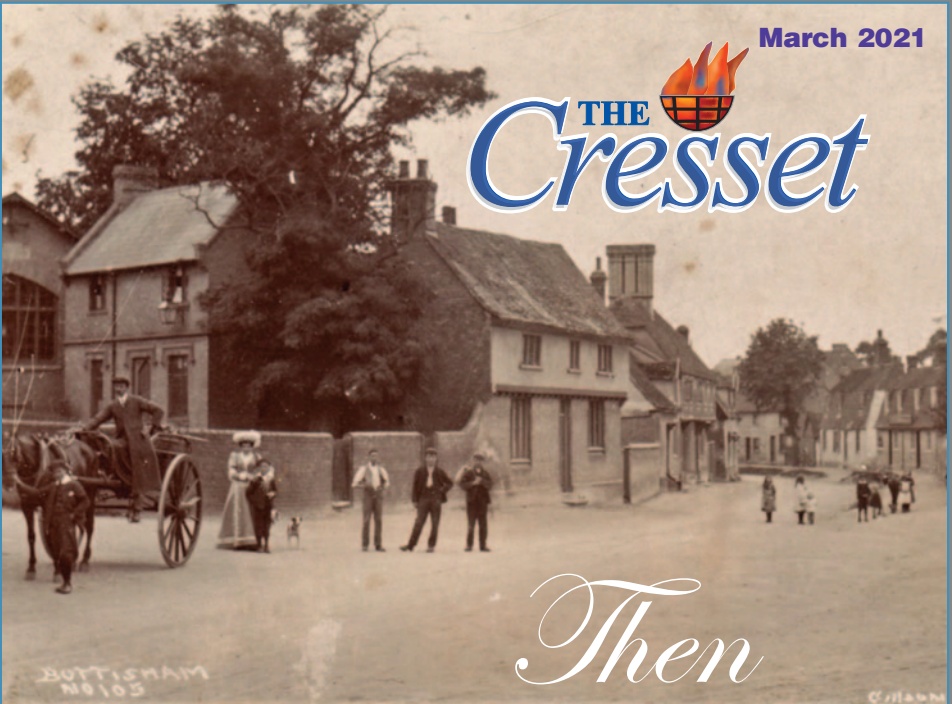


March 2021

THE 
Cresset



Then

and Now



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



COVID-19 vaccination

First phase priority groups



Priority	Risk group
1	Residents in a care home for older adults and Staff working in care homes for older adults
2	All those 80 years of age and over and Health and social care workers
3	All those 75 years of age and over
4	All those 70 years of age and over and Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those under 18 years of age)
5	All those 65 years of age and over
6	Adults aged 18 to 65 years in an at-risk group*
7	All those 60 years of age and over
8	All those 55 years of age and over
9	All those 50 years of age and over
10	Rest of the population (to be determined)

80 yrs

75 yrs

70 yrs

65 yrs

60 yrs

55 yrs

50 yrs

* Blood cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma); diabetes; dementia; a heart problem; a chest complaint or breathing difficulties, including bronchitis, emphysema or severe asthma; a kidney disease; a liver disease; lowered immunity due to disease or treatment (such as HIV infection, steroid medication, chemotherapy or radiotherapy); rheumatoid arthritis, lupus or psoriasis; have had an organ transplant; had a stroke or a transient ischaemic attack (TIA); a neurological or muscle-wasting condition; a severe or profound learning disability; a problem with your spleen, eg sickle cell disease, or you have had your spleen removed; are seriously overweight (BMI of 40 and above); are severely mentally ill.



MARCH EDITORIAL

March already and the clocks go forward at the end of this month. It seems to have been such a long winter and looks like we may not be completely out of the woods for some time yet.

However, the R number is coming down and with the longer days and warmer weather perhaps we will be able to enjoy a more 'normal' time.

Meeting up outside for families and friends to get together will be a real delight after the deprivation from socialising that we have had to endure over the winter months. A barbecue in the garden or a pint in the pub would be a delight after the long cold winter. Simple pleasures which we will all have been taking for granted in the past will suddenly take on a new slant.

However even with these liberties we will need to be cautious and maintain social distancing and do the usual washing of hands and taking care. The Jobs are a big step forward, but they are not the whole answer. It may well be that we will need to learn to make some of these things the norm, like wearing masks in public (Asian countries have been doing it for years) and washing hands more often than we have done in the past.

I hope you enjoyed last month's magazine. We had quite a lot in it. I have had lots of comment about the old photographs and intend to publish some more. This month's cover is an interesting take on 'Then & Now', with a new photograph taken from the same spot as the old one.

The view of what is now a private house and recently the Italian restaurant, belies the houses which used to be there. The nearest one being in its day, the schoolmaster's house. Both houses long gone as are the cottages further down the High St. The 'Tudor house', The Golden Ball and the further terrace of cottages remain to this day, albeit much altered.

