

THE BUGLE MAGAZINE

Serving Lowestoft, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth & Southwold areas



Published 1st of every month Copy deadline 18th of the preceding month
Tel: 01502 578074 E: the.buglemag@yahoo.co.uk www.buglemag.co.uk
ISSN 2059-9498 MeWe: The Bugle Magazine Instagram: Buglemaguk



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January issue!**

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and a Fabulous
2021**

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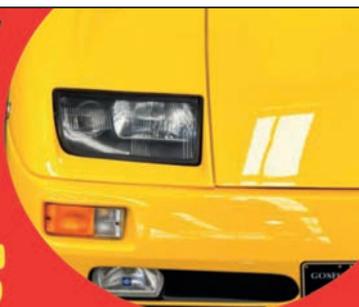
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The Bugle Magazine

Hi everyone

Well we really hope you had a most enjoyable Christmas of good company, great food and a tippie or two and a thoroughly relaxing time.

For those of you who celebrate the Solstice, which they say is growing in number, we hope you enjoyed that time of peace.

Did you know that the shortest day lasts 7 hours 49 minutes and 42 seconds in London. This means that the length of day during the winter solstice is 8 hours, 48 minutes and 38 seconds shorter than the summer solstice! Just a fun fact for you.

As lockdown and Covid restrictions continue we will continue to print The Bugle unless there is a total shutdown and our printer has to close. If this happens we will continue with the on-line and email distribution network set up during the first lockdown in March of 2020.

We hope that 2021 will gradually get better for everyone, with lock downs ending and everyone getting back to what used to be normal. In the meantime please support our local businesses and take care of each other.

The next edition of The Bugle is out on February 1st and the copy deadline for all advertising, articles, and What's On listings is January 18th

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and may 2021 be miles better than 2020

Anna & Neal

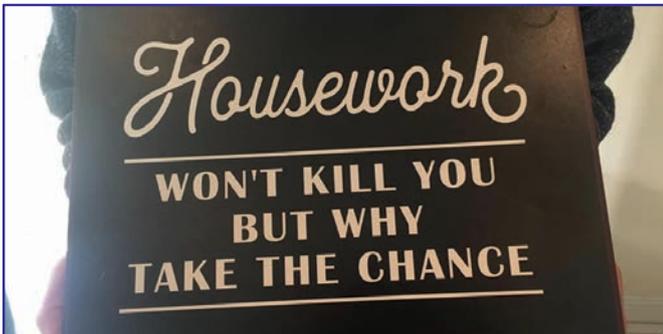
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Although the company has collected from domestic properties for a few years, this growing problem has prompted Citrus Shredding to launch a completely new service, one tailor-made to the requirements and budgets of homeowners

According to (Ms) Jules Shorrock, managing director of Citrus Shredding, a leading Suffolk-wide confidential waste company, based in Beccles: "Our research suggest that there are likely to be thousands of households in Suffolk, including a growing number of businesses being run from home, with mountains and mountains of confidential paperwork and other items, some that have been steadily growing for years. People frequently store such sensitive documents, including legal and financial ones, and appliances such as passports and bank cards in boxes in lofts, conservatories and on sideboards. As well as being a waste of valuable space, such storage comes with a number of security risks, including identity theft."

The new service, called Mountains into Molehills – Household Confidential, offers customers a secure, attractively designed pannier (340mm x 400mm x 235mm) that comes in three colours (blue, green and yellow) and can be discreetly stored out of sight.

Citrus Shredding will make a certified collection of the pannier once every four months and will securely dispose of the content each and every time.

The company, which was founded in 2016, although Jules has a career in this sector going back to 1996, is a Licensed Waste Carrier, fully accredited to ISO 27001 Security Techniques & Information Security Management and is regularly audited by ISO assessors.

"We've built up a really strong reputation among our commercial customers across Suffolk. I hope that this new household security service Mountains into Molehills – Household Confidential, helps give residents peace of mind – as well as a getting rid of those domestic mountains!" added Jules.

The cost of the new household security service is £95 per year. For further info call: 07769 698833 or <https://citrussecurityshredding.co.uk/> where you can also see SPECIAL OFFERS.

