAir for last mile delivery.

A leaflet found in Newmarket Library introduces East Cambs. Connect. This is a bookable, flexible, door to door mini bus service for all those living, working and visiting East Cambs., who can't access scheduled bus services to where they want to go. It is managed by Cambs. County Council under contract to ESACT and runs Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You need to book a day in advance and the booking line is available Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – 01353 612699 or email totaltransport@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. They are not able to cross the line to South Cambs. and visit the dentist.

There are to be new bus timetables in January.

People are talking about the mathematical design of the new Cambridge North station and for those in the know the senior architectural designer at Atkins, the company behind the look of the station, says it is based on rule 30. There are also mixed reactions to the tunnels suggestion due to the historic buildings in the centre of Cambridge. James Palmer, mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined authority, has launched a feasibility study.

The 3.4% rise in rail fares has caused a lot of anger. Some fares could rise by 9.4 %. It follows the worst year for strikes for decades and also the biggest programme of engineering works on record. Greater Anglia has introduced Club Awe50me for those 50 or over – greateranglia.co.uk/club50. It has an annual fee of £20 but offers 20% savings on off-peak and

continued on page 21



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continued from page 19

Advance fares online or 10% savings on off-peak and Advance fares at a station. They also offer a saving of £396 on your annual season ticket or £38 saving on a monthly season train ticket from Cambridge to London Liverpool Street. The Dept. of Transport is urging rail companies to introduce smart ticketing such as Oyster cards and contactless debit cards by the end of next year. Chiltern Railways already has plans for this. But will it need conductors or mean the end of inspections?

Rail strikes are threatened for the Christmas period but National Express coaches work over the holiday.

Groupe Eurotunnel becomes GETLINK and that will no longer run the trains but the Eurotunnel section will. GETLink is to run Eleclink which will use a superwire connection to bring 1,000 megawatts of electricity into Britain, enough to power more than a million homes in Kent and the southeast of England. Coffee beans to power London buses with a new biofuel? Trackside solar panels to power electric trains? The future beckons!

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

Happy travelling! *Paddy James*

WI

Our November meeting was certainly different. Alison Fisher introduced us to and demonstrated with help from a few members the ancient ritual of Molly Dancing.

Imagine Morris dancing, take away the sticks, hankies and bells add lots of shouting, coloured face paint, bright clothes and you've got it. The steps are different too. Molly dancing is associated with the Annual Plough Monday tradition when young plough boys would drag a plough through the local villages as a trick or treat event. Pay up or have a furrow through your garden. The dancing usually took place in the dark but allowed plenty of time for the money collected to be spent on beer!

For an interesting and different day out you could attend the Annual Plough Fair – first Monday after Twelfth Night in Whittlesea or the Ely Folk Festival in July and see the Gog Magog Molly dancers in action.

We have had walks in and around the Milton Country Park and in Wandlebury and later had coffee and/or lunch in the new Arthur Rank Hospice restaurant - an excellent venue.

We have 2 evenings arranged to see the DVD made for our 80th celebrations when we performed a pageant at Bottisham Hall. The performers had altered a bit since 1998!

Our next meeting is at Queens Court at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16th January when Helen Green will be talking about “Dashing away with the Smoothing Iron”.

New members are most welcome - this is the beginning of our Centenary Year and we are hoping to celebrate it well.

Sylvia Overton

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 January.

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





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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL! New Year Resolutions still being kept? Did you resolve to be aware of the potential for a fire in your home and how to avoid that happening and keep your family safe.?

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service are encouraging people to make three important New Year Resolutions for 2017 to keep you, your families and your homes safe from fire.

- **Make sure you that have a correctly fitted working smoke alarm on every floor of your house and test them weekly** - involve the children in this to ensure that they too are aware of what the smoke alarms do, what an alarm sounds like and what it means if it goes off;
- **Check older relatives and friends - do they have working smoke alarms and are they tested regularly?** - you may support older relatives and friends with transport and shopping but may overlook the crucial role of their smoke alarms. We can provide testing sticks to help older less mobile people test their alarms without overreaching or hurting themselves;

We also offer **Safe and Well visits** to those who are eligible – these cover a far wider range of areas than just fire safety. Find out if you are eligible for a Safe and Well visit by contacting us on: **0800 917 9994**.

Escape Plan: Make a fire escape plan so that you and all of those in your home know what to do in case a fire breaks out.

