

BROMLEY & SHEPPARD'S COLLEGES



Herald

November 2024



Welcome

Dear Collegians and Friends,

With the emergence of so many wonderful varieties of fungi, we really know this is autumn. The picture of fungi on the front cover was taken by Paula Dudley. There are others within.



Collegians gathered together for the streaming of Joyce Illson's funeral this month, and we welcomed John to an extra coffee morning after our Eucharist on Oct 24th. One of the evocative photos Paul Allton showed us at the Remembering Service was of socially distanced Collegians waving farewell to John and Joyce, when they moved away during lockdown.



If you can aid the Sugar Cube Fairy with sugar tongs for the Common Room, Janet Heatley will be delighted!

The next Herald will be for December/January and the deadline is Saturday November 30th. Christmas and New Year pieces will be particularly welcome. Please send contributions to me, preferably by email to:

therevvedbee@hotmail.co.uk Thank you to Jo for

printing and distributing them, to Rob for doing the housework so I can get on with this, and to all our contributors!

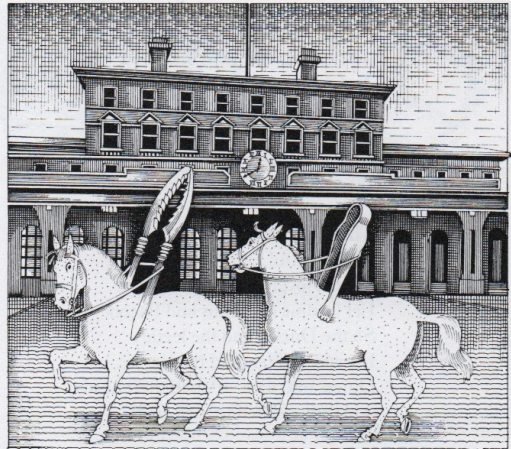
Brandy Pearson

The Sugar Cube Fairy

When I moved here 17 years ago I was very impressed to discover sugar cubes and sugar tongs in the Common Room. Over the years standards slipped and the tongs disappeared. I mentioned this recently in the kitchen and on Sunday 20th October the Sugar Cube Fairy left a pair of tongs on my seat in Chapel. These can now be used in the Common Room and I am delighted. Many thanks to the Fairy.

Janet Heatley.

I tried to find a suitable picture – but all I could find were illustrations to an Edward Lear poem called the Nutcracker and the Sugar Tongs.



*"So down the long staircase they hopped in a minute,
The Sugar-tongs snapped, and the Crackers said 'crack!'
The stable was open, the horses were in it;
Each took out a pony, and jumped on his back."*

Edward Lear

Fungi

Here are a selection of photos of some of the many fungi now abundant after the wet weather.

(Autumn isn't all about dying back, other organisms thrive!)





Paula Dudley

Micro-Peace

A few months ago, I watched an interview with a Christian Druid, Roma Johnson, about living in times where there is so much news of violence and warfare. It can fill people with depression and anxiety. And yet, we want to engage with what is going on in the world.

Roma shared what she called “Micro-Peace”. Three ways of relating to our world to encourage us:

1. A Peace Diet

Spend the same amount of time praying, as you spent watching or listening to the news. Would this increase the time you pray, or reduce the time you spend engaging with the news – including news on the Internet?

2. Observe and Capture

Find examples of dissension giving way to agreement, whether in your own community, this country or across the world. Think of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, and Restorative Justice in the UK, or examples from your own life.

3. Visualisation

Spend time imagining communities of peace, or recalling such communities - rather than worrying and visualising war and oppression.

Brandy Pearson

Remembering Service

“Remembering” is about recalling something or somebody that in some way has shaped your life – maybe quite low key, or maybe life changing, perhaps a long time ago or perhaps more recently.

The Remembering Service on Tuesday October 22nd gave us all the opportunity to remember and to light a candle and briefly dwell on the memory we brought.

There was music from Michael on the organ and Roy on the harp. Bruce contributed a beautiful poem and painting, reproduced on the next page.

