

# Upton Times

A free monthly newspaper for Upton-upon-Severn and surrounding villages



Issue 36

August/September 2024

**FREE**



The Swan & Pepperpot, Upton upon Severn

**A**utumn is here! Where has the summer gone? Short and sweet. Maybe we will be lucky and have an Indian Summer! The days are drawing in and the daylight is getting shorter. We do have a few more weeks before we have to move our clocks back at the end of October. The year seems to be flying past with so much happening all the time.

Recently, we have had some amazing sporting events. The Olympic Games from Paris with Team GB doing remarkably well. Wimbledon, Test cricket, and a vast number of local

events. All very good, with some fabulous weather. We are very fortunate to live in this part of England, the countryside is beautiful. During August we ran into all

sorts of production issues, holidays etc and finally we decided produce a combined August / September edition which we hope you will enjoy. *We had the very sad news of the passing of our friend and colleague Susan Catford. We have included a tribute to her in this edition. She will be missed by everyone who knew her. We send our deepest sympathy and kindest thoughts to her loving family.*

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# County & District Report

In council terms, August is definitely the month of less: less meetings, less Teams conferences calls and even less councillor gossip. Yes, as hard as it is to believe, councillors sometimes do gossip! Personally, part of August has been a time for family and gardening. With the arrival of September and the return of council officers from annual leave, it's time for me to restart the engine and take up the reins again.



## Trail Road Closure Working Well



Upton's trial road closure is going well. Part of the Waterside, by Bridge House and the Boat House, is currently closed to vehicles. This trial is intended to determine if permanently pedestrianising the road would enhance the experience for both locals and visitors to Upton. The trial was intended to run from the start of June until the end of August. Unfortunately, the legal process caused the closure to be delayed until the beginning of July. Officers from MHDC and

I have been carrying out surveys, talking to folk to gauge their opinion. So far, all but one person have been in favour of the closure. Many have talked about feeling safer and how much more pleasant it is to walk in the Waterside without having to dodge the traffic. The Waterside is looking wonderful, and I love the flower barrels. Upton in Bloom are just marvellous, giving up their time for free. I, for one, cannot thank them enough. They make the difference to us all.

## Bus Changes - Kempsey & Upton

There are a couple of minor bus changes that you need to know about if you're a bus user. Service 333 – First Bus School Service 333 from Worcester to Hanley Castle will run a slightly different route from Norton Barracks to Kempsey, via Broomhall Way (A440) not

Brookend Lane. Service 363 – First Bus Service 363 from Worcester to Ryall will now have an additional trip in each direction operating Monday to Friday. The afternoon trip from Worcester and its return will now run during school holidays.

## Councillor Martin Allen

### Pesky Pigeons

Those pesky pigeons have been at it again. This time they have delayed the opening of the new Puffin crossing in Kempsey, located just outside the Community Centre. During the first week in August, I asked that another wildlife survey be carried out so that the final lighting column could be installed, and the crossing finally opened. I was somewhat surprised

to hear that the inspection found that a wood pigeon had recently laid an egg. The nest is exactly where the final light needs to be located. The crossing would fail its Stage 3 Safety Audit without this light and the County Council would be refused permission to switch the crossing on. It is very frustrating, it seems we will have to wait a little longer, but after waiting for over ten years, we can wait a little longer.



### Raac and Legionella

As you may have heard or read in the local media, due to the continued RAAC and now Legionella problem, County Hall has mostly had to be evacuated. Most of the council officers continue to work from home or are now working in

Wildwood, which is near County Hall. What the current administration intend to do to resolve the situation is not yet known. As soon as I hear anything, I will, of course, let you know.

### Finally

With the summer beginning to wane, some even dare to mention the dreaded C word. It may be that the best of the summer is behind us, but we have plenty to be thankful for: much of the world is in conflict and strife, but here in South Worcestershire we strive and thrive.

As always, the battle for my veg patch continues, so in between fighting off the pigeons, slugs and snails, I will be around if you need me.