Another contribution is from our new resident wine buff who passes on some recommendations, if you like a glass of wine with your dinner or on a special occasion. Tim proposes to make it a regular feature and most welcome he is. I will certainly try some of his recommendations, which include some available in our own village shop.

By the time you read this, the decision regarding the retirement complex in the High St. may well be made. Let's hope the views of the residents of this village are not ignored by those who sit in Ely and make those decisions. The Parish Council will have representation at that meeting to make sure that happens.

Pleased to see that Sports Nut, who reports on lots of things sporting, has broad enough shoulders to report the six nations rugby and in particular the Calcutta Cup, played at Twickenham last month. Not that I have any bias at all you understand, but it was a great result for the Scots. Let's hope they keep it up.

There will be some readers who like me would love to be out on the golf course. They seem to manage it in Scotland ongoing, and England did as well up until Christmas with



(continued on page 2.)

(continued from page 1.)

good rules in place to keep players safe. Hopefully as things ease, we can get back out in the fresh air for a game or two.

Tony Jolley puts forward the reasoned point that sometimes, justified peaceful protest morphs into something more aggressive and sinister and becomes a vehicle for other people's causes, totally unrelated to the original objection. I think everybody has to keep an open and pragmatic mind when considering other peoples' point of view.

Do enjoy all the articles in the magazine. If you have a contribution to make or a report to make on your society's activities then do let me know.

Bottisham WI

Bottisham Gardening Club

Bottisham Community Library Association

Sorry but there is nothing to report other than that we are ready to meet again when we can. I have found a few items in the papers which seem relevant.

One is an excerpt from Samuel Pepys Diary written in London in 1664.-

“On hearing ill rumour that Londoners may soon be urged into their lodgings by her Majesty's Men, I looked upon the street to see a gaggle of striplings making fair merry, and no doubt spreading the plague well about. Not a care had these rogues for the health of their elders”.

It would seem we have learned nothing in 357 years!

Did you know that Robinson Crusoe was on his island for 28 years, 2 months and 19 days?

His journal records how he made his peace during those uneventful days without end.

“But what need I have been concerned at the tediousness of anything I had to do, seeing that I had time enough to do it in? Nor had I any other employment, at least that I could foresee, except for ranging the island to seek for food, which I did more or less, every day”.

Substitute a weekly shop at Waitrose or an occasional foray to the local Co-op and that pretty much sums up my existence for the last 11 months.

Perhaps we should do much as Robinson Crusoe did to try and master his despondency.

“He comforted himself by totting up the comforts he enjoyed against the miseries he suffered.”

Makes sense, I think.

Thinking of Robinson Crusoe could I recommend that you tune in to Desert Island Discs on i-Player. There are many, many episodes of interest with lots of varied contributors over the last 75 years. It certainly takes your mind off the ironing.

Made me smile.

Take care everybody and STAY INDOORS, WE WILL SURVIVE!

Sylvia Overton 811792

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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

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Services in the Anglesey Benefice

We hope that it will not be long before it is possible to resume services in the churches. Do keep looking at Benefice website, www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk, for up-to-date information about this.

Online services continue via Zoom. There is a morning service every Sunday at 10.30, with a chance to socialise in breakout rooms afterwards. C by C takes place on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 pm and is a contemplative service that lasts about half an hour. There are also Bible study groups, Play and Praise for toddlers, prayer groups, and a coffee morning to chat every Thursday morning, all online.

You are very welcome to join any of these and, if you would like to do so, please send an email to admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk and ask for the joining link to be sent to you.

Here is a prayer from Bury St Edmund's Cathedral that you might like to use during the pandemic:

'Ever present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing, be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion, be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen'

Sarah Maxwell

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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In March the branch would normally hold its 'Spring Social', but due to the continued social distancing restrictions this will not be taking place this year.

On the 14th March it will be Mothering Sunday and we invite readers to join us in a little piece of light hearted fun and have a go at the Mothers' Union Mothering Sunday Quiz.

Mothering Sunday Quiz

- 1. What food is most associated with Mothering Sunday?**
a) Sunday Roast b) Eggs c) Simnel Cake
- 2. In Ancient Greece, which goddess was celebrated on Mothering Sunday?**
a) Goddess Artemis b) Goddess Hestia c) Goddess Rhea
- 3. 'Mother's ruin' is a common British name for which alcoholic drink?**
a) Gin b) Vodka c) Brandy
- 4. In which Indian city, did Mother Theresa found her missionary?**
a) Mumbai b) Varanasi c) Calcutta
- 5. How many cards are sent for Mothering Sunday in the UK?**
a) 10 million b) 45 million c) 30 million
- 6. In which year did Marie Curie become the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize?**
a) 1925 b) 1903 c) 1910
- 7. Mother of Pearl is a common name for?**
a) Nacre b) A Jewel c) A Stone
- 8. Who was the mother of Queen Elizabeth I?**
a) Anne Boleyn b) Mary Queen of Scots c) Mary II
- 9. Which popular Mothering Sunday flower do Christians believe were made from the tears of Mary when she wept for Jesus on the cross?**
a) Carnations b) Daffodils c) Sunflowers
- 10. When did women get the parliamentary vote in the UK?**
a) 1918 b) 1917 c) 1916

