



Issue 19, 25 October 2020

Dear Reader, welcome to issue 19 and a revised format which will broadly cover aspects of life in Mottingham under broader headings such as, community, environment, church life, local activity and news in general, all interspersed with photos, humour and comment. We'll see how it goes, but in the meantime please send me your views, ideas and contributions.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN SPACES

The Tarn, our local nature reserve has always been a popular attraction for wildfowl and songbirds, including the ubiquitous parakeets. The trees are on the turn, but the full effect of Autumn is yet to appear, as you can see from the photos of the swamp cypress taken this week and in late November last year.



Meanwhile, *Alison* reports "The Tarn is attracting an increasing number of regular visitors, many of whom discovered or re-discovered its



charms on walks there during lockdown. The Friends' Group volunteers are delighted that a few now join them on Thursday mornings from 10:30am onwards, to help with gardening and general maintenance work. The cyclamen at the main entrance and dotted around in clumps are an uplifting sight. The Council have recently replaced the booms across the inlet channel by the Butterfly Garden, so hopefully incoming pollutants will be trapped and prevented from contaminating the lake.



The outflow from the lake runs underground, surfacing on the west side of the A20 by King John's Walk.

The Little Quaggy runs through the fields alongside the road, joins the Quaggy and goes under the A20 on its way to Sutcliffe Park. Recent heavy rainfall means the river fuller than usual, although it hasn't covered the splendid artistic display on the brick wall that helps to contain it!



Fairy Hill Friends' Group chairman, Rob Laffar, caught up with me in the Tarn the other day. Rob is now signed up to Keep Connected and will keep us up to date with Fairy Hill activities. In the meantime, Rob says taking local, short walks during the current restrictions is good for for mental and physical health. He suggests walking from the War Memorial along the length of Court Road, armed with appropriate information, as there are many buildings of historical interest - St Andrew's Church being one of them!



(Marvel's Lane Woods - see next item)

Foxes Fields was on my route home from the Links Surgery recently. A quick foray into the woods for an almost autumnal photo (see foot of page 1) passing the now closed Scout hut, led me to this view over Foxes Fields. In nearby Beaconsfield Road these 'Chinese Lanterns' (Physalis) were spotted in *Edith Still's* front garden.



We are fortunate to have these green spaces on our doorstep, I thought. Approaching rain clouds urged me home, pausing only to 'snap' these trees looking towards the 'village'. Do let me have your ideas and photos on any other areas you feel should be featured in this section.



C HURCH COMMUNITY MATTERS **C** TIM

- Churches Together In Mottingham members St Andrew with St Alban, Mottingham Methodist church, Our Lady Help of Christians and St Edward's collaborate on a number of shared activities. One of these, the annual Act of Remembrance at Mottingham War Memorial, will sadly not take place this year, due to restrictions imposed to help control the spread of Covid-19. Instead, each church will arrange its own service. Please contact your church and/or regularly check websites and social media for details.

St Andrew with St Alban will mark this year's St Andrew's Day, 30 November, with a specially produced virtual service which will be available online and accessible on the parish website. Visit the St Andrew's Day page here - <https://www.standrewandstalban.org.uk/st-andrews-day>. Details on how to view the virtual service will be made known nearer the time. Meanwhile, Tessa Andrew and I are eagerly waiting for children's artwork featuring St Andrew.

Stan Drew has been a member of St Andrew's for many years, but rarely attends these days. As a keen supporter of the community, Stan offered to contribute his amusing (hopefully) thoughts to Keep Connected!, starting with this issue! "I hear someone has booked the church hall for an introduction to Pilates. Frankly, I don't think there will be much interest in learning about an ancient Roman governor of Judea and his wife." (Thanks Stan; your appearance in issue 20 is in the hands of our readers - Ed!)

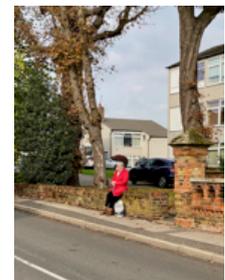


Don Wharton - Following the report of Don's death in issue 18 the eulogy given at his funeral is now available on the parish website here - <https://www.standrewandstalban.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdfs/Don%20Wharton%20Eulogy.pdf>

Revd Dave Warren - Beryl has heard that Revd Dave has been in hospital but hopes to be going home this weekend. We wish Dave a speedy recovery and send love and best wishes from all at St Andrew with St Alban to both him and Peggy.

Mary Houlston says she now has a new email address (marydhoulston@icloud.com) and to verify that it works she sent me details of the charity knitting initiative that she, Mary Kemp and other St Andrew's ladies have been involved in for several years. Sadly, Mary Kemp now has dementia so can no longer participate or send the hats and scarves to a refuge in Whitechapel. So Mary H contacted Revd Catherine, vicar of St Edward's and she agreed that a member of her congregation, who works for St Mungo's, will take the items there for the homeless. Please call Mary H on 020 8325 2685 or email her for further information. Mary thanks all who have helped in the past and welcomes new participants, for whom she has copies of the patterns!

I took this photo of Mary last week and spent an hour chatting in her front garden before continuing on my walk to check the status of the Quaggy!