Warmest regards

*Martin Allen*

## Choral Evensong at The Parish Church

**Sunday 15th September at 6.00pm**

*St Peter and St Paul Upton upon Severn*

*Choral Evensong led by the Revd. Julie-Ann Watson  
Music by Sir William Harris, S.S. Wesley and Sir Edward Elgar*

# Help for Ukraine - *The power of the press*



Over recent months, Ukraine Freedom Company (UFC) has been grateful to the Pershore Times and associated publications for printing a number of articles publicising its Ukraine Appeal. As a direct result of local people reading about efforts to provide a variety of aid and support for the Ukrainian men and women fighting at the front, UFC can report some of the contributions as follows: Evesham's Riverside Practice provided a medical examination couch; a couple from Willersey, who were closing their holiday let, donated much of the contents, including crockery, cutlery and cookware, bedding and other items; Colwall Community Garden Group contributed a generator; other individuals have provided foodstuffs and first aid items towards the 'comfort' boxes that are sent to individual troops. In addition, a number of readers have been in touch offering to get together with friends and family to form small groups to give ongoing support. UFC's appeal goes on, and will continue until the war in

Ukraine ends, and beyond. There is an ongoing requirement for medical supplies of all types. Typically, troops are desperately short of tourniquets (these can be worn on arms/legs ready for immediate application in the event of injury to limbs), wound dressings, bandages of all types - anything that can be included in individual trauma packs. In addition, readers are reminded to check lofts and garages for those forgotten mobility aids, such as crutches, walking frames, wheelchairs etc. that can no longer be easily returned. Also, UFC can make use of all those medical items held in First Aid packs within offices, factories, nursing homes and other group settings that have gone past their 'use by' dates - when replacing, do not throw these away, contact the local UFC representative who can arrange collection.

*Anyone wishing to contribute/donate, or for further information, contact local UFC representative Brian Watkins, email [lovelacewatkins@uwclub.net](mailto:lovelacewatkins@uwclub.net)*

## Where can I obtain the Upton Times magazine?

*Upton Times magazines are freely available from these venues on the Upton High street:*

**The Post Office, Upton Newsagents, St. Richards, Badham's Hardware, the White Lion Hotel, Mojos, the Little Upton Muggery, Banjos and Etiquette.**

*Elsewhere, in and around Upton, the magazines can be obtained from:*

**the new Warners supermarket, the Library in School Lane, the Post Office in Welland, Revill's Farm Shop, the Jockey at Baughton, the Drum and Monkey, and the Health Centre on Tunnel Hill, where they are made available in the waiting areas.**



Susan Catford

4th January 1951 - 13th August 2024

With great sadness, we record the passing of Susan Catford.

A friend and colleague, an enthusiastic and major contributor to our newspapers. The 'Woman's Hour' and 'Countrywatch' columns were very popular indeed. In addition, she was for some years editor of 'Today' our online newspaper with over 10,000 followers. Susan recently wrote an article about her illness, wishing to help others, with the same diagnosis. This was very well received and a meeting took place with a thankful reader.

Susan was a very talented lady, a journalist, author, poet, artist, linguist, scholar, wife, mother and grandmother. She will be sadly missed by her loving family and many friends.

*We send our deepest sympathy and kindest thoughts at this sad time. Editor*

## Have your say when the Residents' Survey returns

Have your say and influence council decisions by taking part in Malvern Hills District Council's Residents' Survey launching next month. The annual survey will return on 1 September 2024 and will ask questions on a variety of different topics, including what people think of their local area and the services the council provides.

For the third year, residents who complete the survey will be able to enter a prize draw with £75 vouchers up for grabs to use at a local, independent restaurant or retailer in the area of their choice within the Malvern Hills District.

The council is encouraging residents to sign up to the email alert service to receive the survey straight to their inbox.

The feedback from the survey will be considered and used to improve services. This year residents are being asked to share their priorities for the



district which will feed into development of the council's revised strategic Five Year Plan for 2024/25.

When these questions were asked in 2023, residents said their top priority was community transport. As a result, this was built into plan and action is now being taken to deliver it.