Remember, should a fire break out - Get out - Call 999 - Stay out.

Michael White

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.

WEA News

Firstly, my apologies to all readers of The “Cresset” for the misleading information in the December issue.

Our course commencing in January, “The collapse of the USSR - Its Causes and Aftermath” is based on Marina Burrell’s personal experience of living during Perestroika and the collapse of the USSR. Illustrated with period artefacts, audio and video materials, she explores the key reasons for the collapse of the USSR rooted in the economic, political and cultural policies of the Soviet state, and the way it affected lives of ordinary people, with the focus on the Baltic States. This is supplemented by an optional reading list and colourful handouts with interactive tasks.

If you have nothing better to do on a Thursday morning after an exciting Christmas, why not join us at 10.00am at the British Legion, Bottisham, on Thursday 11th January. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information, and to sign up, please contact Elaine Steverson on 812152 or go to www.wea.org.uk/eastern

Gerry Cowley 811539



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Bottisham & District Gardening Club

Robert Brett currently Curator of the Hyde Hall Royal Horticultural Garden at Rettendon in Essex spoke about Your and My Need for Plants. He was a passionate speaker and very enthusiastic about education especially with youngsters. He was firstly a farmer, then a student at Kew where his special interest was orchids, then moved to the Cambridge Botanical Gardens in charge of the Glasshouses, had a spell with the Eden Project in Cornwall then returned to the New Sainsbury building in the Cambridge University Botanical Garden which involved both science and horticulture.

He explained that life as we know it would not exist without plants because of the Oxygen Cycle. People are less dominant than grass and we need the staple food production to keep us fed. Plant materials are used in construction and even for bamboo scaffolding in the Far Eastern Countries. Mangrove swamps prevent coastal erosion, bio fuels produced from sugar cane are now widely available. Plants are used for cosmetic, perfumes and there are good and bad drugs produced by plants. We regularly turn to the plant world for cures for many illnesses (snowdrops provide drugs for alzheimer patients. He said that plant research was vital and Kew had catalogued 33 million different plants since the millennium but it is estimated that there are another 150 million to be found.

He explained that Hyde Hall had recently received a £7.8 million grant for reinvestment of the 690acre site and encouraged us all to visit the garden in all seasons. They are currently planting out a new winter garden – will we be around to see it compete with our own local garden at Anglesey Abbey?.

Our next meeting on **23rd January is at 7.30pm in the Poppy Room at the Royal British Legion.** Nigel Start will be telling us about “**Self-sufficiency from your garden**”

Bottisham Community Library Association

There is a separate advert for our Quiz night on 3rd February elsewhere in the magazine. Please support us as this is our main fundraising effort each year. We shall try to have some easier questions for those of us with fewer “little grey cells”

We are ready again to accept your unwanted good quality books to put on our shelves for borrowing or to keep for the next book sale. We appreciate the generous donations we have had in the past. These definitely improve and increase our items to be borrowed.

You were generous too with donations of jigsaw puzzles. These can be borrowed for free for as long as you like. We have recently looked through our stock to make room for new puzzles and consequently have some for sale at ridiculously low prices.

Please support the library. This time of year is an ideal time for reading or doing jigsaws.

Sylvia Overton

Copy deadline for the next issue is 14 January.

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



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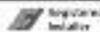
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Rev. Sue Giles writes...

Invisible lines can be powerful things. Most of us have a sense of personal space and this varies from person to person. When someone crosses that invisible line we may feel uncomfortable. At a recent event I met someone whose sense of personal space was considerably different to mine. I had to resist the urge to keep taking a step back when they came to talk to me and stood within my invisible space-line.

The same is also true for date and time lines. They are not visible yet they are enormously powerful and can shape our behaviour. The turning of the year is an internationally agreed event. Its timing moves around the globe yet it is a powerful marker of change for many people.

The changing of the year allows human beings to put events behind them, sometimes with great relief, sometimes with sadness, sometimes with gratitude. It also allows them to turn to a new beginning or a fresh start.

In the ups and downs of human life this invisible marker provides an important moment of transition and change. For some it re-energises them giving them a new sense of purpose or hope. For others it allows them to review the mistakes or tragedies of the past year, either to learn from them or simply to remember them. Such opportunities for reflection are important as human beings journey through life.

