

Resurrection?

Is it purely coincidental that we should be looking forward to the coming back to life of our Club, after this period of dormancy, at Easter?

Indeed, the Easter message of resurgence is an appropriate one to take on board as the Boris Road Map unfolds and although Step 2 is still a couple of weeks away plans need to be made now if we are to hit the ground running in July following the end of most of the Lock-down restrictions in June.

Life as we knew it will probably never be the same but it should be at least recognisable if all our favourite activities pick up where they left off last year.

Of course, this all depends on Boris, Covid 19 and the variants, Covid that is not Boris.

EDITOR



Happy Easter!

Chairman's Message



Dunkenhaigh Hotel

Before the first Lockdown we went on a short break visiting Matlock Derbyshire where Pat was born, and stayed at the Dunkenhaigh Hotel set inside the grounds of a 700 year old Country Manor House. Our room was in a courtyard beside the main entrance and this can be seen in the photograph taken on our way to supper on our first night.

Our tour would take in visits to some of the Old Mills such as Oswaldtwistle and Cromford Mill where Sir Richard Arkwright built his first mill (nothing to do with Open All Hours).



Cromford Mill

Some of the mills still contain examples of the weaving machines that helped the area become one of the largest producers of textiles. Apparently young Children were used to help clear the floors beneath the machines very dangerous, dirty and deafening work, judging by the noise we heard when

one of the machines was started up. It really made you realise how tough conditions were back then. We also visited Bolton where they have a statue of Fred Dibnah who you may remember spent a lot of time on TV demolishing very large chimney stacks.



Fred Dibnah

By way of contrast we took a short peaceful ride on a steam train through Irwell Vale. We then visited the Stoke Bruene Canal Museum and took a relaxing trip on one of the canal boats along the Grand Union Canal to the Blisworth Tunnel where in days gone by the boaters would leg their boats by laying on top of the boat and using their feet to push the boat through the tunnel.



West Country Class locomotive: City of Wells



Blisworth Tunnel

Oswaldtwistle Mill has been transformed into a shopping centre with over 100 retailers under one roof, with pieces of the Weaving Machinery used as reminders of its Original History.

DAVID DICKINSON



How about a Quiz?

"More questions for you to chew"

General knowledge

- 1) What is the capitol of Chile?
- 2) How many Westminster MPs are there?
- 3) What is the most famous Mexican beer?
- 4) What meat is in a Glamorgan Sausage?
- 5) Which is furthest east, Edinburgh or Carlisle?
- 6) Which singer has had the most UK No 1s?
- 7) What is the longest rail tunnel?
- 8) Who was the youngest British Prime Minister?
- 9) What did the 1796 vaccine guard against?
- 10) What is the smallest country in the world?
- 11) What artist made No 1 with her own self written song?
- 12) What is the highest mountain in Britain?
- 13) What was the subject of the first UK referendum?
- 14) Which Beatles song was banned from the BBC?
- 15) Which vowel isn't the first letter of a US state?

Arranged by the Blackwater Bloggers

"Last month's Questions with answers, how did you do?"

Accumulative Nouns Animals

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1) Murmuration | f) Starlings |
| 2) Parliament | a) Rooks |
| 3) Pride | l) Lions |
| 4) Bevy | m) Quails |
| 5) Shiver | j) Sharks |
| 6) Pod | c) Sea-lions |
| 7) Sloth | n) Bears |
| 8) Charm | e) Goldfinches |

Accumulative Nouns Animals

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 9) Prickle | o) Porcupines |
| 10) Murder | d) Crows |
| 11) Array | g) Hedgehogs |
| 12) Crash | k) Rhinos |
| 13) Stand | h) Flamingos |
| 14) Drey | b) Squirrels |
| 15) Unkindness | i) Ravens |

Arranged by the Blackwater Bloggers.
Reference Source - Collins Dictionary

Hitting the Ground Running!

Of course, this all depends on Boris, Covid 19 and the variants

Wednesday 2nd June — u3a Day

To celebrate the first ever **national u3a day** and to have an opportunity to meet up with our friends prior to the end of lockdown, it is proposed that we Promenade in the vicinity of Shepherds Meadows and/or Yateley Green between 10:00 –12:00 hrs, social distancing if necessary. No set agenda just park where you can and mosey around— who knows who you may meet.

