

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



March 2021

Village Diary

The Village Hall is currently closed, subject to the Government restrictions..

Wheelie bin collection dates

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Wednesday 3 rd March | Black bin |
| Wednesday 10 th March | Blue and Green bins |
| Wednesday 17 th March | Black bin |
| Wednesday 24 th March | Blue and Green bins |
| Wednesday 31 st March | Black bin |

Editorial

Positivity returns! All the Covid-19 numbers are going in the right direction and the end of the lockdown (however gradual) is in sight. This time last month very few Kingstonians had received their jabs but then the dam burst and, with David Heath and Joan Reynolds to the fore, some 20-30 villagers were invited to receive their jabs at the Royston Medical Centre. In terms of the weather, the cold snap seems to be behind us, but not before Molly and Angus Easy and Darcey Stalham were able to slide and skate on the ice next to the Clears' duckpond. As Katherine Stalham remarked at the time, "it's lovely to have our own ice rink in Kingston". These ice-skating escapades are captured in the photos featured on the cover and inside this issue. Other positives to come out of the last few weeks include the new weekly arrival of the fish and chip van (hurray!), three new puppies arriving in the village, another pizza night taking place (with another one scheduled for March 6th), the weekly virtual coffee mornings and wellness sessions continuing, and West Ham and Cambridge United keep on winning!

Paul Wright and John Easy tell me that the Pizza Night scheduled for March 6th will take the form of a take-away event from the Village Hall. The format will be the same as last time: all pre-orders, pick-up from the middle door, and no-one to enter the hall itself. A confirmatory e-mail will come out the week before the event.

Peter Holly pjholly45@gmail.com 01223 264 556

Vicar's Letter

As I write, the season of Lent has just begun. A group of nearly 20 of us made our pancakes together on Shrove Tuesday and a similar number gathered to mark Ash Wednesday by reflecting on our sins and (for some) marking our foreheads with an ashen cross as an outward sign of that inner reflection.

Of course, we all did this from our own homes: our gathering was via the Internet using Zoom, which has become so much part of my own daily life that it's hard to remember I'd never even heard of it a year ago.

The six weeks of Lent, leading to Easter, is traditionally a time of 'fasting' – of setting aside some of the comforts and pleasures of life to concentrate on preparing spiritually for celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection.

'Giving something up for Lent' is often how people express this, while others find the idea a bit dreary and joyless, preferring to look at 'taking something up for Lent'.

But in Lent 2021 we have had to give up so much – meeting friends and family, socialising, hugs and handshakes. Many people have lost so much – health, jobs, even loved ones.

And in Lent 2021 we have had to take on so much – learning new ways of working, home schooling, caring for others.

In Lent 2021, a year on from the first 'lockdown' we are dispirited and exhausted. To 'give up' any more or to 'take up' anything else feels almost impossible.

So this Lent, why not prepare yourself for Easter some other way? Give up expecting more of yourself (and others) than you can manage. Take up kindness and forgiveness to yourself (and others) when you fall short of your expectations.

In Charlie Mackesy's book *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse*, the boy asks the horse a question: "What is the bravest thing you've ever said?" asked the boy. 'Help,' said the horse." If you are feeling in need of help, be brave and ask for it.

Above all, remember the words of Jesus: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Rev. Steve Day

Church services for March

Sunday 7th March Holy Communion 8.30am

Worship remains permissible as we go to press: masks must be worn and only the celebrant is allowed to take wine at communion.

ZOOM Chapel:

Morning Service at 10.00am and Evening Prayer at 6.00pm every Sunday in March

Morning Prayer (Mon – Sat) at 8.15am

Lent group on Wednesday 7.30pm followed by optional Compline

Compline on Thursday at 9pm

Telephone service on Mondays at 5.00pm

Please keep an eye on the team website www.papworthteamchurches.org for Covid safe events happening as we approach Easter.