Answers can be found below

Ann Langran

- Quiz Answers**
1. Simnel Cake 2. Goddess Rhea 3. Gin 4. Calcutta 5. 30 million 6. 1903 7. Nacre
8. Anne Boleyn 9. Carnations 10. 1918

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

COVID VACCINATIONS: These are proceeding well, due to the hard work of the staff, who still have their usual patient care duties to do, and the volunteer marshals. We owe them all our thanks. It has been a major effort to organise finding and equipping suitable premises and getting the supply of the vaccines. GP practices are grouped into Primary Care Networks, with Bottisham being in the Cambridge North City along with another five practices including the East Barnwell Health Centre, hence using it as a vaccination site. See further information in this edition of the magazine from the Practice Partners.

Whether having had the vaccine or not we are still advised to follow government guidelines and remember hands, face, space.

The Practice gave a fond farewell to Dr Higham on 5 February, who has now retired after nearly 21 years here at the practice. He will be very much missed by both staff and patients. We would like to wish him well in his retirement.

We would like to welcome our two new GPs Dr Leveritt and Dr Kanagasabapathy to the practice.

DISPENSARY: Please remember the practice are still operating a 5 day turnaround for repeat medication to ensure safe working in the dispensary and manage increased demands.

FLU VACCINATIONS: The practice is still encouraging patients to have flu vaccinations. If you have still not had one and are eligible, please do contact the practice to make an appointment.

NEXT MEETING: To be arranged and will be held virtually via Zoom. If you would like to join the zoom meeting please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite.

COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME – UPDATE:

In the last edition of the magazine we were pleased to announce the start-up of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in conjunction with our local Primary Care Network. At the time of writing this we can confirm that we have now vaccinated over 5000 patients within the network which is an amazing achievement in just three weeks. Staff across the Network have come together to deliver a programme at a large scale in order to achieve this and are hugely grateful for all the staff across the network who have worked so hard to get our most vulnerable patients vaccinated. We could also not of done this without the help of our dedicated volunteers who played a key part in supporting the logistics of running the clinics and we thank you all.

Cohorts completed so far are cohorts 1-4 which includes all those over 70 years old, residents and staff working in care homes, all frontline healthcare workers and patients in the high risk “shielding” category also known as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Housebound patients within the at risk groups will be done by the District Nursing team in the coming weeks.

The order in which the vaccine is offered to patients is decided by Public Health England and the Joint committee on vaccination and immunisation (JVCI). We have no control over whom we are able to offer the vaccine to and have to strictly adhere to the order of priority.

Continued on page 7



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Continued from page 5

The next group of patients will be cohorts 5 & 6 which are all those over 65 years of age and those aged 18 – 65 years of age with at risk health conditions. As soon as we have a date for the next vaccination clinics these will be publicised.

Along with Stevenage there are now additional local hubs in the area including the Grafton Centre and Newmarket racecourse. It continues to be the case that patients could be called to have vaccinations at these local hubs as well as via the surgery, we have no choice over where you are invited to be vaccinated.

Importantly, patients aged 70 years and over and those within the “shielding” group who have not yet been vaccinated against COVID and who would like to be are being asked to contact the NHS to arrange a vaccination. The easiest way to arrange a vaccination is through the national booking service which can be accessed at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination. The system allows patients to choose a time slot and location that suits them. Anyone unable to book online can call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week.

For further information and Q&As regarding the vaccines please visit our website <https://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-programme>

Bottisham Patient's Participation Group.

Planning Notes

A) APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

20/00296/OUM, Land to rear of 163 to 187 High Street, Development of retirement care village: Amendment and additional information to address ECDC's recommended reasons for refusal of permission. Update only: This matter is scheduled to be considered by the ECDC Planning Committee on 3 March

20/01763/FUL, The Glebe, 113 High Street, Demolition of existing rear single storey extension with flat roof. Replace with new single storey extension across full width of the original house footprint

21/00011/FUL, 4 Thomas Christian Way, Replace double wooden garage doors with single aluminum door

21/00040/FUL, 3 Maple Close, Part two and part single storey rear extension, and changing tile cladding to grey cedar cladding on front elevation

21/00090/FUL, 64 Beechwood Avenue, Proposed two storey side extension, single storey front extension plus internal alterations. New roof tiles, windows and cladding to existing

B) NOTICE OF APPEAL

20/00923/FUL, Brian Mackay Commercial Vehicles, Lakepress Ct, Newmarket Rd, Bottisham
Erection of building for Vehicle Sales & Repair and office use, Appeal ref: APP/W0530/W20/3265563 Appeal start date: 19 January 2021

C) PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPROVED

20/01320/FUL, Site S of 2 Parsonage Barns, Change of use of site and buildings to timber processing (retrospective) and proposed area of concrete

20/01638/LBC, Bottisham Milestone, S of Telephone Exchange adj to Chalk Farm Cottages, Newmarket Rd.