Thursday 15th July — Summer Party

If the local authority gives its blessing we propose to hold the Annual Summer Party on Hawley Green again. Social distancing in small groups to accommodate any regulations that may still be in force. Most likely you will have to eat your own food and contact sports are a definite no-no!

Thursday 5th August — AGM by Zoom

Following the success of last year's AGM on Zoom we shall be repeating the exercise this year. For complete transparency the Report and Accounts will be published in the July edition of the newsletter.

Thursday 19th August — Return to the Memorial Hall

At long last, with fingers duly crossed, we can announce the resumption of normal services with our first meeting back in the Memorial Hall.

We have a speaker booked—who will be telling us about the great Cunard Shipping Line. More details as they become available.



Eve's Side of the Story

A contribution by Barbara Brooks

After three weeks in the Garden of Eden, God came to visit Eve. 'So, how is everything going?' inquired God.

'It is all so beautiful, God,' she replied. 'The sunrises and sunsets are breath-taking, the smells, the sights, everything is wonderful, but I have just one problem.'

It's these breasts you have given me. The middle one pushes the other two out and I am constantly knocking them with my arms, catching them on branches and snagging them on bushes. They're a real pain.'

And Eve went on to tell God that since many other parts of her body came in pairs, such as her limbs, eyes, ears, etc. She felt that having only two breasts might leave her body more 'symmetrically balanced'.

'That's a fair point,' replied God, 'But it was my first shot at this, you know. I gave the animals six breasts, so I figured that you needed only half of those, but I see that you are right. I will fix it up right away.'

And God reached down, removed the middle breast and tossed it into the bushes

Three weeks passed and God once again visited Eve in the Garden of Eden.

'Well, Eve, how is my favourite creation?'

'Just fantastic,' she replied, 'But for one oversight. You see, all the animals are paired off. The ewe has a ram and the cow has her bull. All the animals have a mate except me. I feel so alone.'

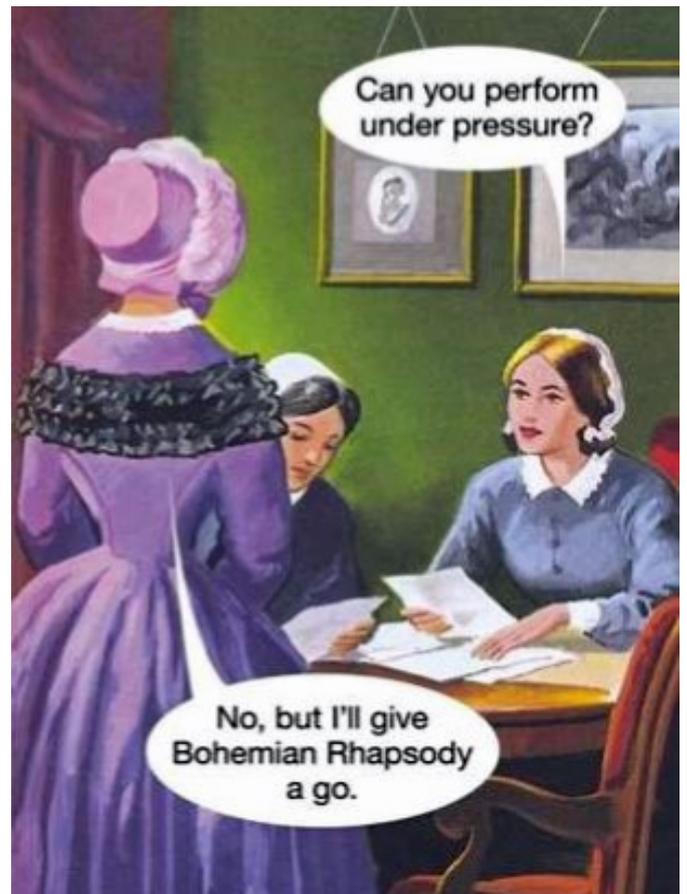
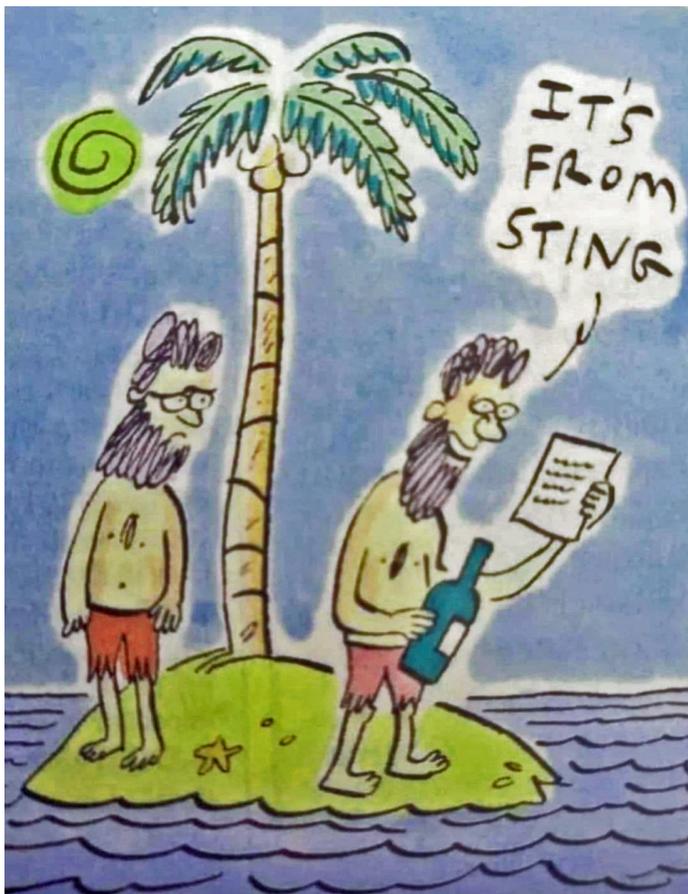
God thought for a moment and said, 'You know, Eve, you are right. How could I have overlooked this? You do need a mate and I will immediately create a man from a part of you. Let's see....where did I put that useless Tit?'