The church remains open on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Church cleaning

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st Sunday | Peter and Suzy Stokes |
| 2 nd Sunday | Donal and Monica O'Donnell |
| 3 rd Sunday | Peter Reynolds |
| 4 th Sunday | Janet Clear |
| 5 th Sunday | Linda Rimmer |

Church flowers and brasses

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 7 th March | Miki Ellar |
| 14 th March | Henrietta Burbridge |
| 21 st March | Joan Reynolds |
| 28 th March | Kay Forsythe |

Work Day 6th March from 10 – 12.30 am

We propose to carry out a few tasks, socially distancing, in the churchyard on the 6th March, such as removing ivy from the churchyard walls and bringing a few of the leaning gravestones back up to the vertical. All welcome.

Departures

Paul and Prudie Clark, long-time residents at 8 Cranes Lane for almost 60 years, have moved on to a bungalow in Sawston. We wish them well in their new home.

Kingston churchyard

About twenty years ago the late Norman Greenwood, then churchwarden of Bourn, gave me some papers that he'd retrieved from Bourn's old parish chest. Amongst them was correspondence regarding a new burial ground for Kingston; concern that our existing graveyard was full and should be closed had been expressed from the late C19. The following letter is from Philip Hagger's solicitors, Ginn and Co, to our then Rector, the Revd James Duffill, and is dated 26th August 1930. (Philip Hagger owned and farmed Town Farm: he died in 1958 and is buried just to the north-east of the chancel.)

Ginn and Co.
63 St Andrew's Street,
Cambridge.

Dear Sir,

Mr Philip Hagger has been to see us with regard to the offer, which he made over four years ago, of a piece of land to serve as a burial ground for the parish of Kingston. The offer has not been accepted and the hedge surrounding the land urgently needs cutting, and Mr Hagger therefore instructs us to say that his offer of the land is withdrawn. He has had no rent from the land since the offer was made.

Yours truly,
Ginn and Co.

The Revd. J. Duffill,
The Vicarage,
Bourn,
Cambs.

Those of us who serve on the Parochial Church Council know that things often move very slowly when decisions have to be made, and this can sometimes be a good thing...but what a missed opportunity this represents! I don't know where the proposed site for the new graveyard was, but have always imagined it was Church Close, where Willow Tree House is now: that field to the north of the village was formerly subdivided in three parts, each of about four acres. It might, however, have been on the other side of Church Lane, adjacent to North Farm.

There is evidence that our churchyard was a pre-Christian ritual site: some parishioners may remember the late Iron Age – possibly sepulchral – urn which was on display in the church: it was dug up in the 1950s but very sadly stolen sometime in the late 1960s. Add to this a millennium of Christian burials – many of them of

MARK STEELE

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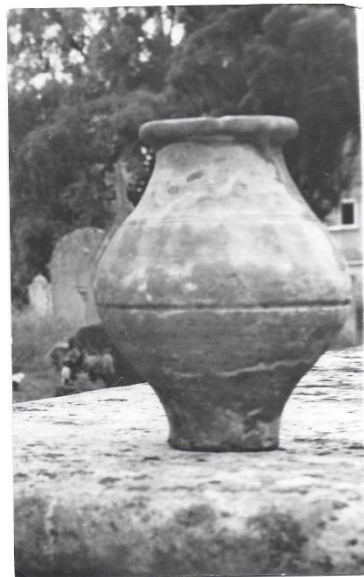
Orchard End Church Lane
Kingston Cambridge CB23 2NG



infants – my guess is that the mortal remains of perhaps 3,000 of our forbears rest here in our midst. That is why, of course, the churchyard is so much higher than the surrounding land.