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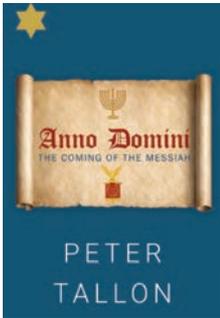
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Anno Domini

THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH by Peter Tallon

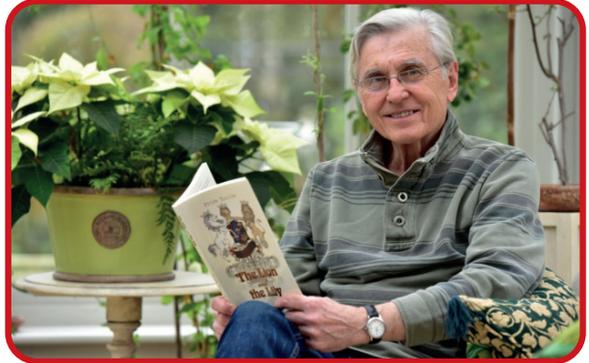


Anno Domini: The Coming of the Messiah is the fourth novel by the author Peter Tallon and the first instalment of the Anno Domini trilogy. During the beginning of the reign of Augustus Ceasar, Rome had not long ended a civil-war and was restoring stability in the provinces of its empire. In what is now modern-day Israel and the city of Jerusalem there seemed to be an epi-centre of passive hostility. Perhaps the jewel of the empire, it garnered special dispensation and treatment from the imperial senate from its puppet vassal, King Herod - though his cruelty, paranoia and unending ego had created many an enemy amongst his people. In these tensions, find our story's hero, Centurion Lucius Veranius. Conflict has arisen from a fanatical organisation, the Zealots, in the aim to

remove the Roman puppet Herod and his Imperial masters. However, their task is almost insurmountable, leaving much of their ambition resting on the unsuspecting shoulders of a new-born infant: the future King-of-the-Jews, the Messiah, Jesus. Anno Domini: The Coming of the Messiah is an ambitious tale of violence, conspiracy, intrigue and insurrection.

Peter Tallon was a professional geologist who, after a period of prospecting in East Africa and Egypt, joined the construction materials industry rising to managing director of a multi-million-pound company. Married with two children and three grandchildren, he has lived in Suffolk for the last forty years where the beautiful coast and countryside form the background to his previous books.

*The book is available from on-line retailers • direct from the author at: peter.tallon@outlook.com £9.99 inc p&p
It is also available at Beccles Bookshop.*



Picture: Local Author Peter Tallon



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Top row L-R: Last days of Eastern Coach Works • Blythburgh Mill 1936 • Bungay Cinema 1970s
 Bottom Row: Boating Lake Lowestoff • Fire at Halesworth • Bernie Winters - Sparrow's Nest Theatre Lowestoff

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Books + Prints New book & Print shop in Lowestoft

A new venture in North Lowestoft 'Books + Prints' is hoping to be a key part of the regeneration of the historic High Street.

Lisa Hurcum and Hugh Davies moved from London to Lowestoft in 2016 and the following year created paper-works* printmaking studio for local artists as well as delivering community projects for Grit Fest, First Light and Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust.

They are both passionate ambassadors for Lowestoft. It's a great place to live, not only because of the beautiful beaches and surrounding countryside but also because of its community. Lisa brought her children here for holidays when they were little and has been determined to move to the town ever since.

After discovering that the shop adjacent to Door to the Cosmos was available for rent and having always wanted to run a book shop after three days of intense discussion they had signed the lease.

Within six weeks they had decorated, made bookshelves, created a work area with tables and printing press and stocked the shelves with donated books. All during the second Lockdown.

They shared a vision to create a place in Lowestoft that would be welcoming to everyone. A place with an exciting range of books, and a place that celebrates the wealth of artistic talent in the town.

Lisa explains, 'We've managed to combine all the things we love best - books, art and (having knocked through into the coffee shop next door) coffee and cake! We hope that this will become an inspiring place. We have plans to offer printmaking courses, writing workshops and book club meetings when the world is righted again. We've been overwhelmed by the response of people in the town, everyone has been so positive and encouraging. We are well on the way to fulfilling our vision.'