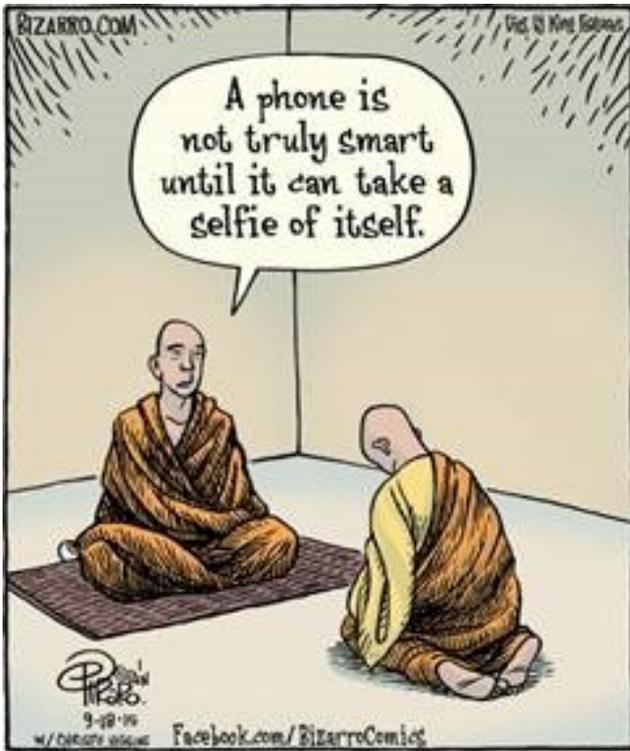


Diane and Ken entertain



"I'll give you something for gas."