*To sign up to receive the survey in your email inbox. The survey is only open to Malvern Hills District residents.*

*Visit [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/consultations)*

*The deadline for responses is 29 September 2024*



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# A few words from...*Dame Harriett Baldwin MP*

## Harriett Baldwin MP

Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire

**Harriett Baldwin MP can help constituents with a wide range of issues.**

To contact Harriett, please write to her at the House of Commons, email [harriett.baldwin.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:harriett.baldwin.mp@parliament.uk) or call her constituency office on 01684 585 165.

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## 'Chilling' Pensioner Winter Fuel Cash Grab

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP has slammed a decision which will snatch support helping ten million pensioners with their heating bills. The Labour Chancellor has withdrawn the winter fuel support payment which allows older people to keep their heating running during times of cold weather. There are 18,507 pensioners in West Worcestershire and 6,234 people aged over 80 many of whom will be put at serious risk of the cold weather when the decision kicks in this winter. The MP has strongly opposed the political decision to take support away from some of

the most vulnerable people in society. Dame Harriett said: "This is a chilling political choice to withdraw support from older people on low incomes. The last Conservative Government took unprecedented steps to help people with their energy bills over the last couple of years and the first thing a Labour Chancellor does is pull the rug from under all but the very poorest pensioners. This means pensioners on a low income will see a substantial cut in their resources. Thousands of people in West Worcestershire will be affected by this decision and during the winter, I get many complaints that people in rural areas with older, less energy



efficient homes are having to pay much more to keep warm. It is clear to me and now, I think clear to everyone, that the newly elected Government wants to raise taxes so they can splash the cash on funding pay rises in the public sector. I am shocked by the political choice that the Chancellor has made to balance the books on the backs of pensioners on relatively low incomes."

## Give your bike a boost with £50 scheme



*Sue Martyr, Active Travel Co-ordinator, with Cllr Tom Wells, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Health and Wellbeing.*

Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) is offering a £50 reimbursement scheme to encourage people to cycle more. As part of their commitment to Active Travel, MHDC's 'Bike Boost' reimbursement scheme aims to encourage people to choose their bicycle over their car for short journeys. This, in turn, will help towards reducing carbon emissions and help people to be healthier. The scheme is open to people who live in the Malvern Hills District and by signing up, cyclists of any skill level can be reimbursed £50 towards the cost of a bicycle check or service, replacement parts, tools, locks, accessories, or

even a new bicycle. To take part, residents will need to fill out an application form online to receive a voucher number and a bank details form. After this, all they need to do is make their purchase from one of the local participating businesses listed on the council website, make sure they get their receipt, and send this back with the voucher number and completed bank details form. Participants can choose from seven local businesses across the Malvern Hills District.

*For Terms and Conditions and to apply, please visit: [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/bike-boost](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/bike-boost)*

## St Mary's Church, Ripple

Our arable farming community has not experienced much favourable weather especially in the earlier part of this year with persistent rain delaying the sowing of crops and also making it very difficult to get machinery onto the sodden fields. It is therefore with much additional gratefulness to our farmers that we shall be celebrating our Harvest Festival in St Mary's on Sunday 6th October followed by the annual Harvest Supper in the Railway Inn on the following day (Monday 7th October) starting at 7pm. Both are always popular occasions and usually well attended.

October will be a busy month because the Sealed Knot Society will also be holding their annual Founders Day Service on Sunday 13th October in St Mary's. This is always a most colourful event with the parading of the standards of many of the regiments who took part in the English Civil War, and many members of the Sealed Knot coming down from the north of England to join in the celebrations. We hope that the occasion will be attended by members of the local community.

*Roger Gillard*





## Brilliant Artisan Craft Fair at St Denys Church

Artisan Craft Fair at St Denys Church was brilliant! With all the lovely stalls, great support and good atmosphere with the community coming together and enjoying the

drinks and cakes, which were very popular. We would like to Thank everyone for helping us raise £1,035.60p towards our community space.

*Dates for your diary's ...*

### Sunday 6th October

Church service at 10.30am followed by cheese ploughman's with a glass of wine or juice

Tickets £7.00 per person

To book your place, please contact Jane on 07917 821608

## Christmas Craft Fair

### St Denys Church

Saturday 9th November  
10am-4pm

If you are interested in booking a table for £10.00 each, please contact:

Jane on 07917 821608 email: [janehall962@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janehall962@yahoo.co.uk)

## Upton Upon Severn Educational Foundation

Upton Upon Severn Educational Foundation is a registered charity with the aim of promoting the education of females, by providing grants to individual students attending higher education who are in need of financial assistance.