The love of God can also provide powerful opportunities for change and transitions but unlike date lines and other boundaries, the love of God has no line or limits and runs through all human life and society. The love of God has the power to give people a fresh start not simply at the beginning of a new year but at the beginning of each new day. The love of God can redirect and re-energise those who experience it giving them purpose and hope even in the darkest times. The love of God enfolds those who review the past with grief or sadness giving them a sense of peace amidst the pain and a promise amidst the bleakness. It may be unseen to human view but it is powerful beyond measure and is there for any who want to embrace it at any time and without limits and or cost, except to the one who gives it.

May you know afresh the love of God this coming year or perhaps discover it for the very first time. Wishing you a healthy and hopeful new year.

Sue

Mother's Union

In November Curate Reverend Professor Gina Radford was our guest speaker. A full report on this will follow next month. Copies of our programme for 2018 are available in all five Churches of the Anglesey Group of Parishes. The programme begins with a **New Year Communion Service on Thursday 18th January at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel**. All are welcome to join us for this, and any of our meetings held on the third Thursday of each month.

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East Anglian Air Ambulance



It has been another life-saving year for EAAA. The annual review is now available which précis just how much work has been done by the teams. The review details progress in clinical development as we strive to be at the forefront of medical advances, providing the best care for patients. This year included a visit from Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to the EAAA base at Cambridge Airport, and the introduction of a new Rapid Response Vehicle. This RRV complements the airborne service and is already proving to be a vital element when circumstances and/or flying conditions determine.

Anglia 1 and Anglia 2 between them flew 2,132 missions whilst the RRV attended 872. Of the total, 548 missions were to patients within Cambridgeshire. Cardiac arrests accounted for 442 missions whilst 485 were to road traffic accidents. Thanks to the timely intervention of EAAA coupled with the brilliant work of the NHS at Papworth, etc, of the 27 patients data analysed, 18 were 'sent home well' compared with the national average of 1 in 10 ! Proof of the pudding I would venture to suggest.

The 'chain of survival' comprises four key stages – Early access and recognition, Early CPR, Early defibrillation and Early advanced care – resulting in improved patient welfare. The key to the success of EAAA in helping to save lives is the provision of advanced critical care at the scene followed by rapid delivery of patients to appropriate hospitals. A highly professional charity providing the best of care to our community. Together 'we save lives'. Thank you to all who support EAAA.

Michael White

The Cambridge Stroke Group

The Cambridge Stroke Group is a support group for all stroke survivors in Cambridgeshire. The group, a small charity run entirely by volunteers, was created with the joining together of Different Strokes, Cambridge and The Stroke Association to help provide a comprehensive support group for all those, of any age, who have had a stroke.

The Cambridge Stroke Group provides support and a lifeline to its members, helping to transform their lives and speed up recovery after a stroke by gaining independence, establishing new friendships and experiencing new activities.

The aim of the group is to provide a meeting place in a friendly and caring environment for people who have had a stroke, their families, carers and friends. It is a place away from the hospital that offers emotional and social support to stroke survivors and a chance to meet others who have also experienced the potentially devastating effects of having had a stroke.

Our drop-in meetings are calm, friendly and informal and everyone is welcome to pop in for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

We meet every Thursday afternoon between 1pm – 4pm at the David Rayner Centre, Scotsdales Nursery and Garden Centre, 120 Cambridge Road, Great Shelford CB22 5JT.

For any further information please email us on info@cambridgestrokegroup.co.uk, visit our website on www.cambridgestrokegroup.co.uk or alternatively ring Helen Long on 07540 513225

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News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Antibiotics: Have you seen the advert with the dancing capsules? If you haven't then the important message is that antibiotics do not work on every illness and overuse means that in time they will not be effective for serious illness. NHS says please heed your doctor's advice.

Patients' Car Service: This service is being extended to 5 days a week for Swaffham Bulbeck, Bottisham, Lode and Quy patients as from 1 January 2018. This provision is for those who have no other means of getting to the surgery.

Closure: Don't forget Monday January 1st is a bank holiday and so the surgery will not be open. Ring NHS 111 for advice and to get out of hours help if your problem is urgent, for an emergency only then is Accident & Emergency Department is the place to go.

Communication: Please check before you leave your appointment that you fully understand what you have been prescribed and how and when to take it. It is important that you are clear about the instructions on usage, so if you need clarification do ask for it.

Bottisham Patients' Group: The Patients' Group would be delighted to hear from you – please see the notice board in the waiting room for details, speak to the receptionist or look at the practice's website for further information www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/ppg.aspx?p=D81055 and see what your Patients' Group has achieved. We would welcome help with running the group.