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OPENING TIMES

Monday and Wednesday

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Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9am-12.30pm



The Chairman of the Parish Council reports

A recent highlight for me, has been assisting with car parking at the vaccine hub at East Barnwell Health Centre, which our local practice is participating in. It was a pleasure to support many of our elderly residents, who have recently been so restricted in their movements, arriving with hope that this might finally point to the end of their confinement. All involved in running the exercise are to be commended on the very efficient process put in place at short notice. When interacting with our practice, I would ask you to be sensitive to the fact that the staff are having to give additional time and energy to vaccinations on top of their “day job” of looking after resident’s normal medical needs.

A brief update on the proposed Retirement Village to be situated behind 163-187 High Street. As I write, we understand the consideration of the application by the Planning Committee of East Cambridgeshire District Council has been postponed until 3 March. I anticipate that by the time you read this, the date may have been confirmed. If you wish to see the details of the applications and the responses to it, you can do so by following this link: <https://pa.eastcamb.gov.uk/online-applications/> and then entering the reference 20/00296/OUM. I will be attending the Committee on behalf of the Parish Council to address the members about the concerns raised by residents.

The Parish Council has now confirmed a contractor to renovate the bus shelter in the High Street. The work is planned to take place around the end of February or beginning of March. We hope that it will then be a more pleasant place to wait and encourage use of public transport as lockdown restrictions begin to be lifted.

A number of residents have contacted us about the noise levels arising from the A14. Two residents joined me in a recent (virtual) meeting with Highways and the County Council, to explore the options available. I am pleased to report that Highways intend to resurface the A14 between junctions 35-36 in 2023/24. This will be with modern “low-noise” tarmac. They informed me that residents of Bar Hill and Dry Drayton have reported significantly less noise from the A14, since the new stretch has been reopened with the same type of road surface. They were asked if they might consider bringing the date of the works forwards and agreed to consider this, albeit any changes need to fit within other priorities.

We asked about the installation of sound barriers along the side of the road, but were advised that these are only effective for locations immediately adjacent to the road. In our situation, at some distance from the A14, the sound would simply vault over the barrier and we would not secure any meaningful noise reduction for the village. In the longer term, the move in future years to electric vehicles will also significantly reduce engine/exhaust noise.

Concerns have been raised about an increase in dog fouling in the village. It is an offence to not clear up after your dog in our District and we know that most dog owners are very diligent about the matter. However, if you are a dog owner, please do all you can to keep our environment pleasant and healthy. In the event of any problems, the matter can be raised with the District Council Dog Fouling Complaint | East Cambridgeshire District Council (eastcamb.gov.uk).

On a related matter, I want to pass on a warning from our County Councillor, who advised that there have been several thefts of dogs in the locality recently. He advised always keeping pets in sight when out and about - this means that even tying up a dog outside a shop could be a risk.

Continued on page 11

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I do hope that you are keeping well during a crisis that has gone on much longer than we expected – the rollout of the vaccinations, with the benefits that will follow, means that we can look forward to a little more freedom as spring approaches.

Jon Ogborn, Chair Bottisham Parish Council

District Councillors' Report

Snowdrops are out – which means Easter is on its way. This means that there will be temporary changes to the waste collection dates. As there will be no collection on Good Friday, all collections in the week beginning 29 March will be a day earlier than usual (if your collection is normally a Monday, it will be collected on the previous Saturday). There will also be no collection on Easter Monday, all collections in the week beginning 5 April will be a day later than usual.

And after Easter, it must be time for elections... On Thursday 6 May we will be voting for our County Councillor, Police and Crime Commissioner and Mayor. Covid may bring additional challenges to attending the polling station, so you may want to arrange a postal or proxy vote. With a postal vote, the Council will post you your ballot with a pre-paid return envelope, you vote before election day, so that your ballot is delivered back to ECDC by polling day. With a proxy vote you nominate a trusted person to cast your vote for you at the polling station. You can get the forms to apply for postal or proxy votes on-line www.eastcambs.gov.uk/elections-voting/ways-vote or by email Democratic.Services@eastcambs.gov.uk or phone the Elections Office 01353 665555

The Finance and Assets Committee discussed the budget for 2021/22. Although the draft budget for next year is balanced, by drawing funds from reserves, by 2023/24 the Council will have a budget shortfall of £4.6 million on a total net expenditure of £12 million. The Finance Manager “strongly recommended that early consideration is made as to how savings in future years will be made.”

The Committee also approved the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). There were many comments from individuals and groups that felt that the SPD did not go far enough to counter climate change, with interesting and thoughtful contributions, and we hope that most of these suggestions can be incorporated into the new Local Plan. Unfortunately, an SPD cannot go beyond the provisions in the current Local Plan, but it does contain some useful guidance. We were disappointed that several large housing developers had sought to water down the proposals.

