

DESIGN!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

170 • DECEMBER 2020

All aboard!

Torquil Arbuthnot on writer, mariner, adventurer and sometime drug smuggler Henri de Monfreid

Book of rules

Kathryn Best reviews some vintage etiquette advice

Land of the Long White Clubman

A glimpse into the world of New Zealand Member Dirk Heinsius

Christmas in the æther

Some online Club events to celebrate the season of goodwill, virtually

Ensign Polyethyl on the West Indians who volunteered to fight for Britain in WWI

FOR KING AND COUNTRY





The New Sheridan Club traditionally meets in the upstairs room of The Wheatsheaf, just off Oxford Street. The Wheatsheaf is one of Fitzrovia's historic pubs, a one-time haunt of Dylan Thomas, George Orwell, Augustus John and Julian Maclaren-Ross. In fact Thomas met his wife Caitlin in The Wheatsheaf and, legend has it, he was known to flash at women there as well. Fitzrovia's associations with literature go back to the eighteenth century. In the twentieth century both Woolf and Shaw lived in Fitzroy Square; Pound and Lewis launched *Blast!* at the Restaurant de la Tour Eiffel in Percy Street. John Buchan lived in Portland Place and in *The Thirty-Nine Steps* Richard Hannay has a flat there. Both Lawrences (D.H. and T.E.) took rooms there, as did Aleister Crowley, Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Katherine Mansfield.

The Next Meeting

The next Club Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 2nd December**. This will be virtual once again: although Lockdown 2.0 will be over, the Tier 2 rules into which we will return will still not permit physical meetings, so it looks like we'll be meeting online until the spring.

Our speaker will be Christopher Solf, and his talk will be *Wilhelm Solf and the Frau Solf Tea Party*—"How one family went from the German diplomatic service to causing the downfall of the Abwehr, via a small tea party." As you may have surmised, the main characters are Christopher's ancestors.

This time the talk will be delivered by Zoom. **The weblink for this is [https://us02web.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83370668060?pwd=Z0FwZEk3WIRXQIZIbkZ6M0ExWUJkQT09)**

[zoom.us/j/83370668060?pwd=Z0FwZEk3WIRXQIZIbkZ6M0ExWUJkQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83370668060?pwd=Z0FwZEk3WIRXQIZIbkZ6M0ExWUJkQT09). The passcode if needed is 871233.

The talk itself will begin at 8pm. To replicate the social aspect of our meetings we will be having the usual Zoom chat, beginning at 7pm for the benefit of those in a different time zone or who have to be up early in the morning, and carry on after the talk for as long as people wish.

There is also a Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/389727099049132/> which might be useful to keep an eye on if we have technical problems and need to change the plan or create a new URL.

The Last Meeting

Our speaker last time was Ensign Polyethyl, delivering a lecture she had been originally asked to create for Black History Month and inspired by the African and Carribean regiments' war memorial in Windrush Square (Jessie does like a good memorial). The subject was the British West Indies Regiment, created in 1915—the recruiters had rather given the impression that they would be fighting but in fact they were initially simply a Labour Corps. Later they became a Machine Gun Corps in Mesopotamia and served valiantly, though things turned sour after the war was over when the regiment was overlooked for pay rises or promotions. A written version of this talk begins on page 4.



Windrush Square British West Indies Regiment.



Highlights from Ensign Polyethyl's virtual lecture via YouTube Live last month. To find out what it is all about, see the essay version that starts overleaf. You can watch a recorded video of the talk as it happened (including some comments from viewers) at <https://youtu.be/UoDsoi0tcNs>

Black Men of WW1



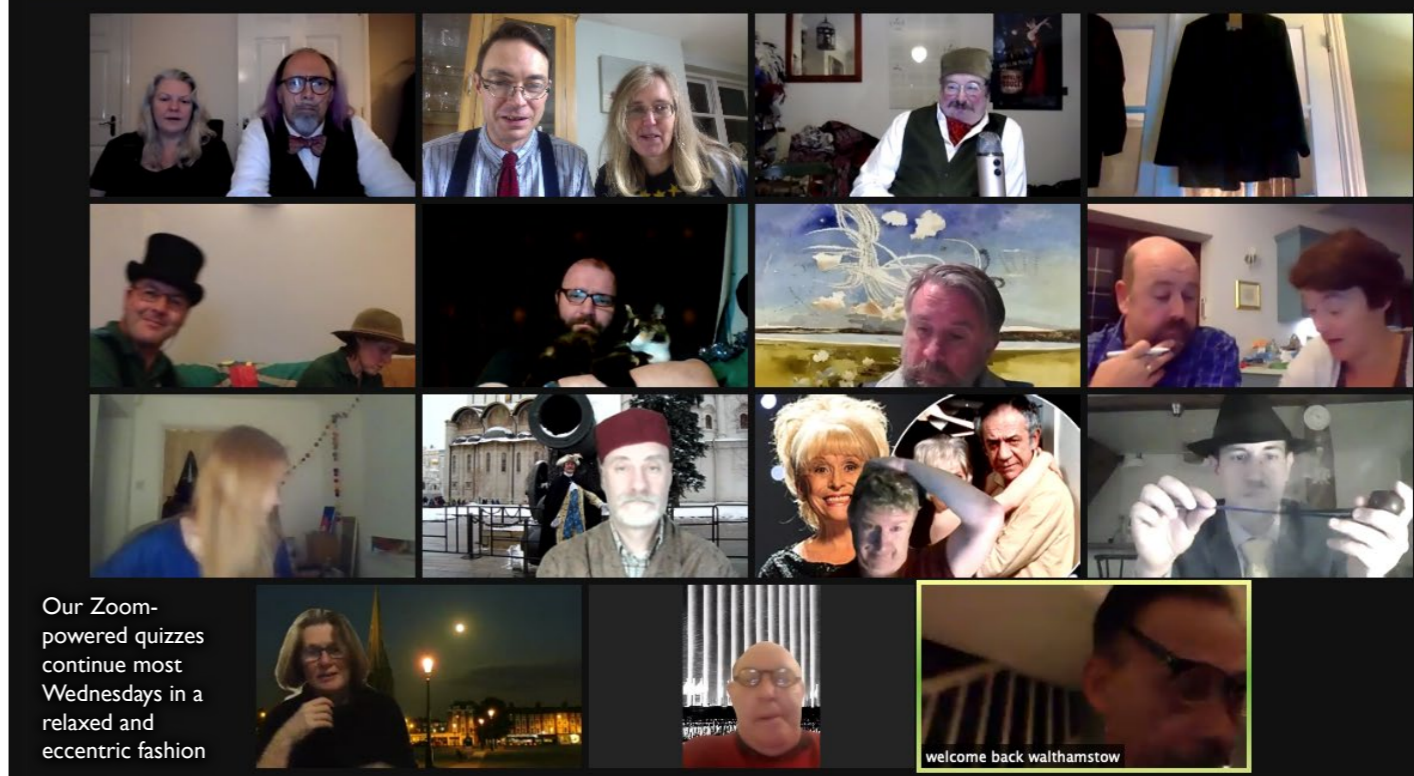
David Louis Clemetson



Stacking Shells, Ypres, Oct 1917 (Battle of Passchendaele)



Alfred Mendes MM, Trinidad



Our Zoom-powered quizzes continue most Wednesdays in a relaxed and eccentric fashion

welcome back walthamstow

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT

Ensign Polyethyl on the valiant history and tragic betrayal of this all-black unit in the First World War

IT'S HARD TO ESTABLISH the social context into which the British West Indies Regiment was created, as records don't seem to have been kept about the general role of black British citizens during the First World War.

I have been unable to find any histories at all recounting the contribution of black British women: there is only one known photograph of a black nurse, at a military hospital in Surrey, but her name is not known. Black British women presumably had war work as "Munionettes" and in health care and catering roles, but history

appears to be silent about them. Presumably Munionettes employment records just recorded names, and did not ask for ethnicity. Anyone volunteering to do a bit of research?

In 1914 men volunteered for the Great War in their thousands. Black British men went to the recruiting office alongside their white neighbours, were recruited and dispersed into regiments in the ordinary way. Below is a photo of a squad of Welsh Guardsmen, taken in March 1916, with an unnamed black man at the centre of the photo.



Welsh Guardsmen, March 1916

The recruiting paperwork did not record ethnicity, so historians find it is difficult to tell, from a list of names, who was what race, which means the number of black British soldiers serving in British regiments in the Great War is probably under-counted. (It is not helped by the fact that the records were burnt in the Blitz.)

There was a colour bar intended to prevent any person not of "pure European descent" from getting a commission. But there are exceptions to every rule. Walter Tull is so famous I will leave you to google him and move on to his lesser known comrade: David Clemetson was born in Jamaica to a wealthy family of mixed ancestry. Expensively educated, at the outbreak of the war he was studying at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was a member of the Officer Training Corps. On 27th October 1915 (so two years before Tull got his commission) Clemetson was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Pembroke Yeomanry. (That's the same Pembroke Yeomanry that has a battle honour "Fishguard" for seeing off the French Invasion of Pembrokeshire in February 1797. See NSC newsletter no. 29.) When faced with the application form asking Clemetson if he was of pure European descent he ticked "No" and got his commission regardless.

Clemetson fought in Palestine, developed combat stress and was hospitalised to Malta. He was put on a hospital ship to the UK,



David Louis Clemetson

which was sunk by a submarine. Clemetson was rescued and taken to Craiglockhart Psychiatric Hospital, where he knew Wilfred Owen. He returned to duty in France in March 1918 and was killed on 21st September, near the Somme. He is buried in Unicorn Cemetery (Vendhuile, Aisne, France).