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 12 and 24 January, 9 and 21 February 2018. Do join Steve for a walk he would be delighted to see you. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be **Thursday 25 January 2018 at 6.30pm** at the surgery.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2018.

Bottisham Patients' Group

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The Royal British Legion Bottisham & District Branch

The story of the New Zealand airman who is buried in the commonwealth grave in Bottisham cemetery.



PILOT OFFICER, R K A ANDREW

RNZAF No.412010,

168 Squadron RAF, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Died Thursday, 6th August 1942 Aged 25

Robert Keith Anderson Andrew was born in Wellington, New Zealand, on 18th September 1917, son of Charles Thomas and Lily Magdalene ANDREW (née ANDERSON) of Akatarawa, Wellington, New Zealand. His mother was South African by birth.

He was educated at Wellington Boy's College from 1931 to 1936. His sporting interests were Rugby, Tennis and Cricket. He was employed as a civil servant, working in the New Zealand Mines Department. He attested for the Army at Fort Dorset on 13th October 1939 and was posted to the 10th Heavy Regiment on 28th October, promoted Lance Bombardier 6th July 1940 and Bombardier 30th January 1941.

He then enlisted in the New Zealand Air Force on 24th March 1941. Flying training was at No 2, Elementary Training School, New Plymouth from September to October 1941 before moving on to No. 2 Flying Training School, Blenheim, from October 1941 to January 1942, receiving his "wings" on 29th November 1941. Commissioned as Pilot Officer on 10th January 1942.

He embarked for England on 29th January 1942, arriving No 3 Personnel Reception Centre on 13th March and posted to No 41 Operational Training Unit, Old Sarum, Salisbury on 29th April. He was at RAF Snailwell from 3rd June 1942 with No 268 Squadron on Army Co-operation work, before joining 168 Squadron on 14th June.

168 Squadron RAF was an Army Co-operation unit, formed at RAF Snailwell. They moved to RAF Bottisham from July to November 1942 and were equipped with Curtiss Tomahawk MkIIA. Flying Tomahawk AH891, c/sign OE-?, with three other aircraft, they were in practice formation to the target and carried out low level attacks on a battery of guns. During the 3rd attack P/O Andrew, following 300 feet away, was seen by two of the others to hit a tree with his port wing tip. His aircraft rolled twice and crashed into the ground on the Thetford to Watton road. He was certified dead on arrival at Thetford Cottage Hospital. Robert Andrew is buried in Bottisham Cemetery.





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Hi

My name is Katie, I'm seventeen, and I live in Bottisham.

I thought people might like to read a little bit in The Cresset about an exciting challenge I have ahead of me when I leave sixth form. I have been selected by an educational charity called Project Trust to volunteer overseas in Malawi for 12 months in a primary school teaching and social care project.

Project Trust sends around 300 school leavers overseas each year to work in projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The charity was set up in 1967 when they sent three volunteers to Ethiopia, and since then they have sent over 7000 young people overseas. The idea is to provide volunteers with an educational experience through living and working with people in very different communities to those they have grown up in, without taking work away from local people. I will be living with a local family in a small community where I will learn about their culture and customs, build friendships, and hopefully contribute a little to them through my work with young people. Living conditions can be quite basic with no running water or electricity, but Malawi is a famously welcoming African country and learning about such a different way of living will certainly broaden my horizons! Unfortunately the impact of HIV/AIDS has been massive in Malawi, claiming the lives of tens of thousands every year. More than one million children are orphaned because of the disease. Project Trust has several projects in an around the cities of Blantyre and Zomaba, as well as near the famous Lake Malawi.

Of course, part of working with a charity is helping them fundraise, and I have been set the massive fundraising target of £6200. I am working shifts in a café to save up as much money as I can, and I am applying to a variety of charitable trusts. I am also organising a variety of fundraising events like cake sales and a Bingo night. On Saturday May 12th, I am going to walk 60km across the South Downs in one day with my mum as part of an organised charity event. We aim to collect as much sponsorship as we can for Project Trust - you might see us out training after Christmas!

This time next year, I may be able to email something home for The Cresset about my life in Malawi. If anyone is interested in reading more about Project Trust, or my fundraising, the links below might be helpful.