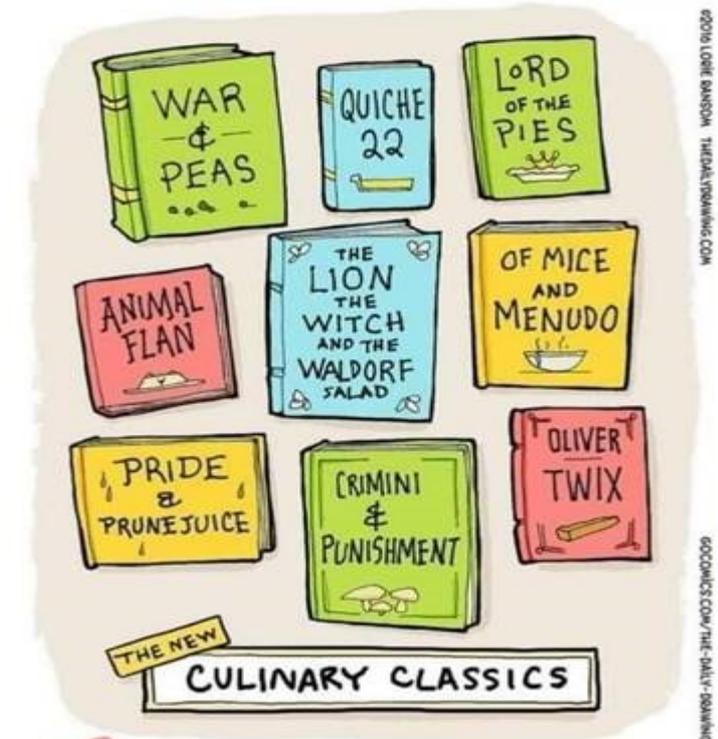
"What are you hiding behind your back?"

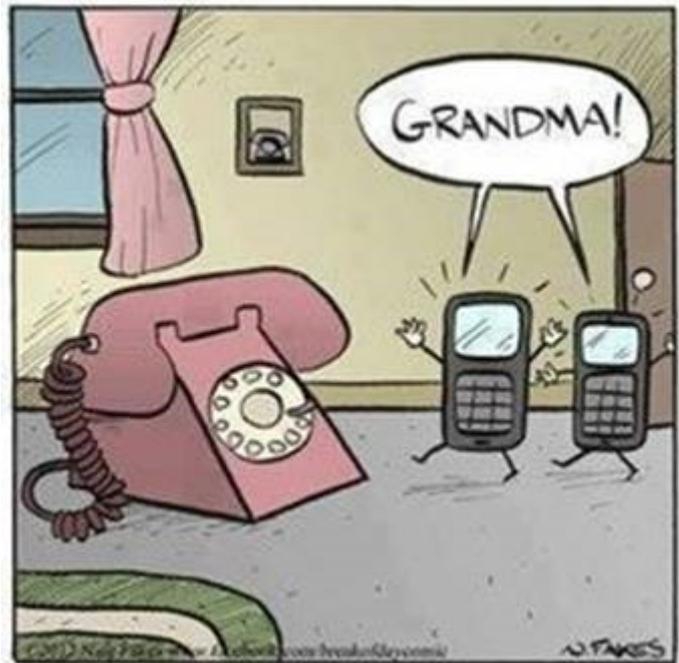


I found £20 in a parking lot and thought to myself, What Would Jesus Do? So, I turned it into wine.



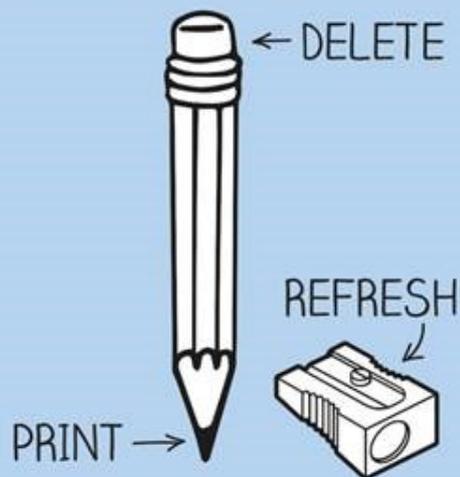
Friends are Forever





I asked my daughter to give me the phone book. She laughed at me, called me a dinosaur and lent me her iPhone. So the spider is dead, the iPhone is broken and my daughter is furious!

WHEN I WAS A KID, THIS WAS MY COMPUTER:



DAN BACKLAND FOR GRUMPY OLD GITS | @LITTLE CHURCH HOUSE LTD MMXX

My wife didn't order anything from Amazon yesterday so the UPS guy knocked on our door to see if we're okay.



"Oh no! I've broken my nail."