All this is a long way of getting round to our recent planning application, which has been approved, to remove two trees on the northern side of the church. These are a large Norway spruce and a small, self-sown birch. The spruce, incidentally, was an ex-Christmas tree of the late Diana Piggott's, planted by the late Nick Petty (a notorious guerrilla gardener *avant la lettre*). Although the churchyard is full, there have been very few burials on the northern side in the last century, and so this is where recent interments have taken place. These two trees are impeding access for the mini diggers now used for grave digging (gone are the days when we relied on our postman, Alan Patten, to dig our graves by hand – gone also long since, two postal deliveries each day!). In addition, the spruce is only a few metres away from Church Cottage to the north and, although healthy, it does present a potential threat to this property. The churchyard's soil is shallow and overlies gravel, quite unlike the rest of the parish's heavy boulder clay. A large ash on The Old Rectory boundary fell not many years ago (during Storm Doris?) and only just missed the east end of the chancel. At the same time as carrying out these works, we have asked Acacia Tree Surgery to pollard the ancient ash tree on the Rectory Lane boundary.

Peter Reynolds



Late Iron Age urn, Kingston churchyard

Cambridge Festival

The new Cambridge Festival will take place from 26 March to 4 April, with a series of free online events and activities for everyone.

It includes downloadable activities for children, live events, citizen science in conservation and in the herbarium (transcribing handwritten notes from the university's collections which will then be available online), Chaos science experiments, a virtual exploration of the Botanic Garden, health, society, games and more.

<https://www.festival.cam.ac.uk/>

Lockdown Poem

How many poem references can you find within this work? Can you name them all?

A COVID LOCKDOWN POEM

Author unknown

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree
 I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
 I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,
 I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
 There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the North of Kathmandu
 But I shan't be seeing him just yet, and nor, I think will you.
 While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
 I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
 I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye,
 Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
 About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
 To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow.
 And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,
 Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
 Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends
 Nor come within a mile of you, until this virus ends.

"I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree" is the opening line to *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* by William Butler Yeats

"I must go down to the seas again" is the opening line to *Sea Fever* by John Masfield

"I wandered lonely as a cloud" is the opening line to *I wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, more commonly known as 'Daffodils', by William Wordsworth

"There's a one-eyed yellow idol to the north of Kathmandu" is the opening line from *The Green Eye of the Yellow God*, by J Milton Hayes

"While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay" is from the poem *Mandalay* by Rudyard Kipling

"Speed, bonnie boat ... over the sea to Skye" comes from *The Skye Boat Song*, lyrics by Sir Harold Boulton

"the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye" are jumbled references from *The Rolling English Road* by GK Chesterton

"About the woodlands I will go, To see the cherry hung with snow" comes from Loveliest of Trees by AE Houseman

"in the realms of gold" comes from Upon First Looking into Chapman's Homer by John Keats

"to Milford Haven" is a reference from Scene 5 of Cymbeline by William Shakespeare

Give me your hands, if we be friends" comes from the closing lines of A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

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CHROME BOOKS APPEAL
PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?**



The recent lockdown has meant some very significant changes to the way education is delivered at the Primary School in Bourn. Thanks to the news reports, we are all aware of the major role technology is now playing in this. It is allowing the provision of 'on line' lessons to be delivered by Bourn School staff. They are providing high quality lessons using Google classroom, enabling pupils to have regular teaching sessions at home. Where possible the school has also been able to lend computers or tablets to children who do not readily have access to them.

The hope is to continue to develop this use of technology even further. In order for that to happen the school will need more Chrome Books. In the current lockdown extra devices would be most useful, but, when the children return to school full time these valuable resources will be used in classes across the school, and to support the more vulnerable children. They will also help reduce the need for the children to share. A Chrome Book costs in the region of £280 each.

Inevitably the pandemic has hit the school budget hard. Extra, unforeseen costs have been incurred, whilst at the same time fund raising opportunities have been restricted.

***As the village school is an integral part of the community,
can we as villagers get behind our school?***

Would you consider making a donation that will make a difference?

Some families already have children in the school and support the school well. But we would like to expand the appeal for help. Maybe you had children who were at Bourn School. Maybe you have children who will be coming to Bourn School.