The Charity offers grants each year to females under the age of 25 who live, or parents live, in the Parish of Upton Upon Severn and are attending higher education. The grants are not means tested.

To apply for a grant, please apply before 30<sup>th</sup> September in writing, providing your name, date of birth, address, contact number, the College or University you are attending and the course you are going to or are currently studying, to:  
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## New businesses open their doors!

The Malvern Hills District is thriving as new businesses open their doors. Popular towns within the Malvern Hills District, including Tenbury Wells, Malvern and Upton on Severn, are bursting with new businesses.

Residents and visitors now have even more to enjoy and explore around the district, including a Technology Station Museum, Pilates Studio, Bookshop, and much more. *New businesses include:*

- The Technology Station – Great Malvern
- Papa's Caffè – Great Malvern
- Playground Pilates Studio – Stanford Bridge
- Escape to the Lake – Leigh
- Kings Ink – Link Top
- Coffee Wolf – Upton upon Severn
- The Violet Bookshop – Upton upon Severn
- The Picnic Box, re-opened under new management-

### Great Malvern

Cllr Julie Wood, Portfolio holder for Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Tourism, at Malvern Hills District Council said: "We are really pleased to see a variety of new and interesting businesses opening in our towns, which is fantastic for residents and visitors looking for new reasons to explore The Malvern's historic towns and rural areas. We encourage residents to support local businesses to help our district thrive."

To see the full list of new businesses and for more information, visit: [www.visitthemalverns.org/whatsnew](http://www.visitthemalverns.org/whatsnew)

For people opening a new tourism, hospitality or retail business in The Malverns, contact [victoria.carman@malvernhills.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.carman@malvernhills.gov.uk) to be featured on the Visit The Malverns website and promotions.



Pippa Orgee, Owner at Escape to the Lake, Victoria Carman, Visitor Economy Manager at Malvern Hills District Council.



Cllr Julie Wood, Malvern Hills District Council, Paris Zouliati from Papa's Caffè Great Malvern, Victoria Carman, Visitor Economy Manager at Malvern Hills District Council.





## Hot Peppers

The June meeting had the lovely Professor Colliwobbles aka Phil Collins, who gave us a fascinating talk on Punch & Judy. Punch & Judy has been around for over 350 years. The show originated in Italy as a play and Mr Punch was originally called Punchinello! Punch arrived in England in the 17th century, a play that would have featured a version of Punch was first recorded in England May of 1662 by the idealist Samuel Pepys, he noted seeing it in Covent Garden, London. Our volunteer to help Punch

was Kate who dressed the part to be the bottler for the evening. A bottler was the name of the helper to set up the Punch & Judy show & then would go around collecting money in a bottle (hence the name, bottler). A very entertaining & interesting evening was had by all. We then had our usual raffle followed by tea & cake.

*We do not have a meeting in August but our next meeting will be September 26th at Upton Memorial Hall, 7.30pm*



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## Queenhill WI



We knew we were in for an interesting meeting when the speakers arrived with very impressive kit! David and Abi Williams, volunteers with SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association), drove into the car park towing a lifeboat and with medical equipment, lifebuoys, ropes, poles, specialist clothing and accessories. Following a short business meeting, we heard about the work of the SARA crews: Upton's lifeboat and rescue station is one of six along the length of the Severn and like the rest are entirely staffed by unpaid volunteers. Each volunteer undergoes training on a regular basis, that includes fitness tests, boat handling and first aid training. A wide skill base is required because their call outs might include rescues from river or floods, searches for missing people on land as well as water, and even cliff rescues. SARA works closely

with all of emergency services and are always on call. Some volunteers may not be operational crew but are needed for maintenance of equipment. SARA is always looking for new volunteers to help behind the scenes and with fundraising (the kit alone for each member costs over £1,000!) We had the opportunity to inspect the lifeboat and ask questions. An important part of the talk was about water safety and what to do if we, or someone else, is in danger. You never know when such information might be needed. We were keen listeners and so grateful to the David and Abi for such an interesting presentation. If anyone wants to donate or help with their work, information can be found on [www.sara-rescue.org.uk](http://www.sara-rescue.org.uk) or call 0344 846 0226. The meeting ended as usual with food, raffle, and chat.