<https://projecttrust.org.uk>

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KatieMillard1>

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2017 Lode Half Marathon & Fun Run

This year 2017's Half Marathon & Fun Run took place on Sunday 6th November. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the MS Therapy Centre in Huntingdon.

All 275 places for the half marathon were taken up well before race day and the MS Therapy Centre also had a team running who raised extra money. Photographs of the day can be found on the Lode Runners facebook page.

The fastest men were:

1. Alan Darby from Ely Runners in a very quick time of 1 hour 14mins 35secs
2. Simon Darmody from Lode in 1hr 22mins 48secs
3. Shaun Howarth from Liverpool & Sefton Harriers in 1hr 25mins 57secs

The fastest ladies were:

1. Kerry Cater from Lode in 1hour 37mins 49secs
2. Laura Jeffery from Waterbeach in 1hr 41mins 23secs

2017 FUN RUN was very well supported with 61 runners of all ages completing the 3 mile (approx) course. Our youngest runner was 4 years old and we had three generations of one family completing the fun.

The first runner home was 12 year old George Glemas from Waterbeach in 22mins 6secs

A link giving all times for both the half marathon and the fun run can be found on the Lode Runners website (www.loderunners.co.uk)

We raised £4500 for the MS Therapy Centre at Huntingdon plus the extra sponsorship raised by the charity team of runners - approx £1200 to date. **MAKING A TOTAL OF £5700.**

It was a fantastic team effort and we could not have done it without the many people who helped by stewarding, timekeeping, making cakes, serving refreshments, putting out signs and all the other things that go into organising such an event – a big thank you to each and every one of you.

A massive thank you must also go to the following local companies who sponsored the event:

Bush Sales & Lettings, Bottisham Stores, Mead Construction Ltd, Tesco Fulbourn, Halls of Cambridge.

And to those who allowed us onto their land/lent us equipment – **Clive & Belinda Purbrook, National Trust & Environment Agency.** Many thanks to you all.

Next year's event will be held on Sunday 4th November 2018 and we will be supporting Headway Cambridgeshire.

From Tessa Shrubbs - On behalf of Lode Runners

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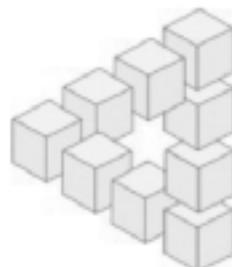
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

May I firstly wish all Cresset readers a healthy, happy and successful New Year. I am thinking particularly of those who are not at this moment fit enough to be following the sports, games, pastimes or work of their choice; I wish you a speedy return to action!

However, I don't think it is to be a very happy start to the year for cricket fans! At the risk of repeating myself to friends who have already heard my rantings on the topic of the England cricket team, I find myself unable to quell the urge to pontificate further about the ludicrous situation regarding Ben Stokes! At the time of writing we are 2-0 down in the Ashes Test series in Australia and we have voluntarily left the world's best all-rounder out of the squad. Whilst I am normally a big supporter of Andrew Strauss at the head of English cricket, it really beggars belief that the England hierarchy has kowtowed to political correctness and refused to play Stokes whilst a possible assault charge is still under consideration by the police.

And what is the delay all about anyway? The incident was on 25th September. How is it that three months later – with video evidence and numerous witnesses available – that a decision on whether to charge Stokes with assault cannot be made? And even if he is to be charged, what on earth has that got to do with cricket? It is patently obvious that Stokes, having been set up in the first place by the 'victims' of his actions who just happened to have someone standing by to video the incident, is now the subject of some petty moral posturing by both the judicial and the cricketing authorities, and this grotesque charade is impacting directly on England's ability to defend the Ashes. It may be that the team, riddled with weaknesses as it is (inconsistent bowling, lack of a class spinner, fragile batting order, failure to convert 50s into 100s... need I go on?) would be out-thought and out-fought by the Australians anyway, but to take them on without a player who can turn defeat into victory within a single session, is – well – capitulation!

Well, the draw for the World Cup in Russia 2018 has been completed and I'm sure most of you would agree that it could hardly have worked out better for England. OK, Belgium could prove tricky opponents, but we don't play them until the third game and – looking at the group as a whole – all we have to do is finish higher than Tunisia and Panama to progress! We cannot possibly fail to do that can we? And in fact, it almost doesn't matter whether we top our group or finish second because our likely opponents in the next round would be either Poland or Colombia... take your pick!