The shop is open Tuesdays to Saturdays 10am till 4pm. Book + Prints, 113 High Street, Lowestoft, NR32 1HN



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Lies, More Lies and THE HOLD

with Bob Collis



In January 2018, Suffolk County Council suddenly and unexpectedly announced their intention to 'close' Lowestoft Record Office.

Effectively the Council wanted to shut Lowestoft down. It was not the fact that they had been planning this for five years, it was that they never considered any alternative, let alone consultation with people in the area affected that first ignited the fireball of dissent that now motivates the SORO campaign group.

The Council Officer behind the super archive plan we know as "Hold" is Kate Chantry. Now Kate may be a very good professional archivist, but she does not like answering questions about the way the Council and her so-called "Suffolk Archives" service have conducted themselves when it comes to the matter of Lowestoft Record Office. The biggest lie of all was about when the decision to close Lowestoft down was made. That decision must have already been taken by 2015, because we have proof the costing for the decant of Lowestoft archives was by then already in the business plans for "Hold". The Cabinet meeting in that same year stated there would be "no anticipated changes at Bury or Lowestoft". In Nov 2017, the LRO closure was formalised at a meeting which (conveniently) went unminuted. Such was the concern the Council were compelled to hold a Scrutiny meeting to answer questions about the whole process in Nov 2018. Kate Chantry's absence from that meeting spoke volumes about the contemptible manner in which "Suffolk Archives" now view this part of the county.

In March 2018, despite the Heritage Lottery Fund receiving a whole dossier of evidence submitted by SORO demonstrating the detrimental effects the project would have on NE Suffolk, Suffolk County Council were awarded £10.3m of lottery players cash to create a super-archive building known as "Hold".

Three years on, "Hold" finally opened to the public in October this year. But where are the archives which the council have been telling us all this time

their priority is to preserve? They are all still languishing in (allegedly) unfit for purpose strongrooms! Meanwhile, extraordinary cash transactions are taking place in the Council's accounts: £6,500 for a plastic box of flower petals; £88,000 for office furniture; £8,000 for a Lego exhibition; £11,750 for the "Hold" website update.

Where is the scrutiny on the expenditure? For example, on 20 Aug this year TLT Solutions were paid £6,550 to install "hot air blowers" in "The Hold". We find it quite astonishing to see that on 16 Oct - less than two months after they arrived, the same company were paid £7,700 to remove them! Its also worth reminding everyone that while £11m of lottery cash has launched this thing and is payrolling staff until 2022, SCC has earmarked £5m of capital. Whether their enthusiasm will remain when the lotto cash-cow dies remains to be seen.

From here in Waveney, you can clearly see "Hold" for what it is - an underwhelming, shallow exercise in heritage cosmetics. Why haven't the Lowestoft archives gone yet? It is becoming painfully obvious that the "Hold gang" are having serious problems drying out the strongrooms. No original archives have had public access since February. And how long will it be before this already struggling monstrosity topples when the lotto gravy train leaves? We can only hope that those individuals who set this project in motion are held to account when it inevitably does.



Picture: Historians campaigning at Lowestoft Records office (pre-covid)

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YOUR LETTERS

Please note that letters published contain the opinions and views of the sender and are not necessarily the views of the editor or publishers of this magazine

Hi Bugle,
North Denes - Mr Colby's planning application.

We learned that the Planning Committee of ESC had, on November 10th, once more rejected Peter Colby's development plan for the area between the Oval and Links Road. The reason given was that the owners of the land, Lowestoft Town Council, had objected to his plans and that Colby had refused to carry out environmental and contamination surveys.

When this application first came up before LTC's planning committee in 2018, councillors voted to recommend refusal after discussion of several issues. These were nuisance (the restaurants fans would disturb the residents of Gunton Cliff), poor design and placement of the restaurant (it was believed that the building would face the wrong way and was wrongly believed to be sited ON the ex-WDC landfill dump), the provision by Colby of public toilets was unnecessary (Sparrows Nest toilets were said to serve the area adequately) and his proposal to clear the scrub and maintain grass over the area (so that town events could be held on it) was misunderstood and distrusted.

I was one of the minority of councillors to vote in favour of it and consequently was accused of being in Colby's pay by a fellow councillor. That's not true.