British West Indies Regiment

While black men in Britain were joining up, over in the Caribbean there was the same enthusiasm but less opportunity to enlist. Some men paid their passage to Britain in order to join up. For example, Alfred Mendes (grandfather of filmmaker Sam Mendes), who was Portuguese Creole, came over from Trinidad, enlisted and was allocated to the Rifle Brigade, where he achieved a Military Medal (and cinematic immortality, thanks to his grandson) for his message-running.

Other volunteers stowed away. In May 1915 there was a court case to try nine stowaways, who stated in their defence that the reason they stowed away to get to Britain was to enlist. An argument between the War Office and the Colonial Office about what to do with volunteers from the West Indies was resolved by King George V, who, on 19th May 1915, ordered that a regiment be set up. Black recruits already in Britain were sent to Seaford, Sussex, to await training. The soldiers of the regiment were black. The officers were white.

The people of Seaford nicknamed the regiment "Westies" and in December 1915 the *Eastbourne Chronicle* said of them, "The residents generally speak in high terms of the behaviour



Photograph showing an unknown black nurse at a military hospital in Surrey



Alfred Mendes MM,
Trinidad



Marcus Garvey, 1924

of these men. Their presence is a striking tribute to the strength of the British Empire.” In November 1915 members of the BWIR marched in the Lord Mayor’s Parade, as part of a recruitment drive. In December 1915, 53 men were confirmed into the Church of England by the Bishop of Lewes.

Over in the Caribbean recruitment was led by Marcus Garvey, founder of a political group, the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), who considered that sending men to serve in the war could be a useful step towards more independence. At first men volunteered enthusiastically, from every nation of the West Indies and Central America, although three quarters of the members of the BWIR came from Jamaica. Enlistment enthusiasm dipped, however, when news of the Halifax disaster broke.

Frostbite and pneumonia

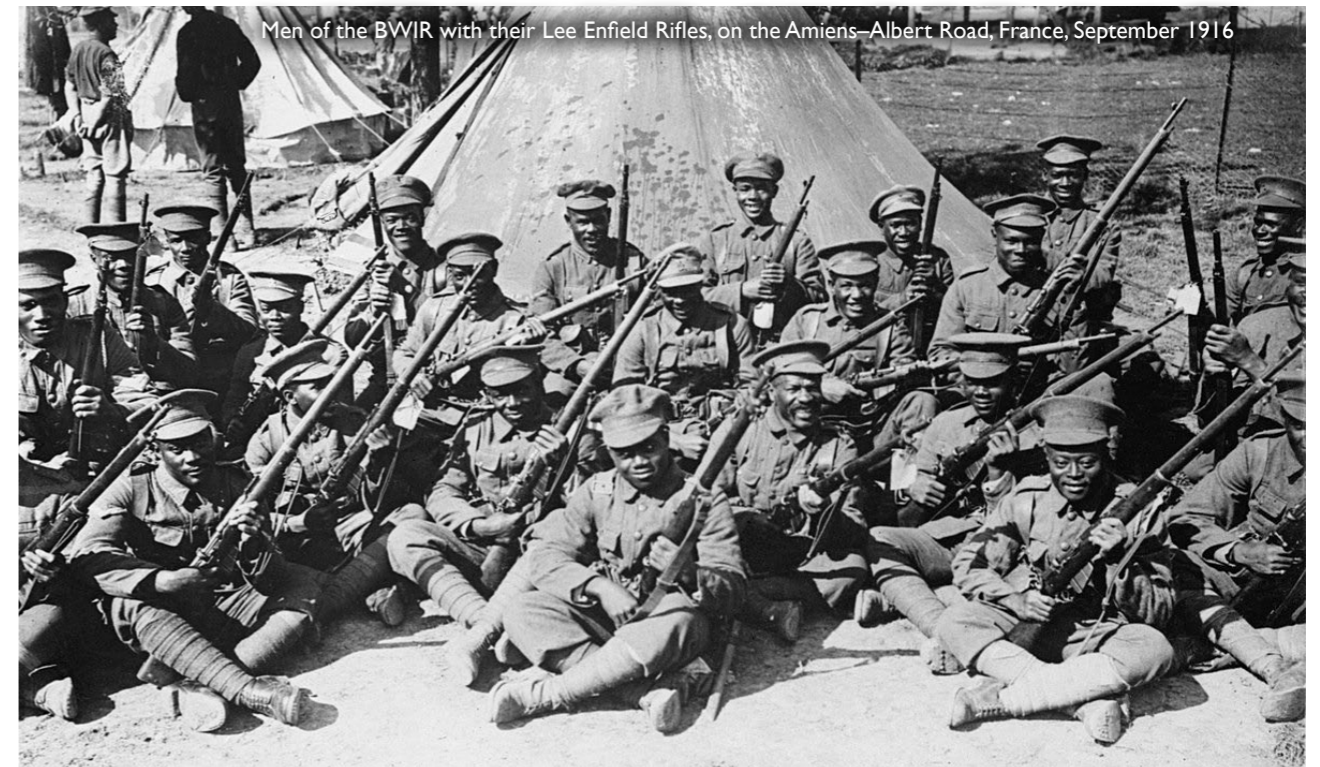
On 6th March 1916 the third ship of recruits departed Jamaica. At this point in the war the *Lusitania* had already been sunk, so the submarine threat was a real concern. The recruits’ ship was therefore routed via Halifax. But the men were wearing tropical uniform and the ship had little heating with which to withstand North Atlantic weather. The result was that out of 1,115 men 600 were harmed, of whom five died, 106 had frostbite amputations,

and 200 had to recuperate in Bermuda. While the British press did not publish this the Canadian press did, and those reports made their way back to the Caribbean, causing a temporary halt in recruitment. Recruiters then changed tactic to meeting with the wives and mothers, to persuade them to allow their men to volunteer, combined with door to door visits. After this recruitment numbers climbed again. While there were conscription laws, they were not enforced in the Caribbean, so every black man in the BWIR was a volunteer.

The earliest recruits thought they were signing up to a fighting unit. A letter from the Governor of Barbados says, “They were told they would be treated in the same way as other



BWIR graves in Seaford cemetery



Men of the BWIR with their Lee Enfield Rifles, on the Amiens–Albert Road, France, September 1916

British Regiments... It was understood to be a combatant unit.” However, that did not come to fruition as there was a British reluctance to use black troops in combat in France and Flanders. (In contrast, the French army had no such qualms, and used their African regiments extensively on the Western Front.) While labouring is a crucial part of any war effort, it was not what the earliest recruits of the BWIR volunteered for.

Meanwhile, back in Seaford, Sussex, men started to arrive in increasing numbers to be trained. However, the British winter of 1915–1916 caused difficulties for the new arrivals from the Caribbean, resulting in cases of pneumonia and mumps. There are 19 BWIR headstones in Seaford cemetery. Please visit them.

The first members of the BWIR to go to war departed for Egypt in April 1916. They were used as labourers, digging trenches, building roads and gun emplacements, acting as stretcher bearers, loading ships and trains, and working in ammunition dumps, laying telephone cables, etc., as part of the army that was guarding the Suez Canal against the Ottoman Empire.

As other battalions were recruited and trained, the BWIR were sent to perform similar labouring roles in France, Flanders and Italy, where Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig said of them, “Their work has been very arduous and has been carried out almost continuously under

shell fire. In spite of casualties the men have always shown themselves willing and cheerful workers, and the assistance they have rendered has been much appreciated by the units to which they have been attached and for whom they have been working. The physique of the men is exceptional, their discipline excellent and their morale high.”

In the run-up to the start of the Battle of Passchendaele (the Third Battle of Ypres) there was an artillery duel. Artillery was the most lethal weapon of the Western Front; 3,000 British guns fired millions of shells at German positions. The sound of the bombardment would have reverberated, deafeningly. The BWIR supported the guns by transporting the shells. Their ammo dumps were important targets for the German guns retaliating. The BWIR may not have been “going over the top” but they still took extensive casualties. Their death rate was roughly 1 in 12, which is similar to the death rate for combatant soldiers.

Herbert Morris enlisted at 16 years old. He served during the run-up to the Battle of Passchendaele, supplying ammunition to the guns during the artillery duel. In July 1917 his unit was taking daily casualties from artillery fire. He ran away and was arrested in Boulogne, earning two weeks field punishment. In August 1917 he ran away again, and was again arrested trying to get into Boulogne’s transit camp, where

Stacking shells with Australians, October 1917 Passchendaele



he presumably hoped to stow away on a ship to Britain. At his trial he said, "I am troubled with my head and cannot stand the sound of the guns. I reported to the doctor, and he gave me no medicine or anything... He gave me no satisfaction." The punishment for a second desertion was that he was shot at dawn, aged 17.

Fighting

As the rigours of war took their toll and the enthusiasm of the BWIR to do more than labouring for the war effort was listened to, in September 1918 the BWIR battalions in Palestine were allowed to fight. As part of the Battle of Megiddo, General Allenby ordered the New Zealand Major General, Edward W.C. Chaytor, to prevent the Ottoman forces from moving west across the River Jordan. Chaytor had a mixed group of soldiers from all races—black, Indian, Jewish, ANZAC—and so he was willing to use the BWIR in battle.

19th September 1918, Bakr Ridge

The 2nd Battalion BWIR attacked the ridge to the south of the Bakr Ridge. Despite facing

heavy artillery and machine-gun fire three companies of 2nd BWIR assaulted this ridge, seizing it and driving off the enemy outposts for the loss of 35 West Indian casualties. The following morning, before first light, 2nd BWIR continued advancing and seized Bakr Ridge itself.

20th Sept 1918

The 1st Battalion BWIR was ordered to attack and seize Grant Hill and Baghalat. Spurred on to emulate their colleagues on Bakr Ridge, 1st BWIR went into the attack in artillery formation, advancing for 1,600 yards under heavy shell-fire. Both objectives were seized. Two men in 1st BWIR were awarded Distinguished Conduct Medals for gallant actions.