The only downside for the fans – as per usual – is the amount of travelling necessary to actually attend those games. This is typical of FIFA's attitude towards the poor, beleaguered supporters but we (i.e. Messrs Lewis, Pilgrim and Nut) will take the positives and enjoy the prospect of exploring Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad), Nizhny Novgorod, and Kaliningrad, plus opportunities to visit Moscow and St Petersburg in between. We plan to be careful about where we go and who we associate with (obviously) but we are playing down the dangers of hooliganism having spoken to a Russian delegation at Wembley on the day of the draw and been assured that not only has half the entire Russian World Cup budget been spent on security, but also that it is a matter of immense pride to the home nation to put on a successful and peaceful tournament. And anyway, we are extremely unlikely to meet Russia on the pitch because they won't have the ability to progress far enough to meet England in a later round. Which leaves the question: how far do you think England will progress? All I can say is that, currently, we are looking at options for staying until the quarter final...!

Moving on to Euro 2020 for a moment: UEFA has just announced that, following Belgium's inability to guarantee readiness of Brussels' new stadium on time, a total of seven matches in

(Sports Nut continued on page 53)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

the competition will be awarded to Wembley instead; which means that England should get to play at home once. But we will still have to travel – heaven knows where – for other games because UEFA, in their wisdom, has decided to make this a pan-European tournament in terms of venues. We could find ourselves anywhere from Bucharest to Budapest, or from Bilbao to Baku! Better start collecting air miles eh!

I've watched quite a bit of the UK Snooker Championships in December, a competition 'lit up' in the early stages by the young Thai player Akani Songsermsawad, a.k.a. 'Sunny'. Attacking with style and confidence he whitewashed seeded Barry Hawkins 6-0 and stormed into a 2-0 lead against Ronnie O'Sullivan in the last 16, before the 'Rocket' found another gear to pip him in the last frame by 6-5. In O'Sullivan's own words: "I felt like I robbed him of victory!"

The final against Shaun Murphy, though, turned out to be a Ronnie O'Sullivan masterclass. He swept Murphy aside with an almost perfect run of breaks in a 10-5 rout. Ronnie was not always at his best in this competition but played some scintillating snooker including a number of shots which you think could not have been played by any other player, alive or dead! At 42 and still winning majors, how the man is not included in the 2017 SPOTY shortlist is completely beyond me! I know he's a complex character and is not always as in love with snooker as he is at this moment (if you're interested in the minds of champions, by the way, his autobiography is worth a read) but we have to hope that his talents grace our screens for many years to come. Promoter Barry Hearn claims that snooker is the only sport to enjoy growing TV audiences currently! I wonder...

TTFN, Gerry Daish

Anglesey in Stitches

It has been a busy and productive year for Anglesey in Stitches. We are an informal group of knitters and stitchers who meet in the Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck on odd-dated Tuesdays. Do get in touch if you would like to join us.

We usually work on our own projects, with jumpers, cardigans, scarves, gloves, socks, embroideries, a patchwork quilt and a mystery blanket all completed or underway this year. Some of us occasionally use a meeting as an opportunity to catch up on more mundane tasks such as sewing Beaver and Cub badges onto uniforms. From time to time we have an away-meeting and this year have visited a former member's new home in Cottenham, tried our hand at weaving on a loom in Swaffham Bulbeck and enjoyed a post-Christmas meal at The Shed.

We welcomed visitors from China and from Turkey, both visiting family in Bottisham on extended visits. Several new members have joined and we now have knitters and stitchers from four of the five Anglesey villages - someone from Quy would give us a full complement.

From time to time we undertake a group project, and this year we knitted a digestive tract for use at Bottisham Primary School's science day. It was life size, with 22ft of small intestine, a liver, a pancreas and a gall bladder, and can pass a marble. Needless to say much fun was had in the making, and words were uttered that would not normally be heard at our meetings. The children had great fun with it too.

Several of us sold hand-made key rings, tree decorations and scarves at the Swaffham Bulbeck and Lode Christmas Fairs to raise money for the respective churches and for Mara Bicycles for Clergy. We have an exciting and worthwhile group project in mind for 2018, with opportunity for any knitters or crocheters to get involved whether or not you can come to our regular meetings. Watch this space.

Clare Wilkes 811 693 - angleseyinstitches.wordpress.com - Facebook: [angleseyinstitches](https://www.facebook.com/angleseyinstitches)

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A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year to all...