That ESC now gives LTC's flawed refusal support is both ludicrous and ironic. Ludicrous because of the poor reasoning that LTC used to reject it and ironic because this same District council, before merger with Suffolk Coastal, had not sought the views of LTC in going ahead with another development of LTC land-now Ness Park. One should also remember that this same District council (as WDC) had trodden roughshod over residents' views about the use of the North Denes in allowing Tingdene a lease for their static caravan park and had even granted them a lease

to extend their operation AFTER the land was transferred to LTC in May 2017.

So here we have a piece of land, bought for the health and benefit of the people of Lowestoft in the early 1900s, WDC failing to maintain it as a mobile campsite in the 60s and 70s, being leased off by the same WDC to Tingdene against the letter and spirit of the original legal strictures. This same land became partly used as a landfill again by WDC (also against these strictures) leaving a dirty scar in its NE corner and finally being absolutely neglected by the previous and current Council owners and left to scrub.

Now that same District council rejects a sensible and beneficial development by a local businessman who wishes to put something back into the town he loves. This is crazy nonsense. I suggest that If Peter Colby had been a true blue Tory rather than a Labour supporter then the outcome would have been very different. Am I wrong?"
Yours, Dick Houghton

Hi Bugle
Thank you so much for publishing the picture of that man sitting on the stump of that 300 year old tree that was cut down to make way for an access road for HS2 rail link.

This high speed railway line will shave half an hour off a trip from London to York and a bit more on a longer journey. When you think of the ancient woodlands that will have to be destroyed, farmland acquired by compulsory purchase and the millions of pounds that will find its way into pockets of various directors of companies I wonder what the sense is at all in building the damn thing. Particularly when you think that the Coronavirus has sent the country spiralling into debt with lock downs and shut downs of businesses. They should stop the madness of HS2 right away.
Yours, Mrs L Davis



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The Grumpy Old Man

Life today - is it any better - or worse??



Grumpy versus young man!

This is a true story of what happened to me one night before I retired and became opinionated and grumpy. (I am not alone in that either!) One night I called at a filling station on my way home and had put my petrol in myself and gone into the shop and was negotiating my way past all the goodies on show, designed to tempt my fickle brain into paying out £1.75 for a bottle of Coke and £1 for a bar of chocolate the size of a lolly stick, when I noticed a young driver in the queue about to part with money.

He was a typical young person of that time. He had long hair - nothing wrong with that, I had long hair when I was his age. Now I was content to just have some hair!

But I couldn't help noticing that this young man's jeans were obviously falling down. Was he aware that he was showing everyone tomorrow's washing? His pants label was showing along with rather too much of the pants and also a fair bit of 'builders bum'

I had to act. I said to him 'Hey mate your jeans are falling down'. To which the cheeky little turned round and looked me up and down. Without further ado he blurted 'Keep your hair on grandad - it's the fashion'. I had to smile - he walked out grumpily, no doubt enraged by this figure from another era who dared question his fashion sense. Fortunately it was a fashion that didn't last too long.

Getting to See a Doctor

Has anyone recently had need to call their local Doctor surgery? I have been hearing some tales of woe from friends on the matter. Firstly it seems that the doctors have become Covid obsessed and decided to protect themselves from the public by creating a human staff barrier. First of all your call to the surgery is answered by a receptionist who will ask you what is wrong with you. What can she do about that? You ask for an appointment to see the doctor and the receptionist says that you will have to speak to the Nurse Practitioner first. This person will then assess whether you will be allowed to see a doctor, or whether he will call you back later. What is going on here?

Another friend had a similar experience and was told to phone 111. The first 3 minutes is full Covid 19 blurb, next you get loads of options - press 1 press 2 then eventually you get an operator - not a doctor but an operator who asks you everything about your symptoms like they are reading it off a card. The operator then says she thinks you need to speak to a doctor and says that she will phone him and get him to call you within the next eight hours!! Hang on a minute - wouldn't it save a lot of bother and tons of NHS cash if I could just phone him in the first place? It is like doctor's are gods and must be protected at all costs from the great unwashed! So what else is new??