Maybe you were a pupil there yourself many years ago, when lessons took place in the village hall. Maybe it's none of these but you just want to help to see our village school and children flourish and prosper.

So please would you think about donating the price of that cafe bought coffee and cake that you can't have right now, or the cost of the chocolates you have given up for lent, or perhaps some of that petrol money you are saving.

You can give via the Just Giving page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BournChromebooks2021>

If a cheque or cash is easier you can drop your donation into Linda Fuller at 2 Short Street, Bourn. Cheques should be payable to Bourn School Association and please mark your envelope Chrome Books appeal.

Whatever you might be able to give will be gratefully received and every penny will help.

From Your MP

One phrase stuck with me from last month, from a resident waiting in the queue to receive their first shot of the AstraZeneca vaccine - "It is just so wonderful. It is such a big step out of all this". They were beaming, practically bouncing with joy.

It certainly feels good to end January on a positive note, with the vaccination programme in full swing and delivering results. I am delighted to welcome the 10 million vaccinations milestone achieved yesterday, which ensures a large proportion of our over 75s and every eligible care home with older residents across England are protected from this dreadful virus.

You will read below about my visit to the vaccination hub. Not only was it a truly positive experience, with people delighted to take this first step towards the end of this pandemic, but also a testament to the hard work of our local NHS workers, volunteers, and even the military, who have been assisting at such centres.


I have been liaising closely with local NHS leaders and feeding back to ministers to smooth over any obstacles. For those worried about the second jab, there is a plan to roll that out from March and you will get the same vaccine as you had in the first dose.

We cannot ignore the tragedies that remain a part of our lives, a fact brought into sharp relief by the sad passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore earlier this week. We have now had over 100 deaths from Coronavirus in South Cambridgeshire, a grim milestone despite the fact we still have one of the lowest death rates of any district in the country. I urge everyone to keep following the restrictions and ensure hospitalisations and deaths continue to fall.

We are almost through this. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter.

Anthony Browne

MP for South Cambridgeshire



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Covid Rapid Testing Centre

Tumi Hawkins has posted the following information on the village Facebook page:

"From today (Wednesday) a rapid testing centre will be available at The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, CB23 6GW, between 8am and 8pm, Monday to Saturday.

Key workers and people who are unable to work from home, who are showing no symptoms, will be able to book free rapid testing twice a week.

With 1 in 3 people showing no COVID-19 symptoms it will help us break the chain of transmission.

Book your rapid test: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting"

(To see the post on Facebook go to:

https://www.facebook.com/Kingston.village/inbox/5426845370691451/?notif_id=1612302342284916¬if_t=page_wall&ref=notif)

Peter Stokes

KINGSTON QUIZ

The committee would like to express their great thanks to Katherine Stalham who organised the Zoom quiz and Helen, Mark and Kitty Underwood, our resident quiz masters, who presented it on Saturday night. It was great fun and, impressively, the unfamiliar technology ran smoothly from beginning to end. Thanks are also due to Chris Reid, who delivered drinks to participants' doors. The money raised from this event will be a welcome contribution to the Hall funds.

Let's hope and trust that next year we will be back in the hall. At a recent committee meeting we agreed to wait until Easter to review whether a BBQ will be possible in the summer.

Paul Wright (Chair)

Book of the Month

The Camomile Lawn by Mary Wesley

My muse, Rick Stein, has done me a good turn yet again. In his recent TV series where he explores his beloved home county, Cornwall, he recommends the books to read in order to get under the skin of his adopted home-land. Daphne DuMaurier, of course, is on the list. I'm playing catch-up here and, having quickly read Jamaica Inn and Frenchman's Creek, I can see the attraction. I'd always expected her books to be

light-weight but that's not the case at all. And you certainly get to know the county in all its grandeur. My favourite read on his list, however, is *The Camomile Lawn* by Mary Wesley. This is a minor classic. It is a disarming gem of a book. Set in Cornwall and London immediately before and during the Second World War, it is a wonderful exploration of family dynamics. Wesley – who, amazingly, didn't start writing until her 70s – uses words sparingly, so is never verbose, but, in so doing, creates a simply told but profound tour-de-force. She tells a story of family relationships without ever straying into over-embellishment.

