

tuberculosis. Marion, who was 18-years-old and 5½ months pregnant at the time of his death, returned to Canada. With the outbreak of WWI she became heavily involved in the Canadian Red Cross Society and is remembered as one of the great female figures of Canadian history. Her son Harry, by her 2nd marriage, went on to become Canada's leading field commander in WW2.

The true tragedy of Cuthbert Ottaway, perhaps, is not his untimely death aged 27, or that he never got to meet his daughter, but, rather, the manner in which history has, until recently, forgotten him. His grave, at Paddington Old Cemetery, was practically in ruins before, in 2013, it was restored by the Football Association as befits England's first football captain, who was also an exceptional

cricketer, the finest amateur racquet player in the country and perhaps the most diverse university sportsman in history.

Ottaway's college, Brasenose, have an annual tradition whereby each Shrove Tuesday an undergraduate would write an Ale Toast, in 1871 the toast was written by Cuthbert Ottaway and included the verse:

And though strength and weight help a crew,  
And though confidence help it still more,  
Yet 'tis pluck that shall pull us through  
As it has many times before.

In 1879, the year following Ottaway's death the toast included the lines:

Alas your flag is half-mast high  
All is not jest today  
On Cowleys meads the breezes sigh  
For gone is Ottaway

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Sheila Cope**

**A**s always at this time of year my thanks go to those members who have paid their subscriptions on time or by Standing Order which obviates the need for reminders.

At one time many reminder letters were sent out but now email and telephone is used. In an email message, particulars of the Society's Bank account may be given, which enables those who prefer to pay by direct Bank transfer to do so. This payment method is becoming increasingly popular although I emphasise that payments by cash or cheque are equally welcome.

During the year we are planning to transfer details of members on to a database and it may well be that our paper file will be superseded, hopefully saving time for the membership secretary but being no less secure. Such modernisation will run alongside our essential need to comply with

the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which nobody will have avoided hearing about if they receive information from any organisation. We are no exception and need our members to help both us and themselves by ticking the appropriate box. We shall also modify our Application for Membership form.

At the same time our Marketing Group is striving to improve our website. We must move with the times if we are to continue to attract young members who are prepared to do the work required to take the Society forward into the future.

We number 484 at present and in addition to 1 returner we have welcomed: Mr T Cleaver, Mr L & Mrs J Newman, Mr J Watts, Mr M & Mrs R Anderson, Mr C & Mrs S Jolliff, Mrs R & Mr R Fournier, Mr G Sutcliffe, Miss J Wheeler and Mr D & Mrs L Burden.