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Something Else

With Elsie Towers



After 5 plus years of world war and having bombs dropped on you even in sleepy Suffolk, the world at last fell silent and the birds sang. The soldiers came home and very gradually life resumed some semblance of order. For my grandparents they revelled in the peace that surrounded them. They were strangely content - they did not have much, basic furniture and a simple life in a small town.

What they did have was peace and tranquillity. I can remember them telling me it was magical just to sit in the sunshine of summer and enjoy a cup of tea in the garden with the birds singing and neighbours popping round to join them. Their garden was full of fruit and veg. They had apple trees - four of them. Two Coxes orange pippins, one cooking apple and a large eating apple. All of them produced natural, juicy great tasting fruit, the likes of which you won't find today in any shops.

Since those times the world has changed and as far as I can see, in general, not for the better. Yes we have big colour televisions, the internet to buy what we need and to look things up- as well as wasting countless hours on social media that is full of nasty people who say nasty things. Gambling sites have also ballooned turning poor people destitute. The kids have computers and gaming consoles to play on night and day and these things consume lives.

I would love a world without such technology sometimes. Mobile 'devices' whilst having their uses have become a scourge on society with young and old addicted to having them almost welded to their hands 24/7.

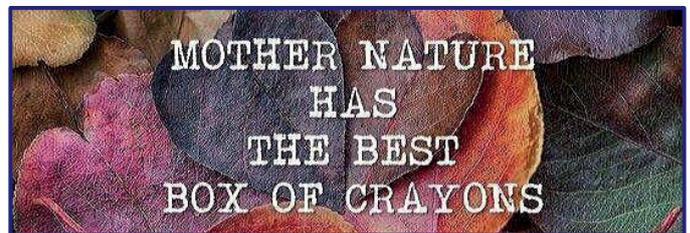
I long for a world where life was simple. There were council homes for every family, with large front and back gardens full of good things to eat. Market gardeners and local shops came to your door with vans full of produce. I long for the times when we

knew all our neighbours and our back doors were rarely locked. I remember when Corona was a much-loved fizzy drink and the lorry driver used to call at your door every week! We had milk deliveries to our doorstep and when the bottle was empty it was rinsed and left out for collection. Corona bottles were returned too and they had a 3d deposit on them!

We didn't have supermarkets but our local shop sold all necessary groceries. Biscuits sold loose into brown paper bags as well as the packet kind. Sweets into white paper bags either by 2oz or 4oz. The grocer wore a white coat and he sliced your bacon and your cheese too. It was a time too when we had Rowntree Mackintosh, Mars and good old Cadbury's and they tasted great. We had crisp sandwiches for tea now and again and they were a real treat. A bag of crisps was 2ounces and that is approx 100 gr. Four times the size of today's miserly offerings. We walked the length of two streets to make a phone call and I was always being sent round to the neighbours to get shillings for the meter.

Technology today seems to isolate people from social interaction. Kids stay in their bedrooms, supermarket check-outs are going self-service, neighbours don't know each other, shopping is done on-line and almost no traders now come round every week with their latest offerings and a cheery hello. The pandemic has just made a bad situation worse as people out in the shops are more inclined to be confrontational and bad tempered.

Always remember when you do go out, be kind to people you meet, always offer a smile and a friendly greeting because smiles are more important than ever, even if the wearing of face masks makes it difficult to see. Be kind.



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WHITE OWL'S WORLD

stories from the Indigenous American people

There was an old lady, from the "Cree" tribe, named "Eyes of Fire", who prophesied that one day, because of the white mans' or Yo-ne-gis' greed, there would come a time, when the fish would die in the streams, the birds would fall from the air, the waters would be blackened, and the trees would no longer be, mankind as we would know it would all but cease to exist. There would come a time when the "keepers of the legend, stories, culture rituals, and myths, and all the Ancient Tribal Customs" would be needed to restore us to health. They would be mankind's key to survival, they were the "Warriors of the Rainbow". There would come a day of awakening when all the peoples of all the tribes would form a New World of Justice, Peace, Freedom and recognition of the Great Spirit. The "Warriors of the Rainbow" would spread these messages and teach all peoples of the Earth or "Elohi". They would teach them how to live the "Way of the Great Spirit". They would tell them of how the world today has turned away from the Great Spirit and that is why our Earth is "Sick".