The Operational Services Committee renewed the grant to the Newmarket CAB, but for one year only. The paper presented to the Committee recommended that “Once the pandemic and its associated restrictions ease, the Council’s Housing and Community Advice service will seek to create a housing and advice hub in the Newmarket area.” We are concerned by this because many people are more comfortable going to Citizens’ Advice than they are going to the Council, because they see Citizens’ Advice as independent. We therefore think the grant should be continued in future years.

Our next virtual District Councillors’ Surgery will be on Wednesday 24 March at 6.30pm, followed by meet your Councillors from 7.00pm. The Zoom meeting ID is 631 542 4066 and the passcode is 938720.

M&P

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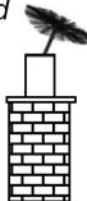
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Bottisham Community Sports and Social Club

At the time of going to press we are in full lockdown and are unable to open or offer sales of takeaway beer.

We will not reopen until it is safe and legal to do so.

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

The AGM in these exceptional circumstances will be postponed until the law permits us to hold it on the premises. Any queries regarding this please email the Secretary at bottishamcsasc@gmail.com

The message from the club is for everyone to keep safe and we look forward to welcoming you all back when the time is right.

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NEWS RELEASE



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Another month crawls by – where is the tunnel ? Despite the continuing curtailing Covid constraints, life goes on for CFRS.

These days, CFRS is much more than just a ‘fire brigade’. As a ‘first responder’ its remit has expanded to encompass all manner of personal and corporate emergencies. Crews are highly trained, not only in dealing with fires, cats in trees and cows in ditches, but with life-threatening personal situations. Any one of our marvellous emergency services could be first on the scene. However, I am concerned with the ability of CFRS to continue its work in and for our communities – this boils down to Leadership, Professionalism, Manning and Training. Of these, I would contend that Manning is the first step – all the others fall into line through motivation and commitment.

CFRS is looking to recruit new firefighters, both full time and ‘on call’ to continue the process of maintaining topflight teams of well trained and professional personnel across the County.

Why not **enquire now** to find out how to put your foot on the first rung of the ladder at the start of what could be a most rewarding career.

Go on Do It Now !

And whilst talking of ‘now’ – how about **testing those smoke alarms** – better safe than very sorry. The aftermath and consequences of a fire are devastating. To repeat what I said in the last issue; Safe and Well visits by CFRS are available – be confident that your home is safe and you are well protected.

Michael White

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

Welcome to what I hope will be a regular addition to the Cresset, an article all about wine (maybe with the odd piece about beer and spirits).

The lockdown has done many things but one of the upsides is that more of us are now drinking good wine at home. When I say good wine, I don't mean expensive. Although there's definitely a link between price and quality there are plenty of good affordable wines out there. Everything in moderation, however, and I've been quite careful to make sure I don't get in the habit of drinking every day, as tempting as it has been!

I have lots of ideas for articles, but feedback is always welcome, please email vinophile7@gmail.com, I look forward to hearing from you.

One thing I will be doing is encouraging you to move out of your comfort zone and experiment with different grapes and countries. There are so many wonderful wines out there it seems a shame to drink the same ones all the time.

At the time of writing, it's pretty chilly which means hearty stews, pasta dishes such as lasagne and Sunday roasts are the order of the day. If you're having a stew, you'll probably reach for a juicy red such as a Shiraz (Syrah in France). Why not try a Malbec instead? Or even a Carmenere from Chile? When it comes to national dishes, I tend to think that it should be drunk with wine from the same country. Chianti is an obvious match for the lasagne but if you wanted a heavier wine with a bit more punch why not try a Primitivo? This is a grape from the deep south of Italy that's become more popular in recent years. If it's roast chicken, rather than play safe with a pinot grigio how about a fresh and fruity Viognier?

RECOMMENDATIONS

Each month I will be making some recommendations hopefully to match all budgets and will always try and include one from our local shop. If you try them and love them, let me know. If you don't enjoy them, well, at least you tried something different.

Finest Cotes du Rhone - £8 Tesco

From the Côtes du Rhône village of Signargues, this rich blend of mainly Syrah and Grenache grapes offers opulent dark fruit flavours such as blackcurrant and cherry with comforting warm spice on the finish. Delicious with roast meats, casseroles or ratatouille and also great for drinking on its own.

Primitivo Miopasso 2019 Puglia, Feudo di Santa Tresa - £9.99 Cambridge Wine Merchants

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Les Jamelles Viognier - £7.50 Co-op

Viognier was historically known as the difficult grape of Condrieu, a wine from the northern Rhone venerated above all others in centuries gone by. Peaches and apricots and, quite frankly, a whole mouthful of yum.

Cheers!

Copy deadline for next issue is 14 March.