Down to the woods today

On holiday in Canada we stayed at the Fairmont Château Hotel Lake Louise [Alberta]. After a day or so finding our way around the Lake, one morning after breakfast we decided to walk to Lake Louise Village about 2½ miles down the mountain. After a couple of false starts we found the trail. We had been walking for 15 minutes when we found ourselves in a “bear warning area”. We whistled and made lots of noise but unlike previous days we were completely on our own – very very scary! Eventually we made it down to the village then decided to do some shopping. In the shop there was a recent picture of bears on the premises.



The following Notice featured prominently:

In light of the rising frequency of human/grizzly bear conflicts, the Alberta Fish & Wildlife Office is advising hikers, hunters, and fishermen to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the field.

We advise that outdoorsmen wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle the bears that aren't expecting them. We also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear.

It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity. Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear poop: Black bear poop is smaller and contains a lot of berry seeds and squirrel fur; Grizzly bear poop has little bells in it and smells like pepper spray.

P.R.

A view of the hotel from Fairview Lookout aptly named and pretty breath-taking firstly for the wonderful vista and secondly for the steep hike to get up there.



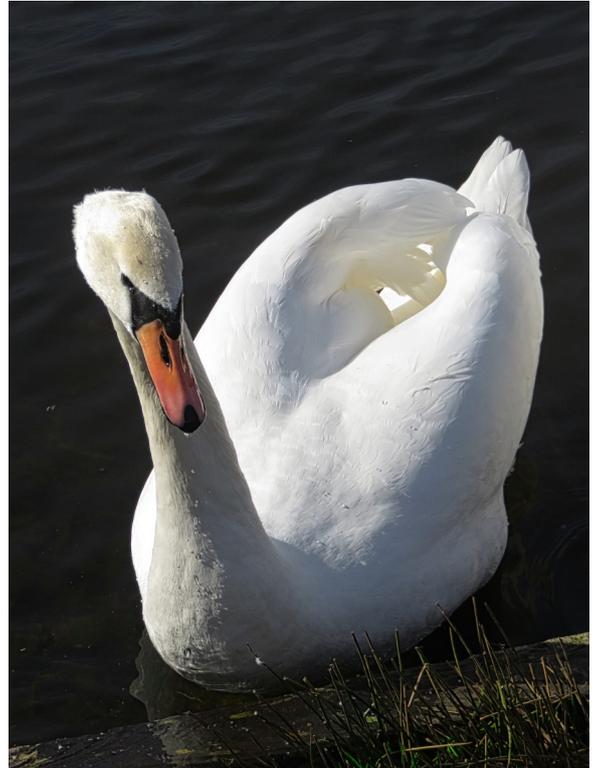
Just with a Camera

The pond on Yateley Green is an attraction that many of our members enjoy. Providing a continuing reminder of the changing seasons we can at last welcome the promise of Spring.

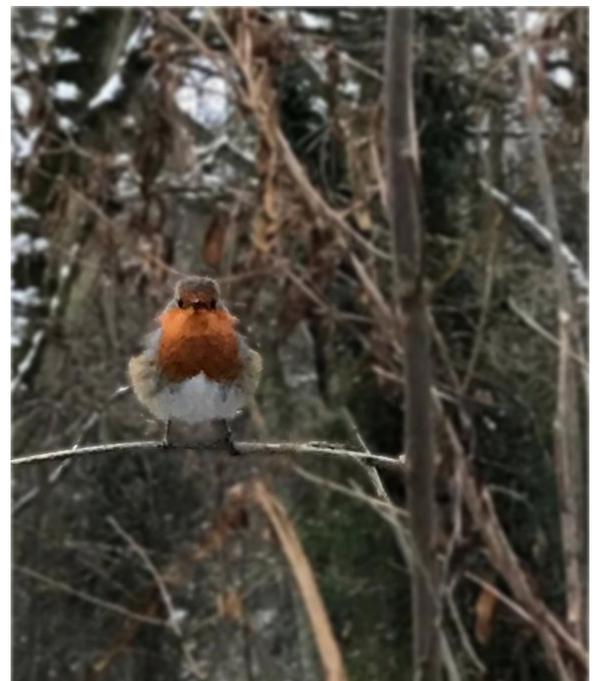
Swans provide a picture for Graham Sargent, a member of our Photographic Group who writes:

“One of the few photos I have taken this past year. I caught this image passing Yateley Green Pond. Lin and I noticed a pair of swans on the pond for the first time in a few years. I could not get them to pose to well together so concentrated on one. There was a distinct grey tinge to their plumage, so I guess they are not very old? Perhaps returning swanlings?”