For those who have ever bought items labelled as Fair Trade and who wondered what that term meant, the speaker at our last meeting had all the answers. Elaine Barbour proved to be an excellent speaker, informing and explaining the issues and processes clearly. We hope we will have the opportunity to hear from her again.

As many of you know, Queenhill Art group operates under the WI "umbrella" and meets in the WI hall on Tuesday mornings. It is a very friendly group of men and women from Upton and beyond who like to spend a couple of hours a week pursuing their own interest. It is not an art 'class' and there is no tutor, but we learn from

each other in a happy environment. And no, you don't have to be 'good at art', just keen to develop whatever skills and interests you have. Nor do you have to be a WI member. If you would like to join us, or just see what it is like, come and see us. We meet 10am until 12 noon every Tuesday.

*The next month's WI meeting is our Craft and Produce Show on Thursday 12th September. This is a good opportunity for us to display and celebrate the range of produce from the garden and the kitchen, as well as the craft skills of our members. The judging will take place in the morning, the WI meeting itself begins at 2.30pm*

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## Nota Bene Singers

The Noa Bene Singers, who will be performing in Upton Parish Church on Sunday 13th October at 5.00 pm, are an invitation choir of some twenty-eight singers who meet for a weekend, twice a year, in parish churches around the country and finish with a concert on the Sunday evening. They began as the resident choir at The Coast and Country Festival which used to be held in West Lulworth in Dorset and now continue to function more widely in the country.

An important feature of any Nota Bene weekend project is the raising of funds for the host church and, on this occasion, the choir is delighted to be presenting the inaugural event in the campaign to build new toilets in St Peter and St Paul. This project will provide

facilities for the organisations, musical and otherwise, who take advantage of the wonderful space and acoustics offered by the parish church. The concert will feature choral music by Vivaldi, Tallis, Eric Whitacre and many others and will be accompanied by the organist Simon Dinsdale who is a regular recitalist at Upton and who will also play organ solos. The concert will be followed by supper in the Parish Room.

*Tickets are available from Chris Lamb at £10 for the concert alone and £25 for the concert plus supper. email: [uptonlamb@gmail.com](mailto:uptonlamb@gmail.com)*



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# River Festival duties for Severn unit MVS



*MVS Minerva with Unit members lining her decks at the opening of the Pershore River Festival*

Tewkesbury based Severn Unit Maritime Volunteer Service

have had a very busy and successful Summer season. In

July they were asked to take their boats to Pershore for the

Town's River Festival. In addition to providing safety cover for the Wychavon Games Bell Boat regatta and other river based activities unit members played a ceremonial role when their training boat Minerva did several fly pasts with the Pershore Town Crier and Jack Hegarty - Chairman of Avon Navigation Trust - taking the salute at the opening of the event. Head of Unit Nic Price said "We were pleased to support this charitable event which raised money for the Pershore Riverside Youth Centre. A fortnight later on 3rd August we made a 7 hour journey up the Avon through 6 locks to Evesham where we were on duty for the whole weekend providing safety cover at The Battle of Evesham 1265 Re-enactment Festival which was attended by over 40,000 people and is held alongside the riverbank."

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The King's Worcester Foundation is thrilled to announce that both King's Worcester and have been shortlisted in this year's Independent School of the Year (ISOTY) Awards. King's Worcester (Senior School) have again been shortlisted in the Co-Educational School of the Year Award, having been finalists in the last two years. Prep School, King's Hawford has also been shortlisted for Prep School of the Year, again for the second year running. The Independent School of the Year awards showcase independent school success stories and celebrate outstanding educational experiences the extraordinary student experiences provided during the 2023 and 2024 academic years. This year there are 22 award categories, which

receive over 1000 entries from UK Independent Schools. It has been a successful year for King's, after the Sunday Times Top 10 in the West Midlands for academic results, top 30 in the UK for sport, and top eight in the Good Schools Guide for rowing and the recent Top 20 UK Nursery Group Award received by the King's nurseries for the third year running. Being shortlisted for these national awards, and appearing alongside some of the UKs largest and highly reputable independent schools reflects the hard work and dedication of both staff and pupils. To discover more about The King's Worcester Foundation of schools visit them at their forthcoming Open Mornings. [www.ksw.org.uk/shapeyourfuture](http://www.ksw.org.uk/shapeyourfuture)