503 Lance Corporal R. Turpin (from Trinidad) was cited: *For great gallantry and devotion to duty at Baghalat, Jordan Valley, on the 20th September 1918. As soon as one company of his battalion had occupied that place, he, under heavy shell fire, ran a signal wire from Musallaheh to Baghalat, a matter of two miles. Later in the day he went out on four*

occasions under heavy fire and repaired the wire, which had been cut by enemy artillery fire.

6357 Private H. Scott (from Jamaica) was cited: *For great gallantry and devotion to duty on the 20th September 1918. When a company of the battalion had occupied Baghalat, he volunteered to carry a message from that place to Grant Ridge. Under very heavy shell fire he crossed the 700 yards of open ground and delivered his message.*

22nd Sept 1918 Jisr ed Damieh Bridge

An attack on the crossing over the River Jordan was ordered at Jisr ed Damieh. An attack went in but the New Zealanders of the Auckland Regiment were forced back by an enemy counter-attack. Lieutenant Colonel C. Wood Hill, Commanding Officer of 1st BWIR, was ordered to march to the crossing immediately. At 1050 hours a second assault on the crossing went in, supported by the guns of the Inverness Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, and the 29th (Murree) Mountain Battery, Indian Army. West Indians and New Zealanders charged, competing to be the first to get at the Turks with their bayonets. The West Indians won and the enemy rear guard was broken.

Temporary Major Alfred Ernest Albert Harragin (a white man), 1st BWIR, later received a Distinguished Service Order for: *Gallantry and successful leadership of his company*

on the 22nd September 1918, at Damieh bridgehead, Jordan Valley. He and his company (of black BWIR men) took over 100 prisoners and three machine guns, and were responsible for about 50 killed and wounded of the enemy.

1454 Serjeant W.E. Julian (from Grenada), 1st BWIR, received a Distinguished Conduct Medal: *For gallantry and devotion to duty at Damieh Bridgehead, Jordan Valley, on the 22nd September 1918. He commanded his platoon with the utmost efficiency in the attack on the bridgehead, and after the successful assault he re-organised his platoon and led them with great gallantry over the broken ground, which was still occupied by the enemy, capturing two machine guns and a number of prisoners.*

Meanwhile 2nd BWIR, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel J.H. Poe, had been ordered to an adjacent river crossing at Mafid Jozele. Here the battalion, supported by the 3rd Australian Light Horse, attacked and drove in the enemy rear guard and took many prisoners. Temporary Major William Llewellyn Thomas (a white man), 2nd BWIR, later received a Distinguished Service Order: *For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 22nd September 1918, at Mafid Joseh. On learning that an officer's patrol was fighting a rearguard action against vastly superior numbers, he took up a platoon (of black BWIR men) and kept the enemy in check until the remainder of the battalion had arrived as reinforcements. The enemy*

Digging dug-outs in Palestine



were driven back. He displayed great initiative in the subsequent attack, which resulted in the capture of Mafid Joseh and forty prisoners.

In the aftermath of the battle General Allenby wrote, "I have great pleasure in informing you of the gallant conduct of the machine-gun section of the 1st British West Indies Regiment during two successful raids on the Turkish trenches. All ranks behaved with great gallantry under heavy rifle and shell fire and contributed in no small measure to the success of the operations."

After the Armistice soldiers awaiting demobilisation were sent to Taranto, where the camp was commanded by an officer who was a veteran of the Boer War. All 11 battalions of

committee feel that the claim of these men to be put on the same footing as other combatant units of the British Army is a just one." It was ignored.

In the months afterwards frustrations mounted until, on 6th December 1918, 180 sergeants signed a similar petition. That same day the regiment was ordered to clean the latrines of the Italian labourers. A BWIR officer complained to the Commanding Officer who replied, "The men were only n*****... No such treatment should ever have been promised them... They were better fed and treated than any n***** had a right to expect... He would order them to do whatever work he pleased, and if they objected he would force them to do it."

The BWIR refused to soldier. A Lieutenant Colonel was assaulted. A tent was slashed. A black soldier was shot by a mutineer. After four days the Worcestershire Regiment surrounded the BWIR, disarming them. One battalion was disbanded immediately, with the men distributed to

other battalions. 60 men were tried for mutiny, of whom 47 were found guilty. Most were jailed for 3-4 years; one was sentenced to death but this was commuted to a jail term of 20 years, and he was released early. One member of the BWIR was executed in January 1919 and the histories differ as to why. Most say it was because he was a ringleader of the mutiny. However a more reliable source says it was because he had committed robbery and murder in September 1918. (His file at the National Archive has not been scanned, so if anyone goes to Kew please do look it up!)

After the mutiny, whilst discipline and conditions in Taranto were stricter, the BWIR did receive their pay rise. The anger the



The Jisr ed Damieh crossing

the BWIR came together in Taranto for the first time. They had all had very different war experiences. Those who had guarded the Suez Canal had different experiences from those who had survived the Western Front's guns, who again would have had differing outlooks from those who had fought in Palestine. But in Taranto the Commanding Officer treated all the BWIR alike, giving them the most unpleasant camp jobs. White soldiers were given a Victory pay rise, but the BWIR were not.

Prior to the Armistice, in August 1918 in Egypt, 12 respected soldiers signed a petition outlining their grievances about pay and promotion. This was supported by the Governor of Barbados, who said, "The recruiting



General Chaytor decorating a BWIR lance corporal in Palestine 1918 (probably LCpl Leekam MM)

BWIR felt meant that on the 17th December 1918 about 60 NCOs met to form the Caribbean League, calling for equal rights, self-determination and closer union in the West Indies. It was a short-lived organisation, but influential. At a meeting on 20th December, a sergeant of the 3rd Battalion stated that "the black man should have freedom and govern himself in the West Indies and that, if necessary, force and bloodshed should be used to attain that object".

In response a secret British government memo noted, "Nothing we can do will alter the fact that the black man has begun to think and feel himself as good as the white." As a result the BWIR were treated with disdain.

When the veterans were shipped home they were not welcomed. Due to the lack of jobs at home some veterans went to Cuba and Venezuela. Some stayed in Britain, but the job-hunting competition of the post-war years and the instability from the Spanish Flu pandemic meant there was wide-spread rioting in port cities in 1919. In Liverpool a black man was chased into the docks and drowned.

The BWIR were not invited to march in any Victory Parade, either in London or Jamaica. (Units of many other races of soldiers did march in London's Victory Parade, making the BWIR an obvious exclusion.)

When the colours of the BWIR were laid up no unit inherited their battle honours.

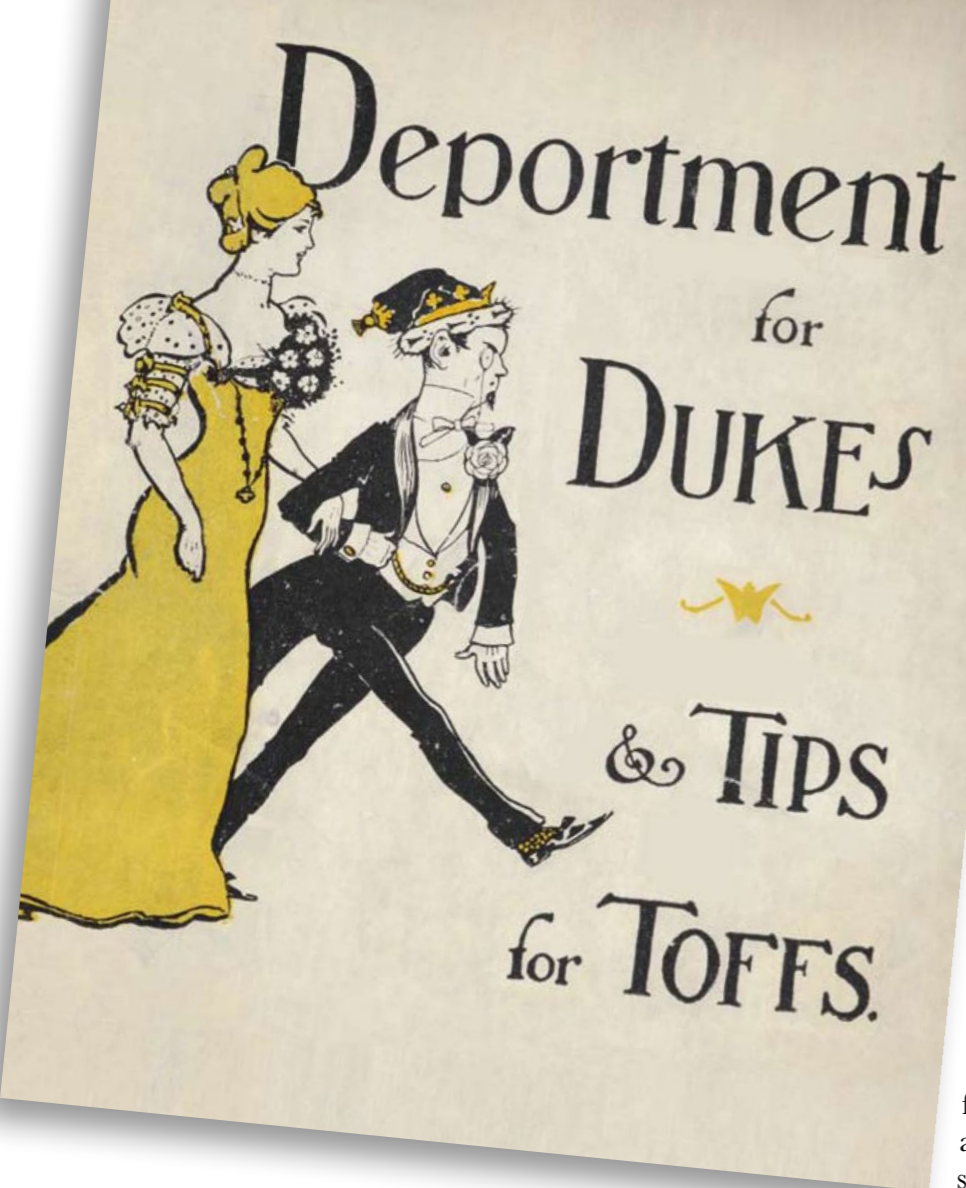
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Black Poppies, Stephen Bourne (History Press)
Mud, Blood and Poppycocok: Britain and the Great War, Gordon Corrigan (Cassell)
Remembered: In Memoriam: An Anthology of African & Caribbean Experiences in WWI & WWII, edited by Jak Beula and Nairobi Thompson (Nubian Jak Society)