In her introduction to the book, Victoria Glendenning claims (justifiably) that “the beginning of this novel is brilliant.” All the characters who are going to feature throughout the story are introduced in the context of a Cornish holiday. Home-owners Helena and Richard are awaiting visitors to arrive at their cliff-top retreat. Indeed, these visitors are introduced even before they arrive. Cousins Calypso, Walter, Polly, and Oliver (“whose stories we shall be following”) are the sons and daughters of Richard's siblings. We also learn about another relative, 10 year-old Sophy, who lives with Helena and Richard, despite Helena's dislike of her. The book opens with Helena reclining in a deck chair on the camomile lawn, with Sophy spying on her from the branches of an Ilex tree above. When Richard joins Helena she coyly pulls down her frock – theirs is not the happiest of marriages. Richard lost a leg in Flanders fields in the First World War and, to Helena's irritation, is a blimpish, somewhat Jingoistic character who believes that Hitler is doing quite a good job and that concentration camps must be some kind of rest cure. When the cousins pile off the evening trains to Penzance, they are excitedly looking forward to their annual holiday in Cornwall with its attractions of swimming in the sea, cliff climbing, playing games, lolling on the lawn, and over-eating at Helena's expense. It is the summer of 1939 and, with the war looming, it is fated to be their last Cornish get-together. At this point we are also introduced to other central characters, including the identical twins, David and Paul Floyer, the sons of the local rector, and the Erstweilers (Max and Monika) who are Jewish refugees from Austria, taken in by the Floyers. Oliver organizes the annual “Terror Run”, a terrifying run along the cliff tops, which becomes symbolic of the horrors to come.

At this point, war is declared and the party breaks up. The young males rush off to enlist, Oliver (who has already been slightly injured fighting in the Spanish Civil War) joins the Army, Walter the Navy, and the twins - nick-named the “high Floyers” – the Air Force. Polly gets a “secret” job working for the war effort and, as promised, the beautiful Calypso spurns Oliver's advances and marries for money, marrying the MP Hector, a member of the Scottish aristocracy. The action now turns to London where Polly inherits a house from her parents who are killed in the early bombing. This

house becomes the centre of activity with all the “boys” passing through London and staying awhile. Despite the Blitz, their lives turn into a mad social whirl, with drinking, parties and sexual encounters well to the fore. The rest of the book is devoted to the complex relationships between the protagonists. While Cornwall is never out of the picture, Helena decamps to London (having placed Sophy in a boarding school near Cambridge) and is joined by Max, leaving Monika in charge of Richard. Walter is the first casualty of the war (he is drowned at sea) and Hector becomes a prisoner-of-war. Meanwhile, Calypso, pregnant with Hector’s baby, entertains a string of admirers and Helena and Max, the celebrated concert violinist, become inseparable.

At the end of the book, with the war over by some forty years, the surviving central characters are gathering in Cornwall for Max’s funeral. Many of the back stories of the intricate relationships are filled in and one final twist is left to describe. Typical of the whole book, these complexities are merely described with an economy of words and no moralizing or judgmental commentary. Things are as they are. The camomile lawn has survived the war and its aftermath – just about.