# Severn Stoke & Croome D'abitot News

## *Happenings in Severn Stoke and Environs*

### **St. Denys' Church, Severn Stoke**

Provided that the planned for schedule is proceeding, the building repairs to the church should have been completed this month.

The Church Insurers have told us that they are no longer able to cover the cost of flood damage as flooding in our area is no longer 'an unforeseen incident'. We have been to see other churches in Gloucestershire, which flood even more frequently than St Denys' and they cope with volunteer labour and let the building dry out naturally, resuming services almost as soon as the floors have been washed down.

We have a list of Volunteers already, but we need more able bodied younger people to come forward from the Parish to offer assistance both prior to flood to lessen possible damage and now to clear up afterwards. This is an urgent necessity, as it does not seem possible that the longed-for Flood Bund will be installed before the next flood period.

Please will you consider being a Volunteer for this vital work, to preserve our historic church building and all that it represents to countless families present and past.

*Please initially contact:  
John Henderson on  
01905 371218 and leave a  
message or by email:  
johnboydhenderson@hotmail.com*

A report on the Artisan and Crafts Fair held last month will appear in next month's Issue.

**Friends of St. Denys, Severn Stoke -**  
*Raising funds to modernise the church!*

The Severn Stoke and Kinnersley 100 Club Draw winner of £30.00 for July was Julia Grant of Kempsey.



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## September gardening tips *Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester*

### Early in the Month

This is a good time to move established evergreen shrubs, and the traditional time to start planting new trees and shrubs of all kinds. Use some mycorrhizal fungi when planting to aid rapid establishment in the new situation.

As the summer bedding plants begin to fade replace them with cheerful autumn bedding varieties to brighten up the dull winter days ahead.

Make-up winter hanging baskets using pansies, bright evergreens and winter flowering heathers.

Prepared hyacinths should be planted and put in a cool, dark place by the end of this month if you want them in bloom by Christmas.

Watch out for aphid attacks on winter flowering pansies. The colonies live deep among the central rosette of leaves, causing the plants to wilt. Also there are three types of leaf spot fungal diseases that can attack pansies, so check the foliage for them too.

### Mid – Month

Sow some hardy annuals outdoors in flowering positions in sheltered spots. Now is the time to get busy

with planting spring flowering bulbs and garden centres will have a comprehensive range on display. If you like to prioritize your buying, the things to go for now are autumn flowering crocus, Madonna lilies, Colchicums, Fritillarias and prepared hyacinths. It is a good plan to plant Daffs. and Narcissi early too.

Scarify the lawn to remove “thatch” and feed with Autumn lawn dressing.

This is a good time to sow or turf a new lawn and repair bare patches. You could also overseed all or part of the lawn to thicken the sward.

Grease band the trunks of fruit trees to trap the wingless female Winter moths as they climb them to lay eggs.

Strawberries should be planted by the end of this month for cropping next year.

Plant garlic now in a sunny free draining spot. They like a long growing season in order to make the best cloves.

Sow some autumn lettuce under cloches or for planting in a cold greenhouse.

Plant out spring cabbage plants 15cm (6in) apart in rows 30cm (1ft) apart

If your lawn is infested with leatherjackets or chafer grubs control them using natural

biological pest control nematodes available from specialist suppliers and through some garden centres.

Sow green manure crops on vacant areas of the veg. garden for digging in next spring.

Plant Japanese onion sets to get a lovely crop of flavoursome onions ready from June.

Spray Michaelmas daisies with a fungicide or plant invigorator to prevent mildew.

### Later this Month

Lift beetroot, carrots, turnips and potatoes for winter use.

Leave parsnips and swedes in the ground to develop more flavour.