For the Palestine section extensive quotes are taken from www.kaiserscross.com/304501/319801.html

For the mutiny, the main source was www.josieholford.com/no-parades





DEPARTMENT FOR DUKES AND TIPS FOR TOFFS

By Brummel & Beau

Reviewed by **Kathryn Best**

“THERE WILL ALWAYS BE a steady demand for the book of etiquette,” wrote P.G. Wodehouse on 2nd November 1903 in an unsigned column in the *Globe*. Wodehouse added that there are two curious facts about books on etiquette: “In the first place, they are rarely, if ever, found in any European country except England. Secondly, when published in England, they are almost invariably, according to a publisher, financial successes.” On this matter, he defers to an anonymous speculator:

not so pronounced. There are havens of refuge where he can hide himself at a crisis. A dinner party is different. There he must pass that final test, the test of eating.”

In the context of publications on etiquette, the reliance on anonymous sources, fictitious names and author pseudonyms was not unusual in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and although Wodehouse mentions the book *Department for Dukes and Tips for Toffs* by its title in his musings on etiquette books, he does not mention the authors, Brummel & Beau. Presumably Wodehouse was familiar with the real authors or at least understood the use of pseudonyms as a way to be humorous and not deemed guilty of giving away *inside information*; the authors’ real identity is likely to have been known to those moving in the right circles. Wodehouse insists that, “The point as to whether the author is an authority on the subject is beside the question. That his name has never been mentioned as that of a leader of the society of which he professes to

“Nothing is so suggestive of the fluidity of English society as the popularity of the book of etiquette. You may scour the bookshops of Vienna without unearthing a single guide-book to the rules and manners of good society. It is not wanted. For where a man is born, there he stays, and he learns the manners of his special rank in creation with his letters. But in England things are different.”

The anonymous speculator to whom Wodehouse defers continues:

“The young man fresh from the country feels that he must proceed warily when he arrives in London, and begins to receive invitations from friends of his family. He belongs to a fluid class on the way to gentility. He does not eat peas with his knife, but he feels nervous and uncomfortable at dances and dinner parties, more so probably at the latter than the former. At a dance his individuality is

know the highways and byways so thoroughly is immaterial. His maxims are in print, and as such are to be revered. And there is always a chance that the author may be a duke writing under an assumed name. Perhaps even a prince.”

First published in 1900 by Simpkin, Marshall & Co., Brummel’s & Beau’s work came to be known as the original guide for the aristocracy. *Department for Dukes and Tips for Toffs* is a “treatise” for anyone who wanted to avoid showing themselves up when mixing with the upper classes—a satirical parody on the early Victorian books on etiquette. This guide, subtitled *A Compendium of Useful Information for Guests at the Mansions of the Nobility, Gentry and Clergy*, was intentionally limited to a circulation of 10,000 copies. It was, however, graciously brought back into publication for the modern aristocrat by the British Library in 2013, perhaps speculatively released in light of the popularity of ITV’s fictitious *Downton Abbey*, filmed in 2010 at Highclere Castle in Berkshire, and the subsequent resurgence of interest in the goings

on within country houses and “how the other half lives”. Brummel & Beau even introduced the original book as such: “A visit to a country house is the summit of refined gratification and at the disposal, therefore, of the guest travelling towards a twelve-course dinner, the authors have placed this essential guide.”

The author pseudonyms chosen for the original book are a play on Beau Brummell, a well-known dandy, iconic figure and arbiter

of men’s fashion in the times of Regency England (early 19th-century). According to National Geographic’s *History* magazine, Beau Brummell’s mannerisms and witty sayings caused a style revolution in men’s fashion: “He sparked change not with rhetoric or military might, but with innovations in masculine sartorial style and manner. Men copied what he wore, his mannerisms, and even his daily grooming routine.” Beau Brummel is, arguably, the inventor of the style rules that men still

follow today, although, according to *History*, it was his ability to adapt to his surroundings that led to his unique style: “Beau Brummell was not an aristocrat; he was a commoner admitted to the royal circle. Maintaining that position meant living beyond his means. Some historians believe that the sobriety of his style was linked to the relative modesty of his origins. As he could not compete in terms of jewels and ornamentation, he concentrated instead on refining the cut of his clothes. Brummell created and made fashionable the modern man’s suit.”

Back to the book, *Department for Dukes*

and Tips for Toffs. According to Brummel & Beau, the intended audience, those who have not enjoyed the same advantages of birth, fortune and cellars, includes the families of aristocracy, their chaplains and servants. No matter the occasion, whether a visit to a country house or dinner with a Cabinet Minister, or location, whether the throne-room, the boudoir or the butlers’ pantry, the tips are presented in order of events and occasions for ease of use by



those who, like Beau Brummell, might aspire to blend in without betraying their origins.

Retrospectively, ITV may wish they had been more prudent and referred to the book during their filming of *Downton Abbey*. The Countess of Carnarvon was said to have complained that the state dining room table was not laid properly for the banquet scenes filmed at her stately home of Highclere. “Setting up the table is an art,” says Lady Carnarvon, quoted in *Britain* magazine. “Knives, forks and spoons are set from the outside in, beginning with the bread knife and working through each course to cheese. A pat of butter is impressed with the intertwined Cs and coronet and placed in front of each guest. The wine glasses and water tumbler are arranged to the top right of each setting. Downton prefer a different arrangement. I don’t want to step on people’s toes so I’ve tried a few times to say, ‘Do you know you’re setting the table wrong?’ I do feel, after all, that it’s my dining table and obviously we wouldn’t set it like that.”

Fortunately, with the re-release of *Department for Dukes and Tips for Toffs*, numerous gems are offered to help navigate the dinner table, hunting, shooting, in the ballroom, the precedence of personages, *conversation de société*, and indeed the whole duty of the gentleman. The re-release assures readers that it is an invaluable guide to manners and mores, and as indispensable to the modern aristocrat as

(Below) The late 19th century saw a boom in etiquette guides



it was over 100 years ago. Club members who, obviously, have no need for this guide themselves, will take particular delight in the hand drawings, unusual in that a dotted line is used for all but the essential parts. Here are some other discerning facts for those who, as observed by Wodehouse, “suffer from a tendency to vacillate and know the inexpressible comfort of being able to refer all doubts and dilemmas to a printed authority.”

On the journey itself:

Remember that much of the success and comfort of the journey depends upon the impression the traveller produces on his arrival at the railway station.

Avoid the vulgar and objectionable habit of conversing with your fellow travellers. Be on your guard when asked a civil question; if you cannot answer rudely, do not reply at all.

On breakfast:

It is advisable, and extremely invigorating, to rise at least four hours before the advertised time. Having shaved, trimmed your nails, and drawn your slippers (which should be of plain green velvet, adorned merely with filigree tassels or small pearl buttons), you may proceed to the bathroom.

In country houses situated beyond the 82 degrees North Latitude, it is customary for the guest to appear at breakfast without having effected any material alteration

From the British Library's website:

The Handbook of Etiquette

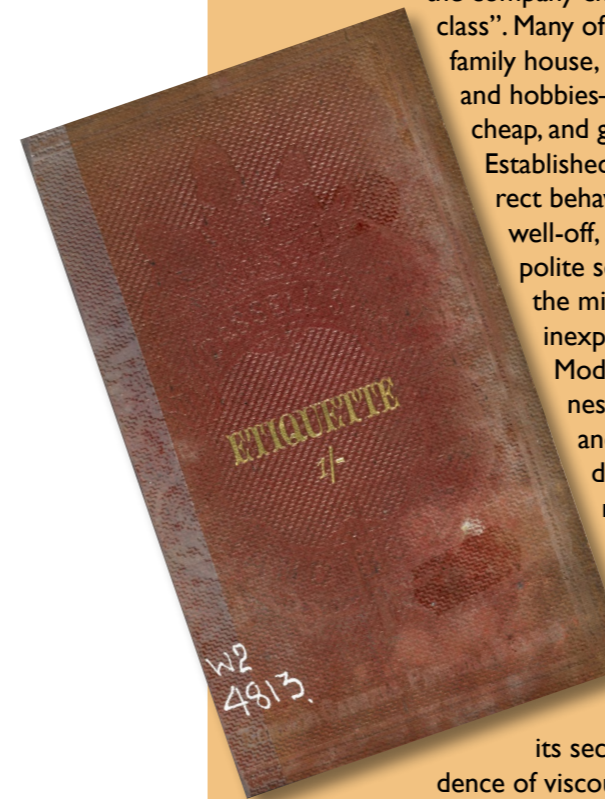
Trade boomed in 19th-century Britain, as did the administrative employment around it. Banking jobs alone trebled between 1851 and 1871 to 120,000. A junior clerk on £100 a year might earn less than a carpenter, but along with the company chairman on £1,000, he would feel “middle-class”. Many of the trappings of middle-class life—a decent family house, domestic servants, improving reading material and hobbies—were affordable. Income tax was low, labour cheap, and goods were becoming ever cheaper.

