

Cracking discovery

STAINED glass snapped up at auction had been removed from a church to save it from Nazi bombers.

Wood carver Colin Mantripp, 63, from Bourne End, Bucks, bought the fragments, once seen in a Sheffield church, for £300.

He said: "I bagged a bargain and didn't even know about its history."

FAT LOT OF GOOD

WEIGHT loss might not boost the performance of young women in endurance sports who are already fit, said a US study.

The Fringe benefits



Keeping apart.

Keeps us safe.

Social distancing is still important for all of us.



ONLINE HIT: Stand-up comic Geoff chatting with our Mike

ON Saturday, July 4, the day England's pubs reopened, comedian Geoff Norcott walked straight into his local and ordered himself a pint.

"Mike, it tasted unbelievable," he assures me. "You know when you build up something in your mind and you're worried it won't deliver? Well, believe me, this did."

"It tasted better than I could have dreamt of."

Posting a picture of it on Twitter, mind you, did earn him a bit of a ribbing. "People gave me stick because it was a Peroni!"

"But hey, just because I'm a Brexiteer doesn't mean I can't reach out to other continental nations!"

Challenge

Covid and its fallout have made this a tough time to be a stand-up comic, with venues forced to shut their doors and some unlikely to reopen.

But Geoff has been rising to the challenge on several fronts. He's still doing his topical weekly podcast, What Most People Think, where his right-of-centre (but not mad or ranty) take on life has won him tens of thousands of fans.

To this he's now added another level, with extra material for those who follow him on subscription service Patreon.

And now, would you believe, he's



THE MIKE WARD INTERVIEW
GEOFF NORCOTT
Comic and Brexiteer

about to perform his Edinburgh set. Not at Edinburgh, obviously, but with a three-date online tour at the end of this week. Geoff Norcott's Front Room Fringe, he promises, will be "as much like the Edinburgh experience as possible."

"You know, drink whisky, eat loads of carbs, have an Im-Bru..."

It's been driven, Geoff tells me, by the success of his new-material gigs.

"I've been surprised how many people have wanted me to talk about what's been going on," he tells me.

Geoff's views on what's been going on are not as clear-cut as some might expect. While he has no time for people talking about the Government "as though they're this axe-wielding bunch of murderers," he won't let Boris's bunch entirely off the hook.

"They've done some things really well," he says, "and some really badly."

Still, for a comic it's probably better that way. Take Geoff's position on face masks.

"It seems to me that if you're happy wearing a face mask you're considered 'a good person' - and if you're not then you're like Thanos and you want to wipe out half of humanity."

"Personally, I think they're a massive pain in the a**e. But I'm doing the British thing: I'm wearing one and then moaning about it the whole time."

So does Geoff feel his comedy is helping us stay sane in this weird old time?

"I think people appreciate hearing from one who's more in line with the majority of the population than most comedians are."

"Not only that, but doing this also helps my own sanity. It's like therapy."

WIN VIP TICKETS

★ WE'RE giving away three VIP tickets to Geoff's online show this Saturday night, each allowing a whole household to watch.

For your chance to win, just tell us the name of the topical BBC Two comedy show on which Geoff is a regular guest:

- (A) The Rash Report
- (B) The Mash Report
- (C) The Dash Report

Email your answer (subject: "Norcott"), plus your name, address and mobile number, to dailystarcompetitions@gmail.com

Entries close at midnight tomorrow, August 4. Normal Daily Star rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.