



## Seniors Section Newsletter Lockdown 6, May 2020



### Editorial

Not often that an editorial is reflective but commemorations of VE Day made salutary watching and as difficult as the current situation feels, is it really so bad? Yes, we can't play golf, we can't meet up in the 19<sup>th</sup> and exchange news and banter, neither can we go up to the pub for a pint, nor enjoy the luxury of a meal out. Family are voices on the phone and grandkids are objects on Facetime. No sport to watch, to debate and argue over and...and ...and..... Put it all together we might just feel sorry for ourselves but in comparison to 75 years ago, is really that bad?

No doubt some members of the section can testify: -

Kids had been evacuated and not seen in a couple of years, war veterans were returning in hundreds of thousands with physical and mental scars, many did not return at all, rationing was extreme, the country was in ruins, poverty prevailed and jobs at a premium. We feel its tough not to visit a loved one in hospital, it is of course, but Ed's own father returned from service to discover his mother had passed away some 14 months earlier.

The list could be lengthy, the comparisons many, the media are hell bent on promoting failure, if they can't find it, they invent it, portraying the worst and ignoring the best. Promote gloom and ignore optimism.

Thankfully, in reality we know it is better than that. Compared to 75 years ago we can hardly complain. Yes, life will be different for a while, but we can crack an egg, enjoy a glass at wine o'clock, hit a golf ball or two all be it on our own ... the list could fill the entire copy.

Reflect for a moment, it might feel grim some days, others have for sure known worse. There is no doubt it will get better..... many did recognise the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and one of our own in particular. Very good to see and pleased to share.



Who is it?

Has he anything on under the raincoat???

"Fag in hand"

Just a word of advice, on the value of smoking. President Trump believes nicotine in cigarettes has anti-viral properties but there is a very slight element of doubt on some of his views on control of a virus capable of causing a global pandemic. Beware, but have got a bottle of Dettol and couple of hypodermics in reserve just in case.

### The lockdown blogger.

An O2 update, any inference that O2 would not respond to a letter claiming gross overcharge, totally wrong. Opposite pole to JL. A phone call no less, on a Bank Holiday no less. *Your letter sir, thank you for bringing the matter to our attention. You "bolt-ons" had not been carried forward and for that I apologise the call charge has been refunded and by way of an apology I will also credit one month.* Are you listening JL, probably not? Evidently, Premium rate calls are still not permitted, will still have to behave myself.



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Found a full tin of Hammerite paint, wow salvation. Sunny days and laughter in a tin, doesn't get better in lockdown. Started with a couple of garden objects that needed a spruce up, (will spare the reader the detail) but beware "it" rapidly became addictive. The fumes are something to behold, should it be on the market but then kids have moved on to laughing gas and other indescribable items!! Anyway, found a manhole cover, paint over the rust it says! Then a wrought iron gate and then the ultimate, one of those whirly-gig things to dry washing on! Still got a drop in the tin, reluctant to use, saving for those dark drab days, when might have to resort to a surreptitious trip to the garage for a sniff (or is a snort??)

### Crime never pays.

After the Newsletter described a cost effective way to make a stimpmeter by using a piece of guttering and the inference that material could be available from the neighbours garden, that was for illustrative purposes only and not advice. A new section is now missing as the crime scene picture reveals.

*Yes, for the more observant that is mould on the net curtain*  
*Comforting to know any self- respecting virus would not live within the 25 metre exclusion zone.*



### Members activities.

Allotment care!



Received this, purporting to be the spoils of hours of lockdown work. Are you sure Trev? saw a very similar picture on the back page of "Home and Garden". Is that a wine o'clock table behind the tree? Is the second chair for a member of your household, a chair for a fellow allotment holder even socially distanced is not allowed? Who knows what goes on behind allotment doors? So, here's your chance, knowing there are several allotment carers out there, not least our Treasurer who even has use of a ride on mower, the N/L would be happy to receive and publish pictures and declare "Best in class".



Only one entry for the "Who is the Statesman-like figure" on Graham H's fairway.

Reg B, hope you are reading, could be a moment of fame and then discovered you have a brother.

Next Year's Captain put in a claim.

Now that is either one very small brother or one very large Heron







## Seniors Section Newsletter



The Newsletter appreciates all contributions and will publish matters of interest as factually as possible, other than the occasional distortion of the truth. (but absolutely no malice), thank you for your sending's.

The letter to the editor from C.F. of Deeping is published as received and makes good reading for the folically challenged.

*Dear Ed*

*As usual many congratulations on the latest newsletter with its interesting insights into the lives of those who clearly have not got a lot to do! I have been interested to read some of the responses which have made reference to the issue of grooming. This is surely something that will become increasingly more vexatious for most of us, unless of course you had the foresight to ensure you got yourself isolated with a hairdresser. I have thought about growing a moustache. Although I do in fact have sufficient blades and shaving cream to get me through the current crisis there is something rather symbolic about the moustache. From Robinson Crusoe right through to I'm a Celebrity it has almost become de rigueur to emerge from a lengthy period away from society with one to complement a rather unkempt look.*

*I did once grow a tache. I think it was during one of my trips on business to Nigeria in the seventies when I had actually forgotten to pack my razor. When I returned with this fine specimen adorning my face my wife said I had the look of John Newcombe. (I appreciate that this is a reference which may be beyond the likes of Lockwood, Manning, Burch and the younger members of the section who would barely be approaching puberty, not a picture I suggest you keep in your mind for too long, at the time he was in his prime. This was the era when the Aussies dominated the game. He won three Wimbledon singles titles and also remarkably six men's doubles titles. Not a feat likely to be repeated in the modern game!) He was known for his good looks and charm and for playing his tennis with a great deal of humour. He was also the same age and height as me and apart from the fact that I was rubbish at tennis, arguably I reckon that's a pretty fair comparison! Mind you I did wonder whether my wife was just pleased to see me on my return or whether she was living out some wild fantasy. The occasional cry of "new balls please" in a very polite accent at critical moments could have been a bit of a giveaway.*

*Despite those occasional benefits the moustache had to go, largely on the grounds that I never really managed it very well. Eating a favourite Italian meal, particularly one involving tomatoes (remember when you used to be able to get tins of those!) could be a real disaster. My face would assume the appearance of a small child learning to use cutlery for the first time with a post prandial shower being almost essential. I do believe that those who are designed to have moustaches have also been blessed with an innate skill to discretely and comfortably deal with them and I instance our own dear Reg. as an example of that. The final straw for me was a very heavy head cold but the less said about that the better!*

*Having established that a moustache is a definite no no, I am still left with a grooming issue. When I next write I will try and cover the subject of how to achieve that perfect look using the "middle of Lidl" Men's Personal Grooming Kit. This will be a rare example of someone actually using one of those impulse "that'll come in handy someday, it's in a lovely box and it's only £15.99" buys!*

*Yours in locked down (or is it up?).*

*Dishevelled of Deeping.*



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Finally, the Newsletter is pleased to share a contribution from your revered Vice.

Not sure what it says of the VC or his communication skills but certainly first prize for a load of hieroglyphics. Absolutely no answer sheet provided or prize that the N/L is aware of.