Established members of the middle classes learned correct behaviour from their governesses. But the newly well-off, aspiring to move up the social ladder through polite society, had not. And in the 19th century, as the middle classes expanded rapidly, a stream of inexpensive guidebooks appeared to help them.

Modesty, humility, propriety, cleanliness and politeness featured strongly. Words such as “bottom” and “trousers” were to be avoided. Children deferred to parents, and women to men, while men had to respect women totally—until they were married, at least.

This example, *The Handbook of Etiquette: Being a Complete Guide to the Usages of Polite Society*, was published in 1860. Priced at a shilling, it is definitely aimed at the upper end of the middle-class market, with

its sections on the ballroom, information on precedence of viscounts’ younger sons over baronets, and notes on when to serve champagne.



say goodbye to your hostess.

To your fellow guests you may account for the suddenness of your departure by explaining that the telegram from His Royal Highness was peremptory, or that your supply of handkerchiefs is now exhausted.

Particularly useful to more verbose Club members is the section on *Conversation de Société*, the art of which consists in following the obvious to no conclusion. “A general conversation, in the highest social strata may touch on politics, partridges and impropriety. In less exalted but still refined circles, on servants, sanitation and seaside accommodation. The bourgeois may discuss clergymen and internal complaints, and those in humble

in the costume in which he has spent the night. In England, however, this custom has not yet found general favour; in fact, it is advisable to make an almost complete change of attire.

In the ballroom:

However warm the evening may be, it is unusual to remove your waist-coat or shirt front. You will find that a bunch of keys or a glass of cold water slipped down the back will be more seemly and equally efficacious.

The first tip on The Departure is that:

On a hint from your hostess the Departure occurs.

This begins by rewarding the servants who have soaped your sponge, blackened your brown boots, or otherwise ministered you comfort and enjoyment.

If still on terms of sufficient familiarity you should

stations tripe and treason.”

Department for Dukes and Tips for Toffs, published by the British Library, is available at all good book merchants. Upon purchase, the book can be placed inside a brown paper bag to maintain Club members’ modesty.

References

The P.G. Wodehouse Globe Reclamation Project: www.madameulalie.org/grp/Books_on_Etiquette.html

Downton etiquette revealed by Martha Alexander: www.britain-magazine.com/carousel/downton-etiquette-revealed

This Nineteenth Century Dandy Caused a Style Revolution: www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2019/05-06/beau-brummell-nineteenth-century-fashion

THE BROGUES GALLERY

WITH ARTEMIS SCARHEART



In which a Member of the New Sheridan Club is asked to introduce themselves to other Members so that those at Home and Across the Seas may all get to know fellow Club Members. No part of this interview may be used in court or bankruptcy proceedings.



At the NSC with fellow Kiwi Craigoh (right)

Dirk Heinsius

Name or preferred name?

Baron van Heinsius.

Why that nickname or nom de plume?

Flows off the tongue nicely.

Where do you hail from?

The Dominion of New Zealand.

Favourite cocktail?

The Blood and Sand:

INGREDIENTS

¾ oz Scotch

¾ oz sweet vermouth

¾ oz cherry brandy

¾ oz fresh orange juice

Glass: cocktail

PREPARATION

Add all the ingredients to a shaker and fill with ice. Shake, and strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

Most Chappist skill?

The ability to sing lustily (and in tune).

Most Chappist possession?

A complete six-piece set of leather suitcases.

Personal Motto?

No good story ever started with a green salad and a cup of tea!

Favourite Quotes?

"A woman drove me to drink and I didn't even have the decency to thank her."

— W. C. Fields

Not a lot of people know this about me...

I spent ten days trapped in a war zone.

How long have you been involved with the NSC?

At a guess it's now seven years.

How did you hear about the Club to begin with?

From my old chum Craigoh, a.k.a. Smurf.

What one thing would you recommend to fellow Members and why (cocktail, night out, tailor, watchmaker, public house, etc.)?

To marry well! My good lady wife, Lily, has done her Savile Row accreditation and is also my tailor.

Your three chosen dinner party guests from history or fiction and why?

1. J.R.R. Tolkein for his knowledge of language.
2. Emperor Napoleon to discuss military history.
3. P.G. Wodehouse for fun and merriment.

Favourite Member of the Glorious Committee?

Artemis Scarheart, of course.

Have you done a Turn yet? If so what was it on, if not what are you planning to do?

Alas no, as my presence at lodge is sporadic at best. But if I had the opportunity I would give a presentation on the history of the Imperial British



Conservative Party, and its military wing Alf's Imperial Army.

Thank you for allowing yourself to be interviewed in the palatial surroundings of the NSC Club House. On behalf of the Members may I respectfully ask you to resign.



HENRI DE MONFREID

By Torquil Arbuthnot

IHAVE MADE NO SECRET of my life during the past years. To-day I do not attempt to explain nor excuse, to call this black or white. For eighteen years I followed the sea, took what it offered. It has brought me shipwreck and success, sorrow, danger, and unutterable happiness. For eighteen years of my life, I lived completely.

Henri de Monfreid was born in France in 1879, the son of a painter and art dealer who was friends with Gauguin and Matisse. After schooling, de Monfreid was judged unfit for military service and spent ten years working variously as a chauffeur, chemist and milkman.

In 1911 aged 32 he settled in Djibouti (then a French possession) where he became a trader in coffee and hides. Tiring of the *petit-bourgeois* colonial life, he travelled into the Ethiopian interior, becoming friends with the Danakil tribe, and learning their language. He also converted to Islam: in the midst of a vicious gale in the Strait of Bab el Mandeb (or the Gate of Tears), when he swore to his shipmates that he would convert to Islam if he and the crew survived. True to his word he became a Muslim, adopting the name Abd-al-Hai (“slave of life-giving”). After his travels he built himself a dhow, the *Altair*, and between 1912 and 1940 he earned a raffish living on the Red Sea diving for pearls and sea-slugs, gun-running, and



De Monfreid aboard the *Massabieh* in March 1935

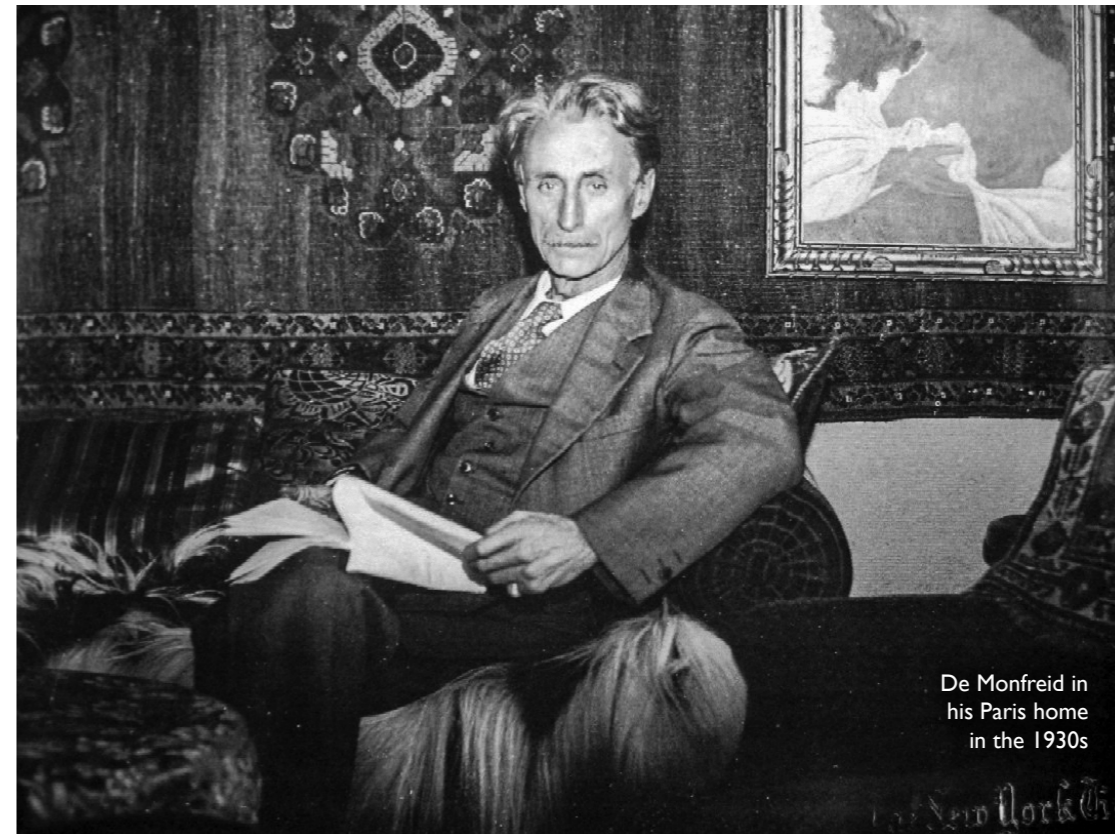
smuggling hashish. Needless to say, he also had several spells in prison. During the First World War he spied for the French, his knowledge of the various anchorages in the Red Sea and Horn of Africa proving invaluable.

In the 1930s de Monfreid began writing about his adventures, publishing several books such as *Secrets of the Red Sea* and *Adventures on the Sea*. His book *Towards the Hostile Lands of Ethiopia* incurred the displeasure of Emperor Haile Selassie, who expelled him from Ethiopia

in 1933, although he later returned after Mussolini’s invasion. During the Second World War he worked for the Italians until he was captured by the British, who deported him to Kenya. After the war he retired to France where he quietly raised a plantation of opium poppies until this was discovered by the authorities. He narrowly escaped prosecution, and settled down to a life of writing, turning out over 70 books over the next 30 years. His books reflect his peripatetic life and thirst for action and violent adventure. As well as

travel books, he also wrote several novels such as *The Slave of the Golden Boat*, and *Abdi, the Man With the Severed Hand*.

