

"Short Mat Times"

Welcome to the 3rd edition of our Newsletter. Thank to everyone who sent in pieces to go in this issue., it was lovely to have so much come in. I hope that you enjoy this issue and please keep ideas coming in.

I do hope that you are all keeping safe and well in these strange times. And managing to keep yourselves busy. Margaret x



This Pam Ayres poem came from Jeanette and Carol.

I'm normally a social girl, I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here, We can't go out the gates.
You see, we are the 'oldies' now We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while They'll think we've
upped and died.
They'll never know the things we did Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook So not everything was told.
We may seem sweet old ladies Who would never be un
couth

But we grew up in the 60s -If you only knew the truth!
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll The pill and mini-
skirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied And were quite outra-
geous flirts.
Then we settled down, got married And turned into
someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana, Who on earth did we be-
come?
We didn't mind the change of pace Because our lives were
full

But to bury us before we're dead Is like a red rag to a bull!
So here you find me stuck inside For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again Then I had to close the door!
It didn't really bother me I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family But I've got no flaming flour!
Now Netflix is just wonderful I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris Or some random sexy killer.
At least I've got a stash of booze For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin If I'm feeling suicidal!
So let's all drink to lockdown To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus Doesn't decimate our wealth.
We'll all get through the crisis And be back to join our ma-
tes
Just hoping I'm not far too wide To fit through the flaming
gates!

19 years ago I had a stroke and was told by the doctors I would probable be in a wheel chair so I looked for a hobby which would exercise my body and found short mat bowls, and thanks to many people helping me I retained my balance and kept out of the wheel chair and gone further then I thought I would with the help of Greenwood park and my little club at Garston (orbit) and many thanks to other people around the county with their patients and help, thanks everybody and keep well Bill Durham ■

Gardening tips from the Percy Thrower of the bowls world Mr Brian Fowler.

Dead head your daffodils by pulling the old flower head off. Let the leaves die back naturally if you want them to flower again next year before digging up and drying off for next year.

Sow some annuals and put somewhere warm to germinate. Prick out when seedlings have developed their first pair of leaves (only handle by the leaves). Keep them in a warm place ready to plant out when the fear of frost has finished. If you have a greenhouse cover them over each evening with newspaper or bubblewrap, don't rely on the weather forecast, they don't always get it right.

Think about sowing runner beans and dwarf beans in pots ready to plant out at the end of May. A good way of sowing peas is to sow them in a piece of guttering, when they are big enough make a shallow trench and slide them into it, I've been doing it this way for a number of years and it works well, put your pea supports in straight after planting. If you have limited room you can grow runner beans in a large pot. Make a wigwam with canes or if you haven't got any canes go for your daily walk in the woods, there are plenty of long sticks laying about at the moment to bring home to make your wigwam. Stake your herbaceous plants before they get too tall. Finally keep on top of the weeding.



Bluebells at Ashridge 2019