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

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Walk your walk to help carers to attend COVID-19 vaccinations

Local charity Caring Together is providing free and tailored support for people looking after a family member or friend, so they and the person they care for can get to their appointment for the COVID-19 vaccination.

They are inviting you to walk your walk for carers this March to raise money so that they can continue to provide this and other support to carers during the coronavirus pandemic.

Whether you choose to set yourself a challenge based on the number of steps you walk, the distance you want to cover or the amount of time you spend walking you can raise money to help carers.

People who are most vulnerable are being prioritised for the COVID-19 vaccination, and as the priority categories are worked through people looking after a family member or friend will also then be invited for their own COVID-19 vaccination.

But whether it is the appointment for the person they look after, or for themselves, carers face many challenges in getting to medical appointments. So, the free support from Caring Together can make the difference in whether they can go to their appointment or not.

Caring Together head of fundraising and engagement, Hannah Crouch said, “The pandemic has had a devastating effect on carers. For many the only light at the end of the tunnel is receiving their COVID-19 vaccination to give them the confidence that they are able to keep their older, disabled and seriously ill loved ones safe.

“We are relieved that carers have been included on the government’s priority lists to receive their vaccination. And with your help, we can help carers to get to their COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

“From providing homecare for the person they care for to supporting them with their travel and transport – anything that they need.

“We are asking you to walk your walk for carers this March. Whether you are looking to increase your fitness, make the most of your daily exercise or simply want to give purpose to getting out and about: every step you take will help support carers in your local community during the coronavirus crisis.”

Signing up to the challenge is completely free and there is no minimum sponsorship that we ask you to raise to take part. If you pledge to raise £50 you will be sent a Caring Together T-shirt and if you raise £100 they will send you a water bottle to say thank you.

You can find out how to create your walk your walk for carers challenge at caringtogether.org/walkyourwalk or email fundraising@caringtogether.org

If you are looking after a family member or friend and want support getting to your coronavirus appointment please contact Caring Together on 03452 410954 or email hello@caringtogether.org

Caring Together support carers across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk. They provide information and advice, run services in our local communities and campaign so that carers have choices.



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Public Transport Matters

Local buses are still running but mainly empty as we all cope with lockdown. Some park and ride services are suspended. Schools being closed or with fewer pupils also affects the bus companies. The Parish Council is seeking involvement in any transport matters being considered by the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership which involve our eastern villages. Villages west of Cambridge are worrying about the route of the planned east - west rail link as too costly and least direct.

There is talk of Westley Green a garden city between Cambridge and Newmarket.

Coach companies are offering summer holidays but there is no certainty as to whether we will be able to go on these.

Soham new train station should be open by the end of the year.

Doubling the railway line at Newmarket remains a priority for representatives of the racing and business community determined to improve the town's connectivity. Kent residents are asking for a rail link to Cambridge. Kent County Council has suggested a Thameslink service from Maidstone East to Cambridge. This would stop at Blackfriars and St. Pancras. The arguments about HS2 continue - route, costs. Some other lines closed at the time of the Beeching cuts - 750 million pounds to reinstate services between Bicester and Bletchley and 34 million pounds to reopen the line between Newcastle and Ashington. Diesel fumes at stations is to be monitored in at least 100 stations due to idling diesel engines.

The rise in rail fares is causing an angry response.

The UK will not take the lead in rescuing Eurostar which is majority owned by France. The number of passengers is down by 94%. The government sold its 40% stake in 2015.

Wrightbus is on the road to recovery. They are producing hydrogen powered buses.

Rail info - 08457 48 49 50

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

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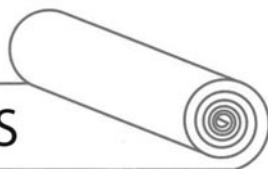


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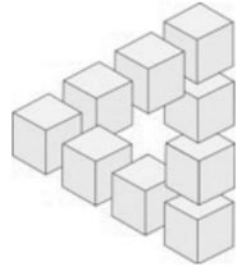
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Thoughts of a Sports Nut

Welcome, dear reader, to windy March and I can tell you that we cyclists are very much looking forward to warmer, quieter weather in the near future! Also, we are hopeful that we can enjoy the company of larger groups again soon but, in the meantime, I for one have tried to make the most of the thinking time that solitary rides offer. I'll share with you a couple of things that have exercised my mind frequently during recent battles with the elements. Firstly, car & van drivers! It's fair to say that the majority of car drivers are appropriately considerate and polite towards us, but there is a worrying number who refuse to slow down or to pass with a wide berth and who seem to take pleasure in deliberately terrifying cyclists who have the temerity to use 'their' road. I promise you, it's no joke being passed by a vehicle travelling at 30mph more than yourself, when it's close enough to touch!

But there's worse: roadkill... I am always appalled at the number of festering carcasses on the highways, particularly foxes and badgers. Foxes are perhaps a more common sight in both countryside and suburban areas these days but what about badgers? I bet most people have never even seen a living specimen of these beautiful creatures. You're more likely to find one covered in mud and blood in a gutter, eyes still open, baffled as to why that murderous metal box was in such a hurry... Please, slow down people. If you're late, it's never because you're driving too slowly! Remember: Slow Down, Protect Wildlife, Save Lives!