His most famous and best book is the non-fictional *Hashish: Smuggling Under Sail in the Red Sea* (1935), a classic yarn about a smuggling trip.

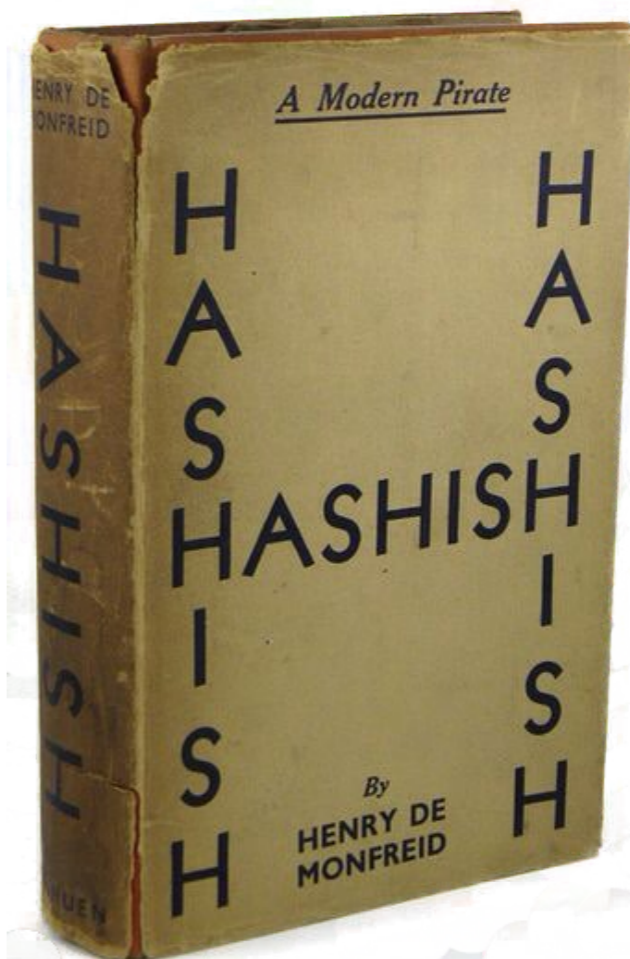


De Monfreid in his Paris home in the 1930s

He makes the acquaintance of a Greek sailor in Marseille who seems to regard the buying of hashish as a perfectly normal activity and gives him the address of his family in Greece who happen to own a farm in the mountains. De Monfreid knows nothing about hashish and bluffs when first shown the merchandise, keeping a stone-face and remaining silent. The wholesaler he is dealing with soon cracks and admits he was showing a grossly inferior product and immediately produces his best, offering it at a discount price to make amends for his intended chicanery. With the help of a local bishop, he avoids the Greek customs and sails via Djibouti to Suez with his narcotic cargo. On the way he is attacked by Eritrean soldiers,

whom he scares away by letting off dynamite, and is chased by the Italian navy. On arrival in Suez he contacts some Bedouin who help him smuggle the hashish into the desert. During barren periods, when writing was not bringing in enough money, he sold off his father’s collection of paintings by Gauguin. Only after de Monfreid’s death in 1974 were these discovered to be fakes...

The British explorer Wilfred Thesiger was an admirer. Writing of his own travels in Ethiopia in 1935, he recalled in his autobiography, *The Life of My Choice*, that, “I had bought de Monfreid’s *Les Secrets de la Mer Rouge* and *Aventures de Mer* in Addis Ababa, and had just finished reading them. I had found his account of a wild and lawless life fascinating.” Later Thesiger came across the *Altair* abandoned in Djibouti but still with de Monfreid’s crew living aboard. “I was half tempted to buy the boat and see if I could make a livelihood trading and pearling in the Red Sea. De Monfreid had bridged the gap between himself and his crew, identifying himself with them to the extent of becoming one of them. He had been rewarded by their acceptance, and I envied him his achievement...”





CLUB NOTES

Club Christmas Plans

IT'S THE MOST wonderful time of the year, or so they tell us. Ordinarily we'd have a Club Christmas party, plus our annual Christmas Moot where we meet at the Rising Sun pub on the last Friday before Christmas. I'd normally have a Candlelight Club Christmas party and a New Year's Eve party. Sadly none of this is possible this time, but we do have a few virtual Yuletide shenanigans that might warm a cockle or two in the run-up to Noël itself.

Of course our **monthly meetings** have, since April, been replaced by online experiences, with a lecture delivered via YouTube, Facebook or Zoom, plus a Zoom meeting to fulfill the social side. Of course it's not the same as the upstairs room at the Wheatsheaf, but it does mean that people from all over the globe can join in, and we have had attendees from France, Finland, Dubai and the US. This month, Baron Solf will tell us about the exploits of his forebears in undermining the Abwehr during the Second World War. (See page 2 for details.)

We have also kept up our programme of weekly **NSC Pub Quizzes**, also via Zoom: six rounds of ten questions with an intermission, with players marking their own answers. There is a certain inevitability about Incy's victory each time, but it's Not About the Winning (so much so that the last time Matthew Howard



Deck the halls with boughs of—OH MY GOD, WHAT IS THAT?



Precisely the sort of face-to-face hijinks that will not be happening this year

was Quizmaster he didn't bother gathering any scores at all). The quizzes are normally every Wednesday, except the first of the month, which is the Club Night. However, note that we are skipping 9th December so that Members can support Callum Coates who will be taking part in Rhythm & Book's **A Marvellous Party Christmas edition**—see the Events pages.

Note also that the quiz on 16th December, hosted by James Rigby and Mrs Morley, will be our **Quiz Christmas Special**, festooned with seasonal brainteasers and Yuletide trivia. Expect a triumphant Incy to flit from house to house dropping arcane facts down each chimney.

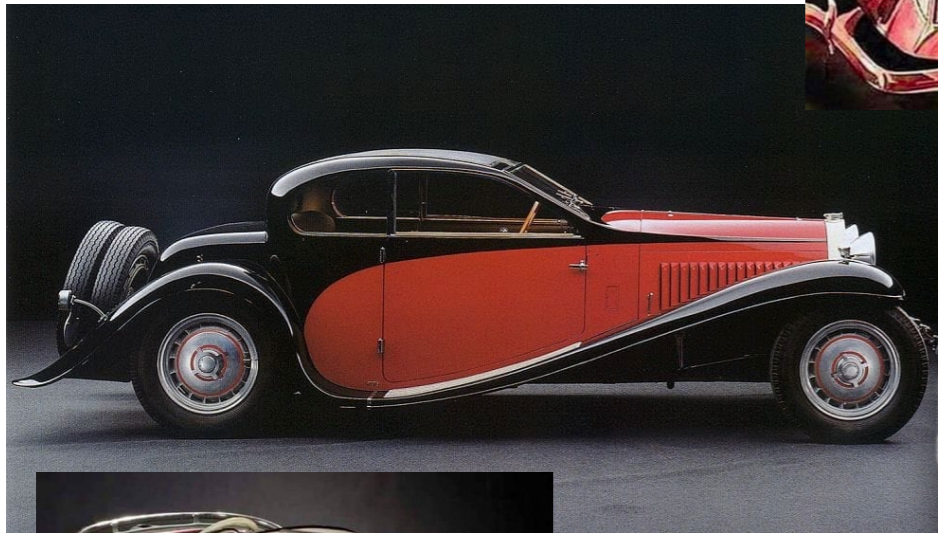
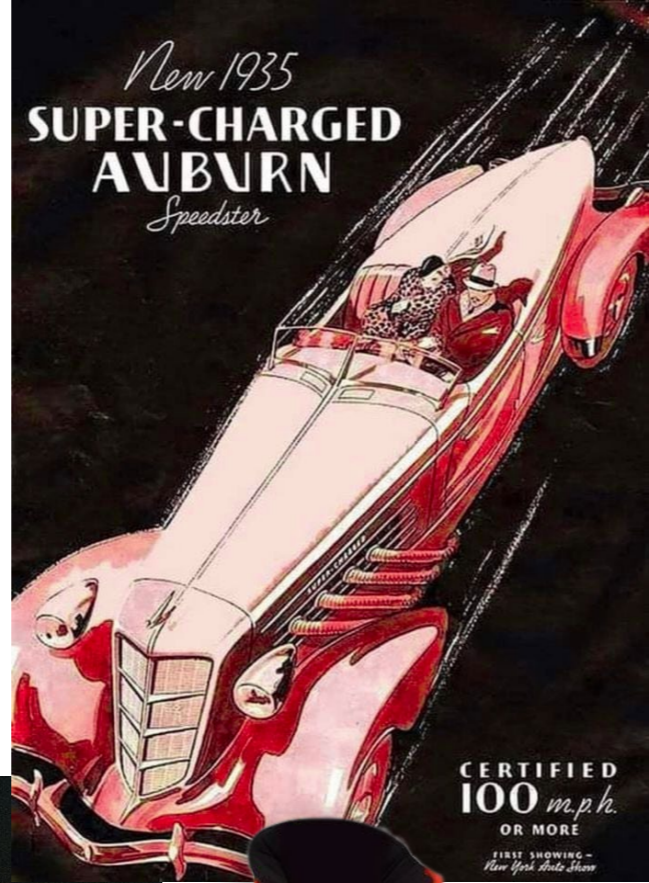
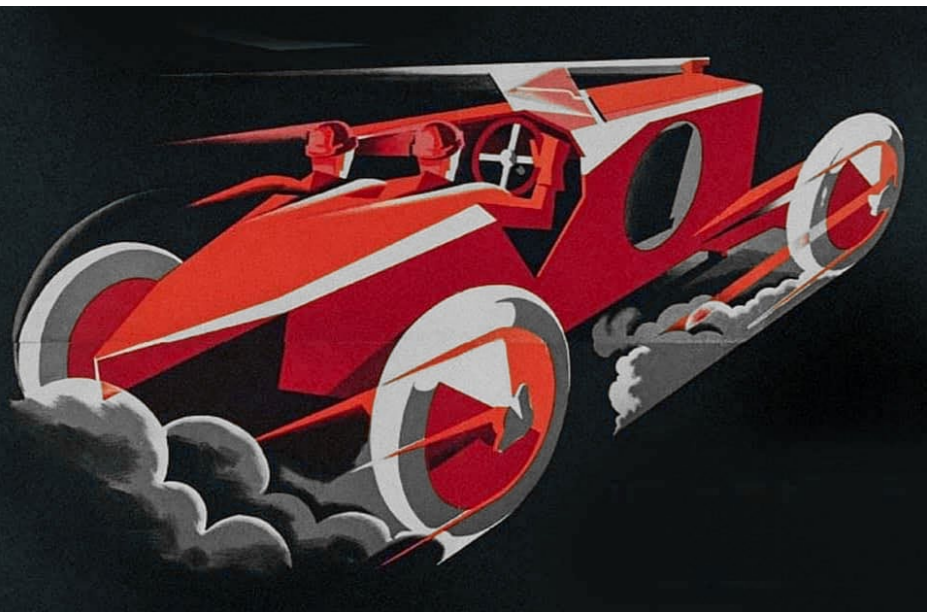
Finally, although we can't meet up at the Rising Sun, we will be having a **Virtual Christmas Moot** via Zoom on the traditional date. You'll have to supply your own libations, but with any luck by then Zoom will have invented a virtual hand-on-the-collar so if you get too rowdy we can eject you into the virtual snow. See the events page for the Zoom link.