Peter Holly

Kwirky Korner

Andrea Belcher from Surrey wanted to spice up her life in lockdown so came up with the idea of putting on fancy dress every week when she puts out the bins. She wanted this weekly event to be a spectacle and her daughter has since joined in by providing musical accompaniments and downloading videos of the events on social media. Andrea started by wearing a ball gown but then got more ambitious and dressed up as such characters as Wilma Flintstone, Agnetha from Abba, Olaf (from Frozen), Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz (with her dog playing Toto), a T-Rex (with the Jurassic Park theme tune playing in the background), Marge Simpson, Charlie Chaplin, and Darth Vader. As she says, “It’s nice to have a little bit of silliness... Everything is a bit miserable at the moment.” In twelve weeks she is planning to finish (hoping that the pub she runs with her husband will be open again), but wants to go out with a bang, part of her plan being to be carted off on the bin lorry. She hasn’t decided what to wear yet. Maybe nothing.

Another social media sensation is the issue of petrol caps. It started when someone on TikTok mentioned using the slot on the back of the petrol door to support the cap when using the pump. Thousands of people questioned this, not being aware of the slot’s existence. Thousands of others responded rather rudely, calling into

question the sanity of those not being aware of the slot's existence. So which group do you belong to? The slot-users or the slot-deniers? I have also been made aware of a perverse third group (which includes my wife) who are vaguely aware of the slot's existence but still prefer to let the petrol cap just hang loose. Scientists are now working out the correlation between these different groups and those who are accepting or refusing to have the Covid 19 vaccination.

Our very own Rachel Hooper has joined the ranks of Kwirky Korner by cheering us up with her "word (or saying) of the day" attached to her front gate. My favourite was: "Having taken down my entire collection of Dusty Springfield LPs, I just don't know what to do with my shelf." Brilliant. Elsewhere in this issue, Rachel has contributed a fascinating "Lockdown Poem". Her house is clearly on Kingston's Kwirky Korner.

Peter Holly

Kingston Ice Skating



County Councillor Report- January 2021

Dear all,

As we continue through a very challenging time, I would like to remind you that you are not alone and that there is plenty of help and support out there.



This month we are discussing and approving the budget for next year.

Highlights:

Our Conservative proposals are based on the fundamentals below.

- 1) To deliver our services effectively, efficiently and with good outcomes
- 2) To deliver enhanced services or additional outcomes that our residents have made plain they want
- 3) To balance the above two demands with a commitment to do everything possible to minimise the financial burden on our residents

We will be proposing a Council Tax rise of 2.99%. We understand the financial challenges that our residents are going through and we have only considered a percentage of what we really need to maintain services and have healthy finances. It is also important to note that all our proposals have been discussed with officers and financially analysed.

What really shocks me is that Liberal Democrats and Labour think that one day's proposal is enough to support our residents and communities. They have been opposing key initiatives Conservatives have been putting forward for the last four years such as the Innovate and Cultivate Fund, the creation of the Communities & Partnerships Committee, the Think Communities external transformation into Cambridgeshire Local, last year's budget proposal for Climate Change or the Area Champion role which enhances and focuses on the big picture of a district.

It is very disappointing that opposing parties believe that they can vote against proposals throughout the year and then offer all the solutions in one day. I would suggest you check out their voting records because you would be surprised to see how Lib Dems vote on each committee and the ideas they sell to residents are contradicted by their actions.

Update about care home vaccinations

In Cambridgeshire every care home resident and staff have either been given a vaccine or offered one. Local data on vaccinations is due to begin very soon so we should start to see how we are doing locally.

Education

Winter Grant Scheme – We will be writing to parents in February to outline the allocation of a further £15 voucher for eligible families and the reopening of the

wider support scheme. We will be encouraging more parents to sign up for a free school meal.

Despite the government's investment which has led to around 4,500 laptops being distributed to those children in need. Our target is to secure sufficient funding to ensure that every child and young person in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has both the equipment and access to broadband that they need to maintain continuity of their learning and education in their homes.

We have established a partnership with the Youth Panel, Cambridge Digital Partnership, Cambridge 2030 and the Library Service on a campaign, Digital Drive Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which includes setting up a collection and distribution network for anyone wishing to donate used Windows laptops to schools.