The "Warriors of the Rainbow" would show the peoples that this Great Spirit is full of love and understanding, and teach them how to make the Earth beautiful again.. The Warriors of the Rainbow would teach the people of the ancient practices of Unity, Love and Understanding. They would teach of Harmony among people in all four comers of the Earth. Like the Ancient Tribes, they would teach the peoples how to pray to the Great Spirit with love that flows like the beautiful mountain stream, and flows along the path to the ocean of life. They would be free of petty jealousies and love all mankind as their brothers, regardless of colour, race or religion. They would feel happiness enter their hearts, and become as one with the entire human race. They would once again fill their minds, hearts, souls, and deeds with the purest of thoughts. They would find strength and beauty in

prayer and the solitudes of life. Their children would once again be able to run free and enjoy the treasures of Nature and Mother Earth. Free from the fears of toxins and destruction, wrought by the Yo-ne-gi and his practices of greed. The rivers would again run clear, the forests be abundant and beautiful, the animals and birds would be replenished. The powers of the plants and animals would again be respected and conservation of all that is beautiful would become a way of life. The poor, sick and needy would be cared for by their brothers and sisters of the Earth.

The leaders of the people would be chosen in the old way - not by their political party, or who could speak the loudest, boast the most, or by name calling or mud slinging, but by those whose actions spoke the loudest. Those who demonstrated their love, wisdom, and courage and those who showed that they could and did work for the good of all, would be chosen as the leaders or Chiefs. They would be chosen by their "quality" and not the amount of money they had obtained. Like the thoughtful and devoted "Ancient Chiefs", they would understand the people with love, and see that their young were educated with the love and wisdom of their surroundings.

They would show them that miracles can be accomplished to heal this world of its ills, and restore it to health and beauty. The tasks of these "Warriors of the Rainbow" are many and great. There will be terrifying mountains of ignorance to conquer and they shall find prejudice and hatred. They must be dedicated, unwavering in their strength, and strong of heart. They will find willing hearts and minds that will follow them on this road of returning "Mother Earth" to beauty and plenty - once more. The day will come, it is not far away. Then we truly will have a world of peace for all of our brothers and sisters and all of nature. Mitakuye Oyasin (we are all related)



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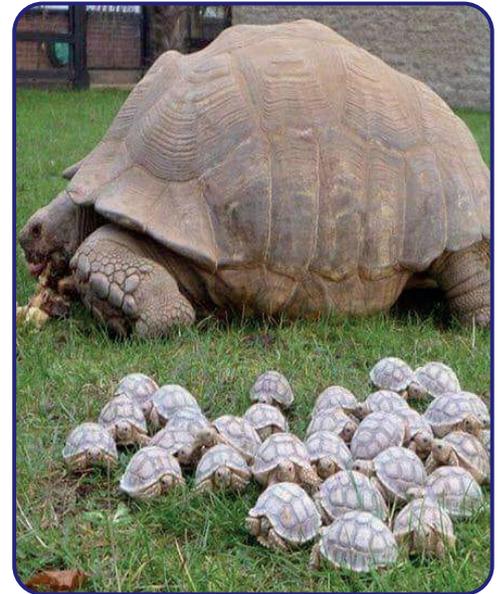
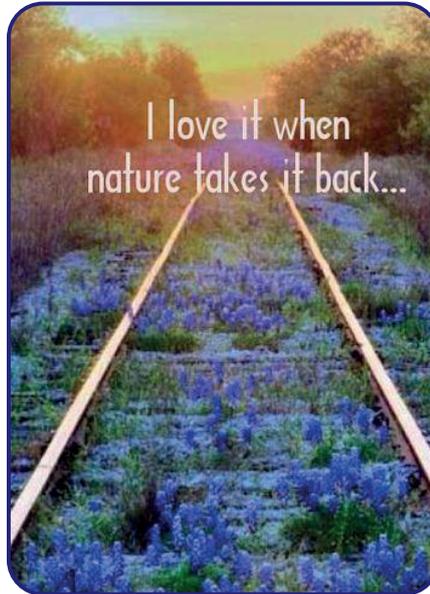
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50% of the world's population lives in countries where free speech is being eroded

Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund

Co-op Local Community Fund

We are delighted to inform you that Halesworth Dementia Carers' Fund has been selected to take part in the Co-op Local Community Fund. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to help us raise funds for your local dementia charity. Our local Co-op foodstore in Halesworth is an independent Co-op so is not part of this scheme, however Laxfield Co-op Foodstore, Rackham's Funeral Care Diss and Woolnough's Funeral Care Halesworth are participants. We would like to encourage everyone who intends to use any of the above services to apply for a blue Co-op card, and those who have a blue Co-op card to support us. (you are encouraged to have, and use, both Co-op membership cards). We would be very grateful if you are members of this group to select us as your Cause and perhaps consider donating your personal allowance to us. You can join on-line at coop.co.uk/membership, or by downloading the Co-op App.

When you buy selected Co-op products and services, including funeral arrangements, 2p in every £1 goes into your Co-op Membership Account, and the Co-op will give the same amount to support community organisations. There are 3 good causes this year and we hope you will feel able to support us.

HDCF raises money to ensure local people with dementia and their carers are provided with respite care, information and support. The Coronavirus Pandemic has prevented us from doing any fund-raising this year, so your help with this project is even more important. Our "Cause" profile giving

information about HDCF can be viewed on www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/52325, and we will keep you informed monthly on how we are getting on. Please phone Jim (number above) if you would like further information.

From Our Secretary, Dave Rich.

We have had a half-yearly report from Daniel Schaffer, Dementia Connect Local Services Manager who said:- "Alice Sparksman has been a consistent presence with the Halesworth Dementia Support service over the last 6 months. This has been vitally important as it has enabled relationships to be maintained and provided additional assurance to clients at a challenging time. Alice is seconded from the Alzheimer's Society for two days a week and has been working remotely since March 2020.

The service delivery looks different from other years through not being able to provide face to face services, but Alice has been able to extend her reach and support through this challenging period. This has presented a challenge in it's own right as the level of support required, the technical and emotional complexity of the work, and the lack of face to face peer support has had an impact on Alice.

Finally, HDCF would like to thank all the local carers and everyone who has helped and supported us over the last year. WE wish you and your families good health and a happier outlook for the New Year.
John Wood.



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**Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." Mark Twain**

# BATMAN - THE SATURDAY MORNING CINEMA SERIALS

Batman has been around for many years, and first appeared in American comic books published by DC Comics. Batman was created by artist Bob Kane and writer Bill Finger, and debuted in the 27th issue of the comic book Detective Comics in May 1937.

Most people can fondly remember the comical 1960s Batman TV series with its outrageously funny characters and situations. Starring Adam West and Burt Ward continually battling the Joker, Riddler, Penguin & Catwoman, this series was most definitely a 'spoof'!

But long before Batman hit the small screen in 1966 he was a popular character in two 1940s film serials aimed at Saturday morning kids matinees. Lets have a look at them!

**The Batman.** A 1943 black-and-white 15-chapter (episode) theatrical serial from Columbia Pictures, produced by Rudolph C. Flothow, directed by Lambert Hillyer, that stars Lewis Wilson as Batman and Douglas Croft as his sidekick Robin. This serial was written by Bob Kane. Batman's car in this was a huge Cadillac and they only had one so it was driven with as much care as possible. Batman battles Dr. Daka, Japanese mastermind of a wartime espionage-sabotage group. Daka has a radium-powered death ray that pulverises walls, a classic alligator pit to dispose of enemies, and can turn men into electronic zombies who do his bidding and transmit video signals to Daka's lab! Batman has no Batmobile, but there are bats in the Bat Cave.

**GOOF:** In the beginning of chapter ten, we see Robin diving off of the ship into the ocean. But when next we see him, he is dry and caught in the ship's cargo net.

The next serial was again from Columbia Pictures - the 1949 **Batman & Robin** and was developed just a little more. The crime-fighting duo had some hair-raising adventures and serious fight scenes - they were always in real danger. Antisocial Prof. Hammill's Remote Control device, which enables the user to take over any motor vehicle within 50 miles, is stolen by The Wizard, black-hooded mastermind and his gang. Batman and Robin must prevent the Wizard from obtaining diamonds, needed as fuel for the device, and rescue magazine photographer Vicki Vale from periodic perils. Where is the Wizard's base, reached only by remote controlled submarine? Which of several suspicious characters hides beneath the Wizard's hood?