Just a couple of further images I managed to take whilst doing our regular circuit. Slightly out of focus but you have to be quick or else or the moment is gone.”



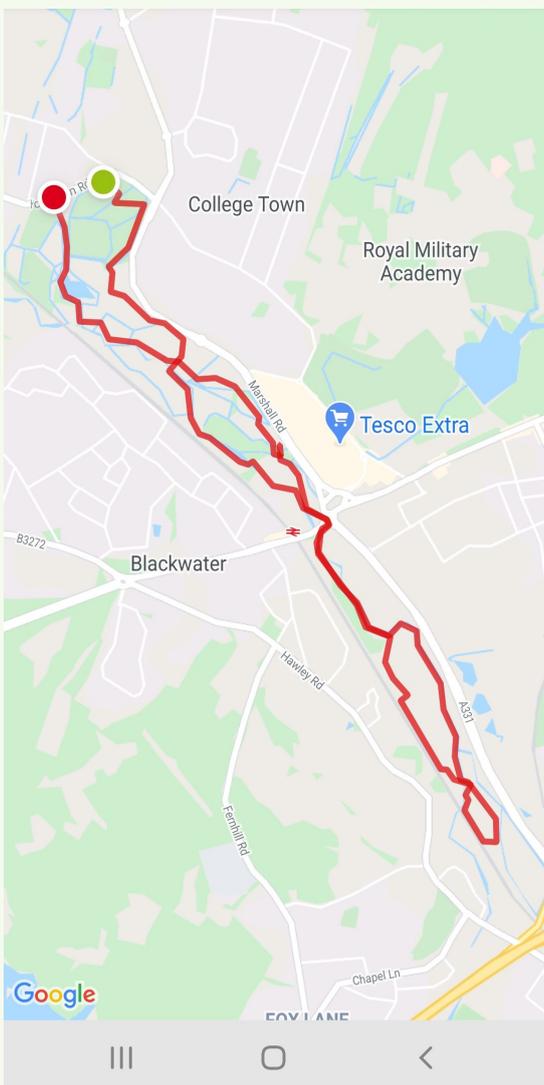
And then there were five!



... plus an inquisitive Robin

Walking for Fools

With the relaxation of some lockdown rules on 29th March it seemed somehow appropriate that the first Thursday in April was indeed April Fools' Day. The Walking Group don't mind being thought foolish so off we went. Still staying local, we met at Sandhurst Memorial Park and walked south along the Blackwater Valley passing such local wonders as the



Meadows Roundabout, Cove Brook and its confluence with the Blackwater.

We returned by a slightly different route and almost lost Jean in the mud but it was lovely to see other people and get some fresh air in the process.

Romy's Walking Too Group are planning to meet at 10:00 at the Hawley Memorial Hall on 15th April for a stroll on Hawley Common with maybe coffee afterwards at the Coffee Shop on the Green.

If we are more than six we'll split into groups. Please join if you fancy a laugh in the fresh air.

MIN



Alleged Interesting Facts

Not a single engineer made it off the Titanic. They all stayed and kept the power on so others could escape.

When child actor Jackie Coogan turned 18 he found all his money (\$68 million) had been spent by his mother, who argued “no promises were ever made to give Jackie anything”. Every dollar a kid earns before he is 21 belongs to his parents!” Coogan’s Bill was then passed to protect child actors.

In 1999 an Australian, Bill Morgan was declared dead for 14 minutes, before he was revived and then lived on unscathed. To celebrate his survival he bought a scratch card and won a \$27k car. The news team asked him to re-enact the scratch card moment so he bought another and won a \$250k jackpot with it.

During the siege of Stalingrad in WW2, 9 Soviet scientists died of starvation whilst protecting the world’s largest seed bank, refusing to eat what they saw as their county’s future.