Ray Andrew sent me the latest 'Silver Voices' update on the over 75s TV licence strike, which received a boost on Radio 4's Today programme broadcast on 29 October 2020. Open this link to listen to the item which is 1 hour 19 minutes in - <https://silvervoices.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c798dc4bd60c3fbc108077eb6&id=9e4feb89ed&e=e713caacca>.

Ray's travel thoughts follow:

"I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone; you have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognises you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I've made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work. I live close so it's a short drive.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump and I'm not too good at physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That's a sad place to go so I try not to visit it too often.

I've been in Flexible. but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable and I go there more often as I grow older.

A favourite place to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart. At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

Sometimes I think I'm in Vincible, but life shows me I'm not. People keep telling me I'm in Denial, but I'm positive I've never been there before! So far, I haven't been in Continent, but my travel agent says I'll be going soon..." (Thank Ray, glad you're not in Discreet! - Ed)



Young Tate Mottingham Michaelmas Exhibition is currently on display on the noticeboard in front of St Andrews. Do take time to admire the gifted young artists work and also to see Samuel's pencil drawing which, in this photo, is unfortunately obscured by reflections

S **t Edward's Foodbank** remains busy as local 'lockdown' restrictions have increased. A reminder that the foodbank's new phone number is (07395 565984) and its new opening hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9:30am-1pm and Wednesday from 6-7 pm. Please do continue to contribute all you can to this worthy initiative.

C **hurch Times Snippets** - the 16 October issue has several items of topical interest which are well worth reading if you can get hold of copy*. **'Virus Challenges - new forms of ministry are here to stay'** by Revd Dr Michael Volland, Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge is thought provoking. In closing his article he says, *"There is an opportunity for the Church to receive the gift of fresh energy for a distinctively Christian way of being in the world: refusing fear of the future and of other people, offering financial and human resource to support those in need, and in telling an alternative story of hope, because we trust that God is with us."*

Challenges of virus also present opportunities



New forms of ministry and mission are here to stay, says Michael Volland, and asks how they might bear fruit

'Jesus's revolutionary sayings' by Amy Jill Levine looks at the parables with fresh eyes and poses new questions - *"The more I look at the parables, the better I am able to ask the right questions and to recognise the ambiguities of life."*

'Life force', a regular diary article by Revd Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James, Piccadilly highlights the challenges facing this year's Royal Academy Summer (now Winter) Exhibition (the RA is opposite St James) to draw on her experiences of ministering to her parish as the *'bleak pandemic midwinter'* approaches.

This is turning from a sprint to a marathon



So how do people cope? Jason Welby and Stephen Cottrell write that resilience can be found through faith and a bit of self-care

The latest issue (23 October) features Archbishops Welby and Cottrell in a joint article **'This is turning from a sprint to a marathon'** saying that resilience can be found through faith and a bit of self-care.

* Geoff Howard has kindly offered to lend you his copy if you do not have your own or are unable to locate another source.

MOTTINGHAM MATTERS

Mottingham Residents Association has just distributed its latest Newsletter - Autumn 2020



Mottingham Residents Association



Special Covid-ition, which includes reports on the *Porcupine* and *Dorset Road Infant School*. Visit the MRA website for the latest information, including the news that the latest planning application to demolish the *Porcupine* and build a local *Lidl* store was rejected by Bromley Council at the 20 October Development Control Committee meeting.



“Dorset Road Infant School has now been closed permanently by the Spring Partnership Trust resulting in the loss of a much loved and excellent school.” My roving reporter took this photo through the railings the other day and has written this -



Walking along Portland Road used to be a pleasure when one could hear and see the Dorset Road Infant School pupils out at play.

Now, however, the derelict, weed-filled playground provokes feelings of sadness and nostalgia.

There are many Mottingham residents who have happy memories of beginning their school days in that cosy, safe environment. Wearing the distinctive green uniform, with yellow gingham summer dresses for the girls, and sporting the daisy badge on blazers, and more recently sweat-shirts, pupils felt part of the village community. Strong links were fostered with the library and walks were arranged to local parks like the Tarn and Foxes Fields. Dancing round the Maypole and the Christmas Nativity tableau were once highlights of the school year! How many memories do you have to share?

Some recent street views and in case you don't recognise them, from L > R, Mottingham Lane 1 Eltham College end - 2 Winn Road end. 3 Mottingham Rd. 4 Court Road. 5 Dorset Rd.



Not featured? Send me your photos or let me know and I'll take some or arrange for some to be taken!

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPIES - the current Covid-19 restrictions have prevented the usual distribution of poppies this year; the absence of poppy sellers on our streets is so noticeable! However, organisers, the Royal British Legion, have made it possible to donate on its website and receive printable poppy posters. As well as this one, there is a version for children to colour in. Visit <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal>. Let me know if you do not have access to the internet.



IN CLOSING, I hope you have found that this issue has gone a little way towards emulating the BBC's stated mission (Lord Reith) i.e. to inform, educate and entertain. Whether or not you agree, I would welcome comments and suggestions from you, dear reader. As I implied at the beginning of this issue, this is bit of an experiment and as we all know, there is always room for fresh thinking and improvement. So, please do help me to make this space something that you, the local community, value and also helps to contribute to this worthy mission.

The next issue will commemorate Remembrance Day and will be published on Friday 6 November.

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