All donated laptops will be collected by the Library Service and delivered to the Youth Panel which will remove and destroy all hard drives (and data) and refurbish laptops so that they are in good working order. They will then be given to schools across the county for distribution to the children and young people who need them.

- Every library in Cambridgeshire will be set up with a simple drop box located in the entrance which can be accessed during the published opening times:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisureculture/libraries/visit-a-library>

- We are working to create an online system whereby businesses, other public bodies and individuals can make a financial donation in a fast, secure way. We have also set up a dedicated enquiries inbox to manage any enquiries:
LaptopsForChildren@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Community

As we move into the recovery phase there will be many challenges. The additional support and resilience provided by Parish Councils and community groups will be vital to help that recovery. This will be helped by our shift of services to a more localised approach under Cambridgeshire Local. This should improve engagement and allow all organisations to focus on local priorities. The administration is committed to helping those who are struggling. Please participate when an introductory event takes place in your area shortly. The Covid Hub remains active for anyone who needs help. 03450 455 219.

As always, here to serve you and help in any way I can.

Yours,

Lina Nieto

E-mail: lina.nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Mobile: 07402 351821

Website: www.linanieto.yourcllr.com

Twitter and Facebook: @CllrLinaNieto

LIVING GRAVEYARDS

Margaret and Geoffrey Pyke – A truly remarkable couple

In the graveyard of Aldeburgh Parish Church ten years ago I came across a grave which, with the aid of my old Blackberry, revealed the lives of this remarkable couple.

The grave is of Margaret Pyke (1893 – 1966) and refers to her creation of the Family Planning Association. After Oxford she married Geoffrey Pyke, a journalist and inventive genius. He was from an Orthodox Jewish family who sent him to Wellington School where his parents insisted he maintained the dress and habits of an Orthodox Jew. The resulting torment he suffered from the sons of army officers and colonial civil servants caused him to become an atheist when he was 13 and instilled a permanent dislike of the Establishment.

They married in 1918 and moved to Cambridge to found the Malting House School in Malting's Lane, overlooking Sheep's Green. This school was along the lines of Montessori or Summerhill, with children taught to explore things and learn discipline without pedagogy. It was not a success and the school closed in 1928. In that period they each took lovers, Margaret's being Frank Plumpton Ramsey, the mathematician and economist who died at the age of 26. He was a close friend of Ludwig Wittgenstein and was instrumental in translating Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* into English, as well as persuading Wittgenstein to return to Cambridge. Like Wittgenstein, he was a member of the Cambridge Apostles.

Geoffrey's inventive genius came into its own in WW2. Concerned about the failures of the Norwegian Campaigns and the need to make troops more mobile in snow, he designed an early form of snowmobile, large enough to carry a small body of soldiers. Propelled by a screw, his invention was backed by Mountbatten and later incorporated into the Canadian Weasel personnel carrier.

Mountbatten backed him in his next invention which was pykrete, a mixture of sawdust and ice with a high melting point. Mountbatten saw its possibility as a floating airfield in the North Atlantic to guard convoys and also to create harbours during invasions of Japanese held Pacific Islands. In fact he was so excited at the durability of pykrete that he took it into a room of senior staff officers and fired his



pistol into it. The bullet's rebound grazed a general's leg. On another occasion he burst into Churchill's bathroom and put a block in his bath to show how slowly it melted.

The development of pykrete became Project Habakkuk: *Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.* Habakkuk 1:5

The turning of the war in 1944 meant that Pykrete was never deployed militarily, but it has been used experimentally since.

After World War II, Pyke's inventions continued. One suggestion for the problems of energy-starved post-war Europe was to propel railway wagons by human muscle power – employing 20 to 30 men on bicycle-like mechanisms to pedal a cyclo-tractor. Pyke reasoned that the energy in a pound of sugar cost about the same as an equivalent energy in the form of coal and that while Europe had plenty of sugar and unemployed people, there was a shortage of coal and oil. This was never adopted.