When 3 people tried to sell Coca Cola’s secret formula to Pepsi, Pepsi informed the management at Coca Cola HQ and called the FBI.

Boxer Sugar Ray Robinson backed out of a fight because he had a dream that he was going to kill his opponent in the ring. After a priest and minister convinced him to fight, Robinson went into the ring and killed his opponent, Jimmy Doyle.

After needing 13 litres of blood for surgery at the age of 13, James Harrison pledged to donate blood once he turned 18. It was discovered that his blood contained a rare antigen which cured Rhesus disease. He has donated blood over a record 1,000 times and saved 2 million lives.

If officials awarded Lance Armstrong’s 2005 Tour de France title to the next fastest finisher who has never been linked to doping, they would have to give it to the 23rd placed competitor.

Martin B.

Concerning Yateley's Halls

Yateley Town Council Office, Mar, 18

Hi All,

We hope you are all keeping well and that those of you who have had the vaccinations haven't had any adverse reactions. I have been looking through the governments 'Roadmap out of lockdown' and thought I would send a quick update.

It looks like we should be able to open our community centers after **12th April, but only to specific groups, for support or organized children activities.**

For all other users, including indoor sports and fitness classes, we hope to re open after the 17th May. What we don't know at the moment is what the guidelines will be for numbers of people allowed to meet. At the moment it looks like the rule of 6 may apply to anyone meeting indoors, unless its for a support group where the maximum is 15 people, or the limit for the venue, though this may be different for businesses and organised activities.

We hope to be able to use the previous social distancing number for the halls – of 10 for Monteagle, 14 for the Darby Green Centre and 12 for the Gallery Room, but are waiting for further information.

It would be really helpful if you could let us know if you are planning on returning to our halls, and the dates that you are hoping to return. Most of you had previously sent in risk assessments for your use of the hall at the end of last year, but these may need to be updated with the current date, depending on any changes in guidelines when they are issued.

Monteagle hirers may be aware that the Monteagle Centre has been used as a space for the vaccination support volunteers to have a cuppa and leave coats etc. We are hoping that we can continue to offer this support, working around our returning hirers. Where possible, we would like to be able to offer access to the toilets even if we are unable to offer access to the main hall and kitchen. If you could let us know if you are **not happy** for this to happen, if required, during your booking period, we can let the volunteer coordinators know. If you prefer not to have anyone other than your group accessing the space, that will be fine and we will work around it.

Can I also just remind you that our charges are reviewed each year, and that there will be a slight increase in our hire charges with effect from the first of April. The regular hire rate will increase to £14.10 per hour.

Thank you for reading this far.

We will send another update as and when we have more information about returning to using the halls.

Kind regards

Maureen Daws,
Admin and Finance Officer
Yateley Town Council

More from Barbara and Martin

Carrot Cake

Soon our friends we will be allowed to see.
Outdoors only - even that'll feel free
Perhaps at last we can settle down
To chat, react and go to town
About what we've done in this rotten past year
that was for us all, one of danger and fear.
The sun as promised will come out quite soon
And lift us all from the clouds of doom.
To share some tea, wine or a beer
To sit down and laugh without any fear
A cucumber sandwich shared on bread or on Bisk
Is one of the things that we have just missed!
Now the carrot cake is very nice
Would you like to have a slice?

Ends of Coffee?

The NHS did ring me just last week
To arrange a procedure I did not seek
I was booked in to check that last year's cure
Had worked and was good, fixed and secure.

So I told myself that I must endure
Another necessary 'Indiscrete Tour'
Indignity and pain was to be my lot
Still, I turned up on time, in fact on the dot.

'Endoscopy Department' is a place that I fear
Where surgeons do poke and then go on to peer
"It's for your own good" they say every time
I'm not sure of that, as the wall I do climb.
This time anaesthetic was given in fact

Before they performed their ungodly act
My fears were allayed, this was much better
Thanks to the Anaesthetist, now I'm their
debtor.

All I await is my results to come through.
Thank goodness the team's there, for me and
for you
With their weapons of torture and drugs to
placate
Hospital staff? That's a crew that I rate!

"Our endoscope is broken but luckily the nurse
says we can use her mobile phone!"