Club Tie Corner

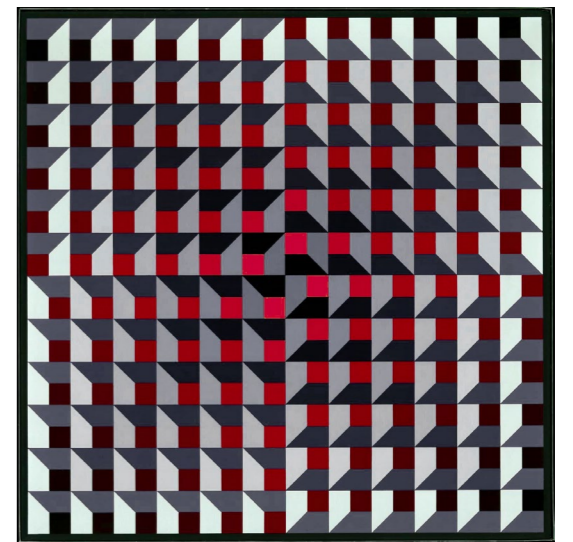
IT'S BEEN A FRUITFUL month in the realm of spurious spottings of Club colours, but I guess you need something to do with your hands during lockdown. Clockwise from below: Prince Charles makes one of his regular appearances in these pages, here showing up President Bush Jr, spotted by Dr Blah; "the club bookie with Lt. Columbo, it seems—*An Exercise in Fataality*, 1974," comments Col. Cyrus Choke; Ivan Debono observes a Club Member "getting up to no good" (*The Graduate*, 1967); deploying Club colours against eldritch horrors in HBO's *Lovecraft Country*; Stuart Mitchell submits these two images, both from the BBC's *The Men Who Built the Liners*—men who clearly were all NSC

Members, or perhaps just didn't have very many ties to go around between them.



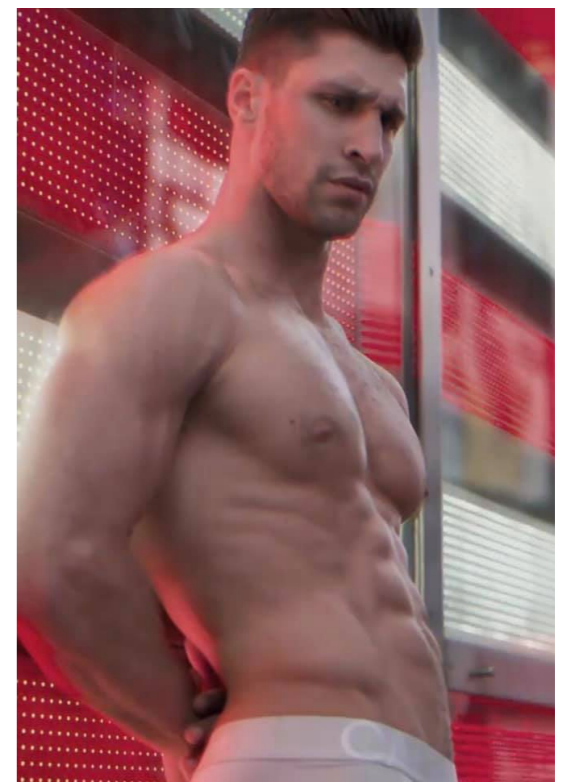


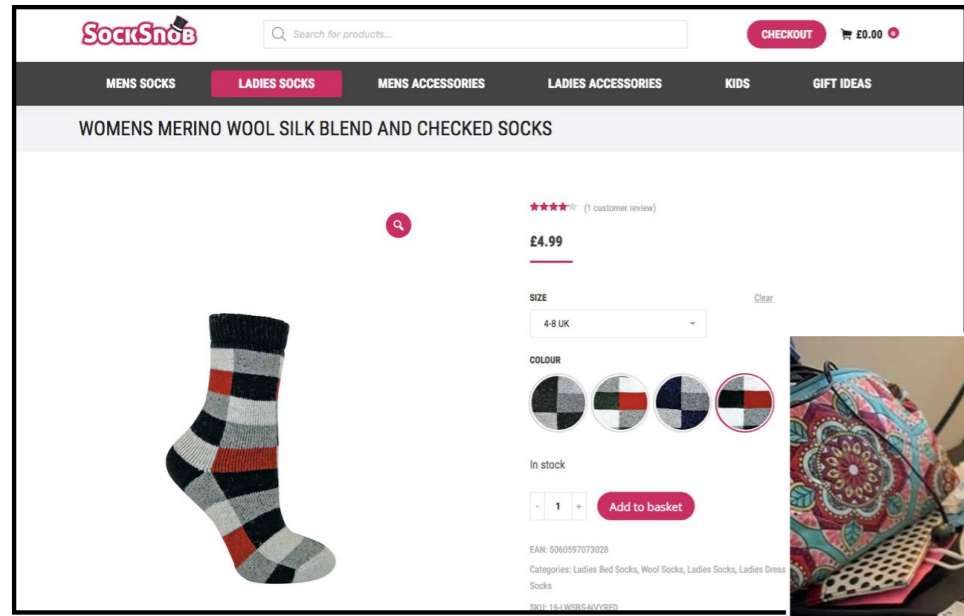
Some Club hardware (clockwise from below): the 1937 33-seat "Sanitary Diner", originally located in Cleveland; Club dodgem, from Facebook's Art Deco Era Motor and Fashion Group; 1931 Bugatti Type 50; 1927 illustration by Lucio Venna; advertising image, also from the Art Deco Era Motor and Fashion Group; fetching Club high-vis outfit courtesy of Ivan Debono



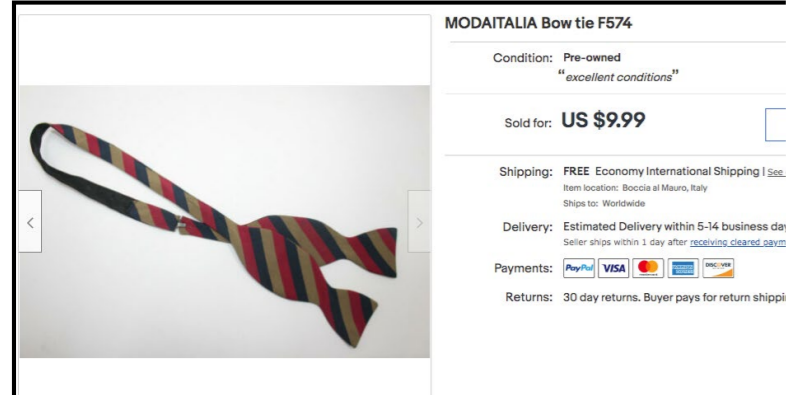
(Clockwise from top left): Room designed for Edsel Ford's children (who were clearly being groomed to join the NSC); Luca Jellinek submits this sculpture, *Absinthe Glass*, by Picasso and comments, "Who knew that Pablo, in addition to not being "called a *****",* was a Sheridanite?"; Debono gazes into Jean-Pierre Yvaral's *Ambiguous Structure No. 92* and sees NSC tendencies (the work is clearly Yvaral's vision for an NSC Clubhouse); Col. Choke queries whether the Club has a resident underwear model on the books (wishful thinking there); Oliver Lane discovered the abandoned line of NSC children's lederhosen; Debono came across this dismal spectacle in his local supermarket

*Obscure reference to Pablo Picasso by Jonathan Richman and the Modern Lovers





(Clockwise from below) I'm not sure if James Rigby found this keyboard or designed it, to give himself more focus and authority when working; Negroto sends us "Anne-Marie Louise d'Orlean, 'The Great Miss', cousin of Louis XIV—the Versailles branch of the club"; Col. Choke counters with Marie Thérèse, both Louis XIV's cousin and his wife; looking for a stocking filler for that special someone? How about this Club bow tie, or these stylish socks spotted by Mrs H?



