



**D**ear Resident; Just as some of you were regretting the loss of Keep Connected! it resurfaces in response to popular demand, with a familiar title! Keep Connected 2 is aimed initially at existing readers, but by working with Mottingham Residents Association (MRA), it is intended that KC 2 will become 'Mottingham Matters', which we aim to develop to better inform, entertain, serve and support the wider community of Mottingham.



Future issues of KC2 will include news, views, cartoons, humour, puzzles, photos, stories, poems, or whatever I can persuade you to give - all are up for inclusion. So expect to be contacted at some point, and I'll cajole, collect, collate and continue to develop Mottingham Matters for you and the local community. So, if you have ideas of your own then get in touch; don't wait!



**B**luebells emerged a few weeks ago and have lasted well throughout the cool Spring weather we've had throughout May. The display in the header above was taken earlier this month in Kent, but here, the Tarn has its own bluebell display - mostly Spanish invaders (right), but if you look carefully you'll find the smaller, darker English variety (left).



**T**he Tarn continues to attract many visitors - human and wildfowl alike. Why not take time to pay a visit, enjoy the floral displays and the wildlife and take a break from daily routine. Look carefully and you may spot some Koi carp, a resident terrapin, squirrels, heron, geese, ducks and other birds not to mention pigeons and parakeets! Meanwhile, further down the road,



**H**edgehogs are regularly visiting gardens at the village end of Court Road and in particular, a feeding station in Ray & Tessa's back garden. Tessa has only to sound the 'dinner gong' at the appropriate time and two hedgehogs turn up for a free, hedgehog-friendly meal. Naturally Ray, a lifelong professional camera man records them feasting. It seems that other neighbours are feeding them as well - not too much to prevent them from getting through the fences, hopefully!



**C**hristian Aid helps families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice - needed more now than ever. Locally, Churches Together In Mottingham CTIM have taken on the challenge of raising funds despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic. Organiser, Diane Hudson reports, "The theme this year is 'Every Last Drop', the aim being to help families survive drought. Like last year, house to house collections were not made but 800 envelopes were delivered by a team of willing volunteers to 19 Mottingham roads.

In addition, two online events were held. Quizmaster Mick Wood (Leysdown Road) hosted a highly professional Zoom quiz (as last year). Mottingham Parish Rector, Revd Ian Welch again hosted a six-hour sponsored 'read-in & sing-in'.



Both events were well supported and have helped to raise significant funds through online donations to the CTIM Christian Aid JustGiving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/team/MottinghamCAW2021>. You can access this directly or via the parish website <https://www.standrewandstalban.org.uk>, where you will also find the Christian Aid Quiz. St Alban's churchwarden Kay Ash has

'encouraged' participation and also red envelope donations.

Methodist church member Dawn Watts donated hand-made bracelets and West Park residents, Geoff & Beverley Howard held two coffee mornings for church members and local residents."

A full report on all fundraising activity and the total amount raised will be available on the parish website in due course.

**M**ottingham Library Manager Christine Davis reports that the Library extended its opening hours from 17 May. Opening times are now as follows: Monday 9:30 - 1 & 2 - 7pm; Wednesday 9:30 - 1 & 2 - 5pm; Friday 9:30 - 1 & 2 - 5:30pm; Saturday 9:30 - 1 & 2 - 5pm. Christine can be contacted on 020 8857 5406 or [christine.Davis@gll.org](mailto:christine.Davis@gll.org)



**T**he MRA website has a range of useful local information and advice and is well worth checking on a regular basis. The latest information on the Porcupine is that Lidl appealed the planning decision on 2 May - four days before the deadline! Check out <http://www.yourmra.org> and click 'The Porcupine' in the main menu for the latest update and to leave a comment.



**S**t Edward's Mottingham continues to be used as an NHS vaccination centre and this is likely to go on until September. The entrance to the vaccination centre is the church hall door adjacent to the mural by the steps. The car park isn't available for those having vaccinations, but parking is available in the neighbouring roads. The Food Bank continues to distribute to those in need (Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 9:30am to 1pm & Wednesday 6-7pm). Donations can be left at the Food Bank during these hours or at the nearby Cooperative supermarket at any time.

**H**umour - some lockdown cartoon recollections!



**I**n Closing - here are a few comments (anonymised) that helped to 'encourage' my change of mind: "Thank you for all your hard work with Keep Connected since the first lockdown"; "I shall miss it terribly and want to thank you so much for all your hard work"; "Very sad it's the last one as it's been so good to hear news of local folk"; A big thank you for keeping us connected so well"; " I do hope you will be able to continue in some form or other".

Well, how could I not continue and thank you all so much for your support and enabling me to help keep us connected as a community from the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. Doing this has, for me, underlined the value and need for community and that's why I'm broadening the approach. Let's see what happens and I'll carry on keeping you connected with the next issue!

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