The serial had a Batmobile of sorts which was a completely normal 1947 Plymouth Mercury Convertible. This car was very heavy and didn't corner well. They had six altogether and they wrecked five of them because cornering at speed was so difficult! Those cars accounted for most of the serial's budget!

**GOOF:** Whenever the Bat Signal is shown, the same cloud formation is behind it.

In case you are wondering - both 40s serials had a simple rule on the car that they used: Hood up for Batman, down for Bruce Wayne.

I don't think you will find a better example of a typical 40's/50's cliff-hanger matinee serial than these. Embrace their flawed charms and sit back and enjoy.



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## How the smooth taste of Great British Chocolate was sold off forever



In February 2010 the American cheese giant Kraft completed a takeover of Cadbury's, the UK's top quality chocolate maker with a long and proud tradition of caring for its workforce and making a chocolate of such quality of taste that it was unbeatable in a world-wide market place. In the run up to this takeover the shareholders and board of Cadbury had fought off repeated bids by the cheese maker. The workforce were worried too. They had seen what had happened to Terry's of York when they fell victim to Kraft and within a short while thousands lost their jobs as the Terry's factory was closed and production moved to Poland.

The British government were making noises that such a takeover of Cadbury would sound the death knell for a much loved brand and therefore it should be referred to the Monopolies & Mergers Commission for them to decide. The then Prime Minister Gordon Brown circumvented such a move and personally stated that Kraft would be allowed to purchase Cadbury subject to board approval. How disappointing then, when it was revealed that Cadbury CEO Todd Stitzer pocketed a huge 'bonus' – around £20million – from the Kraft deal.

Then, after the board acceptance was announced, the British public was treated to the unedifying sight of Roger Carr, the chairman of Cadbury, being interviewed on the BBC by their business correspondent Robert Peston. Could the chairman explain why Cadbury, a superior company, is being bought up by Kraft, an inferior company, asked Peston?

Trapped like a rabbit in car headlights, the chairman could barely answer and it was left to

Peston to point out that the deal will leave all Britons a bit poorer in the future.

And so it was that Cadbury followed in the footsteps of Terry's with production moving to Poland and that distinctive creamy Cadbury taste being lost forever.

But we decided to find out where our older British brand names are now made. You may remember the public outcry in 2017 over the news that Cadbury's iconic Dairy Milk was no longer British-made chocolate, but was instead being manufactured in Poland. Following negative publicity, Cadbury Kraft have since re-shored some of their Dairy Milk production back to the UK. Despite a high profile announcement about a £75m investment in their Bourneville factory, they still can't guarantee that every bar of Dairy Milk will be made there.

Cadbury are just one of the famous big three UK chocolate makers that have changed ownership and had their production off-shored.

Terry's is owned by Mondelez, the same company as Cadbury, (which is in turn owned by Kraft) and all of Terry's production, including the iconic chocolate orange, now takes place in continental Europe. Rowntree Mackintosh, famous for the KitKat, was taken over by Nestle in the 1980s. According to the Rowntree Society, six million Kit-Kats are still produced at the York factory, but Nestle chocolate is manufactured globally and it's difficult to find out exactly what is made here as it's often subject to change. UK legislation doesn't require country of origin to be specified on chocolate packaging.

Giant corporations owning brand names is like placing a Rolls Royce badge on a Sinclair C5.

When you buy a chocolate branded with a name that previously was synonymous with quality and taste, only to find that it does not even resemble it's former quality, it is extremely sad. Giant corporations care not for quality and flavour or workforce care - only profit is their end game. Perhaps we should look to supporting our local chocolate makers, like Harris & James in Beccles. Personally I have not tried it yet but I don't think we will ever see the like of Cadbury's again. What was your favourite chocolate??

Picture: A Cadbury worker protests at the proposed sale of the iconic company to the American cheese maker, Kraft.

When we are stressed we eat ice cream,  
cake, chocolate and sweets. Why?  
Because stressed spelled backwards is  
Desserts!

And finally:  
Don't taunt the  
alligator until you  
have crossed the  
river.