(Clockwise from above) Make a splash this party season with this Club flapper dress (OK, you'll be alone in your living room, but that's no excuse), designed by Yteb, Paris, c. 1926; Col. Choke claims these are soldiers of the 95th Foot (Derbyshire), Crimea, 1854, but I suspect it's just another attempt to set up a Club militia; Debono feels that vintage ITV dramas make fertile ground for tie spots, citing this muted example from *The Jewel in the Crown* (1984); Negroto shared his eye-popping winter capsule wardrobe with us; our Chairman Torquil was browsing in the Club library when he came across *Parole in libertà futuriste, tattili-termiche olfattive* by Marinetti. "It consists of 15 sheets of tin lithographed on both sides in colour by Tullio d'Albisola, accompanied by a special lithographed tin slipcase and a metal stand for display."





Forthcoming Events



**BOTH OFFICIAL NSC JAUNTS (🔴)
AND THIRD-PARTY WHEEZES WE
THINK YOU MIGHT ENJOY**

FOR THE LATEST developments, see the Events page at www.newsheridanclub.co.uk plus our Facebook page and the web forum.

Since a new lockdown starts tomorrow, many scheduled events this month may be cancelled so do check.

🔴 NSC Virtual Club Night

Wednesday 2nd December
7pm BST

See page 2. In the latest of our online lectures, Baron Solf will delve into his family history for a talk on *Wilhelm Solf and the Frau Solf Tea Party*, “How one family went from the German diplomatic service to causing the downfall of the Abwehr, via a small tea party.” The lecture will begin at 8pm, delivered by Zoom. As usual the Zoom meeting will begin from 7pm for general socialising and carry on after the talk.

Zoom meeting ID: 833 7066 8060 (passcode: 871233). Direct link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83370668060?pwd=Z0FwZEk3WIRXQlZlbnkZ6M0EwWUJkQT09>

There is also a Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/389727099049132> which might be useful to keep an eye on if we have technical problems and need to change the plan or create a new URL.

A Drink With the Idler

Thursdays 3rd, 19th and 17th December
6–7pm

Online via Zoom

Admission: £5 (free for *Idler* subscribers)

Tom Hodgkinson, editor of *The Idler* magazine (a longtime friend of *The Chap*) in conversation with guests via Zoom. On the 3rd he talks to comedian, writer and podcaster Adam Buxton, one half of Adam and Joe,

plus philosopher and psychotherapist Dr Mark Vernon and host Victoria Hull. On the 10th he talks to Dr Nadi Durrani about the history of beds and on the 17th to Professor Ronald Hutton about witchcraft. More details and tickets at www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-idler-12167600133.

Count Indigo’s Christmas Dinner Service

Fridays 4th and 18th December
6.30–10pm

The Union Club,

Admission: Dinner is £50 for three courses (£40 for the vegan option) and it looks as if there is a cover charge of £6 per person

Sample the Union Club’s renowned cuisine while loungecore crooner Count Indigo bathes you in his funky carol service of jet-set mood music. Tickets from www.wegotickets.com/countindigo. See the menu at www.unionclub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Union-Club-Christmas-Menu-2020.pdf

In Air and Fire

Saturday 5th December 2020–Sunday 12th September 2021
10am–5pm

Royal Air Force Museum London, Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL

Admission: Free, but prebooking required

A collection of work exploring artists’



Hear *Idler* editor Tom Hodgson in conversation with Adam Buxton this Thursday



The Christmas Moot goes online this year, so you’ll just have to imagine all this sort of thing

responses to the Battle of Britain and the Blitz (July 1940–May 1941) as they depicted evolving machinery, communications and urban landscapes, shaped by what was an unprecedented “war in the air”. As sky battles unfolded across the South and East of England in the summer of 1940, followed by cities’ bombardment in proceeding months, artists produced a pictorial record of the war, many of their works commissioned and purchased by Sir Kenneth Clark’s War Artists’ Advisory Committee (WAAC). The exhibition features works by Official War Artists, including Paul Nash, Graham Sutherland, Carel Weight, Anthony Gross, Richard Eurich and Eric Kennington, but also extends beyond the prominent male members of the British School, championed by Clark, to reflect the full range of war artists’ contributions. It seeks to bring together the stories and perspectives of artists from diverse backgrounds, highlighting the best of collection works from the period. Visitors can view over sixty works of art, several of which will be on display for the first time as part of this exhibition. See rafmuseum.org.uk/london for more details.

Rhythm and Book: A Marvellous Party

Wednesday 9th December

8–9.30pm

Online via Zoom

Admission: Free but with optional donation of £6

We’re skipping a quiz on Wednesday 9th, so that Members can alternatively patronise this event, run by jazz dance instructor Nikki Santilli. Each week she hosts a Zoom session connected with the dance, music, art and fashion of the early 20th century, with a guest speaker. This time the speaker is actor and NSC Member Callum Coates, who will transport us to the brightest and most decadent parties of the 1920s and 1930s through the novels and poems of the time. Dress up, mix a cocktail and join the party! The event is ticketed—email nikki@hotjazzrag.com for tickets and she’ll send you the Zoom link—but if you go to hotjazzrag.com there is an option to donate £6 to help pay the speaker. There is a Facebook event at www.facebook.com/events/2741661709437721.

🔴 NSC Christmas Quiz Night

Wednesday 16th November

8pm

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82703369004?pwd=dHgvYTZUQXBYUFlpdnR5S3haanQ5QT09>

Admission: Free

Our virtual pub quizzes continue, held via Zoom meeting and hosted by a different Club Member each time—this time it’s James Rigby and Mrs Morley, offering up a special Yuletide edition for the last quiz before Christmas. You’ll need the (free) Zoom app installed, which should launch automatically when you click on



the meeting's weblink. (You can go directly via Zoom: the meeting ID is 839 4672 5405 and the passcode is 037882.) The meeting starts about 15 minutes early to allow people to register their teams if they haven't already done so. The quiz usually has six rounds with an interval, and each team can play their joker on one round in advance, which doubles the points they receive for that round.

Clerkenwell Vintage Fashion Fair
 Sunday 13th December
 11am–5pm
 On Instagram at @clerkenwellvint
 Admission: Free

Normally a physical fair full of stallholders in a civic hall, for the second month this event will go online via Instagram. The organisers explain: "Check out our instagram grid the day before our fair. There will be a post for each of our traders. Scroll through the posts to see if there is anything you like. Click through our posts to the trader's own instagram page and stories to view more items for sale and comment to purchase. *All purchases are between the seller and buyer.*"

NSC Christmas Moot
 Friday 18th December
 7pm–11pm

Online via Zoom
 Admission: Free

Traditionally the Club meets on the last Friday before Christmas for the consumption of ale—for many years it was at the Dover Castle pub, until they closed it down (reports that they did this specifically to stop us coming are unfounded). Since then we have moved our allegiance to the Rising Sun on Cloth Fair. However, the Covid-19 rules will prevent us from meeting up in person, so we are going to have an online Yuletide booze-up instead. More details to come but this is the Zoom link (meeting ID 878 8758 3854 and passcode 260311).

Tom Carradine's Self-Isolation Singalong
 Every Thursday
 8.30pm
www.facebook.com/events/1224680587870368

Master of the Cockney singalong Tom Carradine brings his infamous knees-ups to cyberspace. So gather around the e-Joanna and commence caterwauling.

This month Tom also seems to have a Christmas event on **Sunday 20th December**, 4–5pm, also online, also free (no other details yet: see www.facebook.com/events/1108859986200572).

The Arkham Hillbilly Single Releases
I Was Gone released Friday 4th December
Miskatonic Christmas released Friday 18th December
www.facebook.com/arkhamhillbilly

Fans of H.P. Lovecraft, the 1920s horror writer and creator of the Cthulhu mythos, will be delighted to learn that the Club's own Darcy Sullivan has been spending these long weeks of self-isolation in the guise of country singer the Arkham Hillbilly, the man who brought you the "Miskatonic Blues", "Jamboree at Innsmouth" and "Doggone It, Dagon". On this Facebook page you can see all his videos, where he sings down-home songs of the uncanny and the eldritch, as well as offering some good, old-fashioned advice about self-isolation itself. Sponsored by Gibbous Moonshine™—the only liquor made in Arkham in a well. That sometimes glows at night. If you're not on Facebook, check out his YouTube playlist.

Exciting news this month: following the release of his lovelorn tiki-style ballad *Tekeli-Li* two weeks ago, the Arkham Hillbilly will release his new single *I Was Gone*, a cautionary tale (well, a tale about caution) this Friday, to be followed on 18th December by his very special Christmas single *Miskatonic Christmas*.

Sugarpush Vintage Dance

A range of dates
 Start times vary: see www.facebook.com/sugarpushvintagedance

Dancer, dance teacher and DJ Holly France (a regular at the Candlelight Club) ported her solo jazz and Charleston lessons online via Zoom, briefly returned to live, socially distanced classes, went back to the virtual world for Lockdown 2, and will presumably now go live again. See the Facebook group above or www.sugarpushvintagedance.com.

Online Dance Classes with Swing Patrol
 Throughout the month
 See schedule at www.facebook.com/SwingPatrolLondon

A variety of online classes, including Charleston, Lindy Hop, solo jazz and even swing dance cardio. You buy a ticket through the website and in return they send you a private YouTube link.

The Candlelight Club on Soundcloud

Owing to the restriction on numbers created by social-distancing regulations, the Candlelight Club is mothballed. But tracks are still being added to the online repository of live recordings at soundcloud.com/the-candlelight-club. Recent additions include a set from the Lucky Dog Dance Band (house band of the Lucky Dog Picture House, which screens silent movies to live musical accompaniment), rolling New Orleans grooves from the Candid Jug Orange Band and tuba-driven swing with four-part harmonies from the Swing Ninjas. Many other recordings have also been remastered.



Hear the Lucky Dog Dance Band and many other live performers on the Candlelight Club's Soundcloud page



Sadly the
Wheatsheaf
cannot host our
December
meeting this year,
but here's a snap
of the hallowed
room from
Christmas 2018

BOOK
NOW
FOR
CHRISTMAS



WE ARE
NOW TAKING
PARTY
BOOKINGS