From one 21st Century problem to another: have you noticed how the top-flight footballers seem to have no trouble in maintaining immaculate, fashionable haircuts while the rest of us are taking on the appearance of hippies or tramps during the current lockdown? Well, Joelinton, Newcastle United's £40m Brazilian, seems to have given the game away by taking a 'selfie' whilst having a trim in his hairdresser's garage, and posting it on social media! What a plonker! I don't suppose the £200 fine will worry him but I couldn't help a rueful chuckle at the excuse offered by the barber: "They've all had hair-dos. It was for a photo-shoot and TV stars are allowed to get their hair and make-up done." Give me strength...!

Social media itself (if, indeed, one can describe it as a singular entity!) is currently coming under increasing scrutiny over its policies regarding online abuse, particularly towards sportspeople. There doesn't seem to be a simple solution to this complex problem in the offing any time soon though. On the one hand, a complete ban on anonymity is presented by some as the best deterrent to inappropriateness, whilst protecting the principles of free-speech; but there are many – particularly those taking a more global view – who believe that verifying users' identities would result in a loss of privacy in circumstances where a person's well-being might be compromised. e.g. where sensitive issues such as sexuality, religion, politics, government, employment, domestic abuse are involved. Many researchers and of course the platform owners themselves, agree that social media abuse is more of a social issue than a technical one; therefore, a purely technical remedy is unlikely to be successful. I wouldn't disagree with that; it's not democracy out there on the net, it's anarchy!

(Sports Nut continued on page 39)

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(Sports Nut continued.)

However, I think there's something that seems to get forgotten in the crossfire of opinions, which is: that – whoever you are – a footballer or some other 'highly important' personality, it isn't actually compulsory to express your innermost personal feelings or your personal details to the rest of the world! I say give verification a try and put the onus back onto contributors to think about what they're saying. If you wouldn't write it in a letter or broadcast it on the Six O'Clock News, then don't post it on social media!

Anyway, back to proper sport: the Guinness Six Nations Championship. I have no doubt that our esteemed editor enjoyed the weekend of 6th February a little more than usual after the Scotland Rugby team humbled a sorry-looking England in their first win at Twickenham since 1983. Whilst a below-par home side were, to an extent, architects of their own demise, such was their ill-discipline, Scotland's relentless attacking and reliable kicking proved irresistible and could count themselves unlucky that the 6-11 scoreline was not more emphatic. I have to say they were unlucky again the following weekend, surrendering a sizeable lead to Wales who scored the winning try by virtue of an outrageous forward pass to their winger! This perfectly illustrates one of my main gripes with Rugby Union... this infringement seems to get overlooked with astonishing regularity and, in this instance, completely reversed the outcome of the game! VAR anybody?!

England's Test series in India is shaping up to be a classic! In the first Test, the Indians had no answer to a top-drawer performance from the tourists. For once, all the England players, including the two spinners, made a useful contribution to the victory and, in particular, Joe Root (double century in his 100th Test) and James Anderson (unplayable reverse-swing in the second innings) underlined their credentials among the world's best. But that did not stop Virat Kohli and company playing positive, attacking cricket – despite some surprising fielding errors – and their sporting spirit was exemplified by the captain himself in treating his opposite number on the square when Root collapsed with cramp during his marathon first innings.

In the second Test, the Indian backlash was swift and emphatic, despite the controversy of one or two surprising umpiring decisions and a bizarre incident where Kohli, clean bowled by Moeen Ali, refused to leave the crease until the third umpire confirmed he was out! However, at the time of writing, India is deservedly heading towards a big win to level the series with two matches to go. We shouldn't be surprised though... just look what they did in Australia in January! In possibly the finest away win by any team in living memory, India pulled off an unlikely run chase of 329 in the second innings of the Fourth Test to secure a 2-1 series win over the shell-shocked Aussies. Even without their talismanic skipper they simply refused to accept a losing situation and, in Rishabh Pant, they may have found a young wicketkeeper-batsman to rival the class of the great Farokh Engineer. I think Stuart Broad (ironically, left out of the England team for the first Test in India) summed it up best: "Test cricket's heart is beating strongly!" Indeed it is, and long may it continue.

TTFN - Gerry Daish

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“FALSEHOOD FLIES, AND TRUTH COMES LIMPING AFTER IT...”

We should all detest the vitriol recently directed at certain football players through the medium of social media. My short-term answer to this is for those targeted - and for anyone else who feels likewise inclined - to close down their digital media accounts. The message would then be clear to the platforms themselves that this is not to be tolerated and would put them on notice to perfect their algorithms or lose their customer base. But whilst prejudice of any sort cannot and must not be condoned, it would seem that broader opinion suggests that it's the threatening gestures and menacing demands associated with the Black Lives Matter movement (BLM) that's provoking much of this racial tension. If this is so where is the evidence?