Geoffrey committed suicide in 1948 and Margaret carried on with her family planning work. She became the chair of the Family Planning Association and in 1955 coordinated the visit of the minister of health, Iain Macleod, to the Family Planning Association's offices and one of its clinics; an event which is acknowledged as helping to change the public perception towards contraception. She was also involved in the foundation of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, was appointed OBE in 1963 for her work in the family planning sector, and after her death in 1966, the NHS Margaret Pyke Trust was founded in her memory.

Paul Wright

Record Corner

"She's Got You" by Rhiannon Giddens

I've mentioned this singer and multi-instrumentalist before. Hailing from Greensboro, North Carolina, she was a founding member of the Grammy-winning country, blues, and old-time music band the Carolina Chocolate Drops, acting as its lead singer, fiddler and banjo player. As a solo artist she covers a lot of ground, ranging from Celtic music to bluegrass, country, gospel, and Americana. She has quite a pedigree as a 2000 graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory.

Her first solo album titled "Tomorrow is My Turn" was released on Nonesuch Records and produced like so many other classics by T-Bone Burnett. The Wall Street Journal said the album "confirms the arrival of a significant talent whose voice and distinctive approach communicate the simmering emotion at the core of the songs." The album includes a selection of covers of classic songs by the likes of

Odetta, Dolly Parton, Nina Simone, Charles Aznavour and Patsy Cline. It is the latter's track that we're concerned with here. She gives "She's Got You" a straight down the line treatment. Written by Hank Cochran (who performed as a duo with Eddie Cochran – to whom he was not related – and went on to pen such hits as "I Fall to Pieces", "Make the World Go Away", and "A Little Bitty Tear"), his other claim to fame was that he discovered Willie Nelson. The aforementioned "She's Got You" is a great tune with the kind of lyrics you would expect in a love-gone-bad song, with the singer declaring that I've got your letters and records but "she's got you". It's classically simple which is exactly how Rhiannon Giddens plays it.

The original hit was by Patsy Cline, the country singer whose songs transcended the genre. Hits like "Walkin' After Midnight", "I Fall to Pieces", "Sweet Dreams" and "Crazy" (written by Willie Nelson) made her a big star until she perished in a plane crash on her way home to Nashville after a concert in Kansas City in 1963. Described as one of the most influential vocalists of the twentieth century, she more than crossed over from country to pop; she was a genre-buster and created a string of "standards" that still sound fresh and evocative sixty years on. And this is what Rhiannon Giddens gets: don't mess around with it, just sing it straight, which is exactly what she does.

More recently, Giddens has sprung up in some surprising places. In 2018 she was a guest curator of the Cambridge Folk Festival. She can also be found singing on "Lost on the River: The New Basement Tapes", a fascinating project again led by T-Bone Burnett where recently-discovered Bob Dylan lyrics were put to new music created by a bunch of today's performers, Giddens included. She also stars on the fabulous American Epic sessions in which a range of singers perform Americana music recorded on the original machinery. One of her recordings for this project, "One Hour Mama", is a gutsy, jump-blues number. But, best of all, she has recorded a duet with her fellow Carolinian, Iron and Wine's Sam Beam, singing Bob Dylan's "Forever Young", a hauntingly beautiful version. Clearly, everything Rhiannon Giddens touches turns to gold and most of her music can be downloaded on Spotify. "She's Got You" can be found on the "Grace and Frankie" soundtrack which I featured last month. If you'd like to join me in similar pieces of musical archaeology or unearth a long sought-after track, just give me the word.

I've just heard from Miki Ellar that Buffy Sainte Marie has recently celebrated her 80th birthday. According to Miki, "You may be familiar with the song Universal Soldier... Buffy is 80 today and I saw her in Cambridge in 1968. Universal Soldier was one of the best protest songs of that decade." How she came to write the song is explained on a YouTube offering. Donovan recorded the song in the UK.

Peter Holly



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