Hijacked Brains!!

As I believe I have mentioned before I confess to an immense dislike of technology for technologies sake. I've always held the belief that there has to be a measurable benefit, either economically or materially, when adopting new tools, especially those purported to improve one's quality of life and work balance. If not then humans simply become subservient to machines and the role of servant and master is tipped on its head. It's therefore interesting to read that a number of the Smartphone developers and App programmers such as Justin Rosentein, Leah Peralman and Loren Brichter bitterly regret their part in what they characterise as 'stealing minds'. So much so that they have now turned rogue on employers such as Apple, Google and Facebook. This small but growing band of Silicon Valley heretics, referred to as 'refuseniks', are set to inform the world at large about the addictive and dangerous effects of the "attention economy" which they believe we are being driven ever deeper into.

Imagine if you will a scenario put forward by Rachel Botsman in 'Who Can You Trust' that involves a world where many of our daily activities are constantly monitored and evaluated: what we buy on line, where we are at any given time; who our friends are and how we interact with them; how many hours we spend playing video games; and what bills and taxes we pay (or not). Actually it's not hard to picture because most of this already happens thanks to data collecting power houses like Google, Facebook and Instagram or health tracking apps such as Fitbit. But now imagine a system where all of these behaviours are rated as either positive or negative and distilled into a single number according to rules set by say a Government. This number would create your 'Citizen Score'. Your rating would then be publicly ranked against the entire population and used to determine your eligibility for a mortgage or a job, where your children can go to school - or your worthiness to access medical services. Frightening or what!!

But this is precisely what the 'refuseniks' are afraid of – the 'big brother' world they may have inadvertently helped to create. They are vexed by the physiological effects on people who it's said touch and swipe their Smartphone devices hundreds of times a day. The refuseniks suggest this behaviour is contributing towards so called "continuous partial attention" - a syndrome that severely limits the ability to focus. A former Google employee says; "All of us are jacked into this system. All of our minds can be hijacked." Data gathering power houses appear to depict events in a way that makes for compulsive, irresistible viewing – to sensationalise, bait and entertain – just to keep us hooked in. And a growing minority of fanatics are also resorting to similar practices using emotion, outrage and anger to ignite fury with the sole purpose of changing public opinion. This all suggests that our choices are being manipulated and controlled and are not as free as we think they are. There are organisations such as Snapchat that has created its compelling Snapstreak feature, encouraging near-constant communication between its mostly teenage users. As well as monitoring our daily activities through our addictive use of Smartphones, the techniques these companies apply are

(Jolley Old World continued on page 59)

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(Jolley Old World continued from page 59)

also algorithmically tailored to each person to identify their emotions purely for the purpose of keeping people 'hooked in'.

During the November Budget the ONS identified an alarming drop in productivity and was forecasting a further decline in personal output over the next few years. The 'doom mongers' have readily, and too easily in my opinion, pointed the finger at a failing economy. But what I feel should be of concern to us all is the revelation in The Guardian that the average person now touches, swipes or taps their Smartphone over two thousand times a day. And apparently eighty seven percent of people go to sleep and wake up with their Smartphone in their hands. Considering the vast majority of these people are probably working then over two thousand taps a day cannot help but distract them from their employment. How can this love affair with their Smartphone - permanently glued to the palm of their hand – NOT adversely affect their ability to focus on the job in hand? There simply has to be a correlation between Smartphone use and falling productivity...

If even a small part of the above is happening then we may well have ventured downward beyond the tip of the iceberg toward creating our own 'Citizen Score' in the abyss of a 'Big Data meets Big Brother' world. So, with the 'attention economy' gradually chipping away at our ability to control our own minds – to remember, to reason, to make decisions for ourselves, faculties that are essential to self-governance - then what hope is there for democracy itself?

Finally I have been fortunate to acquire some of Ted Norton's old musings. Not all will know of or have heard of Ted who was a fondly loved local character and a once prolific contributor to the Cresset. Reading through a note book of his I came upon the following local story:

When old Freddy was asked by the Reverend Uthwatt why he drank so much he said, "To save my soul sir". "How so" replied" the Vicar. "Well...

When I get thirsty I drink a lot.

When I drink a lot I get drunk.

When I get drunk I sleep a lot.

When I sleep a lot I don't sin.

If I don't sin I go to heaven.

So let's all get drunk and go to heaven. - Nice one Ted.

JOW

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