Well, let's start with the opinion poll taken by Opinium for The Guardian where a majority of those polled believe BLM has actually increased racial tension and that the BLM protests that took place in big cities has increased racial friction. This experience is again evidenced by an increase in the number from ethnic communities expressing to The Guardian that they have faced a rise in discrimination since BLM took to the streets.

Then there is the main stream media that was more-or-less as one when their headlines reported that there was no reason why “the threatening fist of the BLM movement should have been projected over the London skyline on New Year's Eve”. The New Year's Eve display also provoked a digital media backlash primarily targeted at London's Mayor and the BBC: “You made a NYE celebration political” was the general retort. Judicious people also evidently agreed that the NYE display was an inappropriate occasion to make such a fatuous radical gesture.

‘The Week’ magazine, which is an apolitical synopsis of the past weeks news, paraphrased national journalistic comment; “in the wake of events in America the already existing BLM movement has managed to threaten, blackmail and otherwise inveigle themselves into almost every public space in the UK”. Indeed the evidence is there - from the Premier League to places of learning, industry, finance, museums and even civic centres such as Bristol and Exeter, BLM has successfully intimated that if you didn't sign up to their mantra then you were a sponsor of racial oppression.

Richard Morrison sums up this opinion in The Times by asking; “How many statues will we pull down? How many roads will be renamed? How many fine institutions denigrated? How many towering figures erased, Soviet-style, from our history?” Morrison adds “since the uprising in America last May and the rise of the BLM movement in the UK, many British local authorities and public organisations (The National Trust and the Church of England being but two) have been panicked into decolonising themselves without, it appears, serious reflection or consultation.” Add to this the example of the brewer Green King forced by researchers at University College London (UCL) to succumb to accusations

Continued on page 43

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Continued from page 41

of profiteering from alleged servitude. Morrison brings to mind the quote from the 18th century satirist Jonathan Swift that begins and ends this article...

Leaders of the 'beautiful game' and the clubs themselves should take note of the gathering pace of such opinion and play their part by finding some other way than sanctioning political gestures on the field of play. In this respect I also include the 'Kick it Out' campaign and Gary Neville (Football Pundit) who have also yielded to the claim that 'Taking The Knee' (TTK) is not a political gesture. A very noble position but somewhat naïve given that TTK has become synonymous with the openly anti-western/anti-capitalist political agenda of the BLM movement. As Sports Nut reminds me, it's even more surprising when 'keeping politics out of sport' is, in fact, football's official position. We would all agree I'm sure with the underlying anti-racial sentiment but let's not forget the furore a few years ago when British Football and British Rugby teams wore the Poppy as a mark of respect for the war dead which was then judged by some ignorant official to be a political gesture.

Is it therefore of no wonder that football fans are expressing their frustration and disapproval at having to witness the piousness of 'TTK' when all they have come to do is to watch a game of 'footie'? Recently academics at Cambridge University said that 'no disaffected group has the right to demand absolute respect for an ideology that others believe to be fundamentally flawed'. This of course equally applies to BLM, especially when such menacing gestures as 'the fist' and 'TTK' are openly used in front of a cornered audience.

I would speculate that many in this country are finding the hasty 'knee-jerk' reactions and the milky methods surrounding the 'expunging' of tainted historical figures disquieting and undeniably sinister. History isn't that simplistic and renaming institutions and kowtowing to claims of servitude achieves and solves nothing. Every age has its forms of collective piety; tragically though this seems to have proliferated into becoming aggressive and unenlightened outrage without questions being asked and no fact-finding done. Just because activists and wokes feel outraged about presumed social injustices does not mean they have to turn off their filters.

Fortunately though, more and more organisations across Britain are realising the aim of the BLM movement is to legitimise its murkier political side by infiltrating genuine and honest causes associated with racial equality. As a final piece of evidence Sherelle Jacobs, a black journalist, recognises this and writes: "Marxist-chic BLM is a disturbing threat to racial progress".

JOW

"Falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it, so that when men come to be undeceived, it is too late; the jest is over, and the tale hath had its effect".

Jonathan Swift; 1667 – 1745 - an Anglo-Irish writer and satirist.

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'You didn't need us yesterday – but you might tomorrow !'

In the February issue our readers and supporters were notified of the big charity event of the year Chariots of Fire – to be held on Queen's Green in Cambridge on Sunday 19th September. I trust it is already in your diaries and that you plan to attend as EAAA is this years nominated beneficiary. The event has the potential to be one of the largest fund-raising activities for us – funds increasingly needed to support our continuing everyday work.

What do we need from you? Volunteers on the day, lots of you Why not enrol as a group?

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As you should be well aware by now, my major objective in writing these missives is to help EAAA raise money – simple as that.

During 'Lockdown' this has become increasingly difficult with the inevitable consequence that cashflow has considerably diminished.

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