There was a chance to reflect on our experiences of Lockdown, including some evocative photographs, including Mary Kemp, banging her saucepan for the NHS one Thursday evening.



The tide

(‘...I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life...’ Deuteronomy 30.19)

Sea approaches bringing the gift of experience.

Sea whispers ‘providence’ with each rise and fall.

Sea insistent presents this gift, returning it to our feet.

Sea persuades: consider, think, feel; choose.

Sea messenger brings God’s blessing or curse; the moment is ours.

Sea, urgent in the moment, asks, have we made it blessing or curse?

Sea speaks kindly of loss in choosing blessing or curse;

Loss, the rounding of the moment; the rounding of a life.

Sea’s tears are prayer’s tears as
We face providence in life’s
hardest moment.

Sea’s voice quietly sustains prayer’s search;
Our choosing of blessing or curse.



Bruce Driver

Lockdown Memories

Do you have special memories of Lockdown?

As well as passing your stories on to Paul Allton for the archive he is putting together, send them to the Herald.

It is important that we don't forget what happened during a stressful time for our country and the world.

Brandy Pearson



St Machar's Cathedral

In September I paid a visit to my cousin in Aberdeen and took a bus ride to the old part of the city to see St Machar's cathedral. It is only a cathedral in name as it is part of the Scottish Presbyterian Church which abolished bishops in 1689. There has been a Christian church on the site since around AD 600. St



Machar is said to have been sent to Eastern Scotland by St Columba of Iona and to have founded the church. The present building dates from the 15th century. There had been a cathedral built before this



but it had been extensively damaged by the troops of Edward 111 who sacked Aberdeen in 1336. It's most famous bishop was



William Elphinstone who founded Aberdeen university in 1495.

My father was a student at King's College, Aberdeen and won the gold medal for Greek! My grandfather was Professor of Midwifery there.

Clare Preston

“The Times” Great Letters

The Times Letter Page is (was?) renowned worldwide for the trenchant, humorous, thoughtful, world-changing, and illustrious contributions from its readers. “Great Letters” edited by James Owen, is a selection, gifted to me by Janet Heatley, that I intend to dip into from time to time for the Herald.

The first letter demonstrates that scammers are always with us!

A SWINDLE BY TELEPHONE

16 January 1926

Sir, I wish to warn your readers about a swindle, which has trapped even astute men of business. The *modus operandi* is a telephone call from a person claiming to be a friend or to have a business or personal connection with the victim. The gentleman is in distress, having been robbed of his purse.

Would his friend help him with a telegraph remittance in the nearest post office to enable him to return to his home in the counties? This in itself sounds bald and unconvincing, but is elaborated with sufficient circumstantial detail to make the story appear genuine. The device comes from America, where it appears to be very successfully played,



and is a very profitable transaction for the swindler, who will continue to make handsome revenue if the public is not warned.

The most effective answer is to promise the required help and then, immediately, to communicate with the police, who, if the case is genuine, can render the assistance needed, or, if not, can put a stop to these activities. No doubt the trick will appear in various disguises, so as to keep it fresh, but the net result will be the same.

Yours truly,

VIGILANS

History Re-visited





In June I visited the Air Raid Shelter in Stockport. The 1938 project was to hew out of the red sandstone, by pick, the largest network of tunnels outside London, which would accommodate 4,500 people, many from Manchester itself. In 1989 they were re-opened to the public.

Thanks to our Trustees, the serpentine wall leading to the ruins here has been rebuilt by Andy but, understandable, the air raid shelter itself has been

sealed, leaving only Paul's photos in the custody of archivist Kathleen.

Wouldn't it be great if, at some point, a door at either end could be reinstated, perhaps using a few fittings from the main re-instated original door, so that visitors could experience the war-time privations of a previous generation of Collegians and local residents.

Michael Hewitt

Ancient History from the World according to Student Bloopers, compiled by Richard Lederer

The inhabitants of ancient Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and travelled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants had to live elsewhere. So certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children Cain asked, "am I my brother's son?"

(contributed by Gillian Carbery)



Banner in St Machar's Cathedral
by Clare Preston

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