Sow some compact hardy annuals in a cold greenhouse to grow into winter flowering pot plants.

Pick green tomatoes for chutney or ripening in a brown paper bag in a drawer indoors.

Don't put them on a windowsill in the sun this dehydrates them.

Reduce watering and ventilation in the greenhouse as temperatures drop.

Lift, divide and re-plant early spring flowering herbaceous perennials.

Bring in any tender shrubby plants taken outside for summer displays e.g.



Brugmansia.

Cut back marginal plants and net your pond to keep out autumn leaves.

Bring in tender floating pond plants, like water chestnut and water hyacinth before frost.

The floating plant water soldier can remain in the pond.

Dry some herb foliage for winter use, or chop and freeze them in ice cubes.

Prune summer fruiting raspberries by removing old, fruited canes.

Take cuttings from roses, preferably using shoots that have flowered. Trim them to 23cm (9in) long.

Increase ventilation for indoor grapes to reduce fungal attack.

Treat sheds, fences etc. with a good wood preserver.

Bring in any houseplants that have been outside “on holiday” for the summer.

## A day of Morgan fun

A wonderful birthday present – a whole day rental of a Morgan Plus Four from Morgan Experience in Malvern. Seven hours and 200 miles of solo driving, savouring the delights of a beautiful ivory coloured modern classic with luxurious red leather-trimmed interior. A great memory.

Starting with a hand-over at the factory by super-friendly staff who pointed out the many modern features of the car including heated seats and air conditioning! Being August, I needed both. Raising and lowering the roof was also demonstrated and this was essential as rain and drizzle came and went. I was determined to enjoy wind in the hair and eventually the sun made a show, so virtually all was roof down! Of course, the locality provided endless scenery and open roads with limited traffic. Spending the day with no plan and no targets was liberating, so Ledbury, Leominster and Hereford followed by the hills and lanes

around Pershore provided plenty of opportunity to explore the car. It was magical, a great blend of current and classic and a perfect antidote to the cosseted experience of driving most modern cars. Far more smiles too! Any downsides? Not worth mentioning! My first impression was of a bucking bronco that needed taming, but that quickly passed. Lunch – only time for a quick cereal bar to avoid wasting driving time. Stress – being followed by a patrol car with flashing blue lights and being convinced they were going to pull me over (they didn't). Oh, and I managed a vivid bruise on my leg from climbing in and out of the car, but that's a small price to pay. A fabulous birthday treat and highly recommended for any car nut or anyone just wanting a day exploring our lovely surroundings. And no mention of Toad of Toad Hall please!

John Driscoll



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## What colour flowers do bees love the most?

Bees are most attracted to blue, purple, violet, white, and yellow flowers. So, if you're about to plant a bare border with flowers, choose ones that the bees will love!

We all know that bees and pollinators need our support to increase the dwindling numbers so in light of the annual Pershore Plum Festival in August, here's a mini border that you can plant now for late summer colour that butterflies and bees will thank you for, which are also suitable for container gardens.

When I'm creating a planting plan, I always choose flowers with different heights. Something tall for the back of the design, around 1.5-2m high. A medium height around 1m tall and a ground cover plant 30-45cm.

This tiered effect makes it easy on the eye, so the garden feels more restful to relax in.

Here's my top three plants to use right now:

Tall: *Verbena bonariensis* which grows to around 2m tall. The stems are really thin and wiry which makes them ideal for narrow spaces or filling gaps in a sunny border. The flowers are bobble-like which enables the bees to land easily. They flower from June to October.

Medium: *Cosmos 'Candy Stripe'* have white petals with deep magenta edges/stripes and a bright yellow centre. They will grow to around 1m tall and if you dead-head them regularly they will flower from June to first frosts. They're really easy to grow from seed, which makes them great value for money! You'll find them in the bedding section of the garden centre at the moment, so it's instant gardening at its best.



Low: *Geranium Rozanne*. No wonder this won the RHS 'Plant of the Century' as it flowers from early summer to late autumn. The flowers are lavender-blue, saucer-shaped which are 5cm in diameter approx, and has a white eye with purple veining. It looks wonderful in cottage style planting schemes, where it provides fast-growing ground cover but without being invasive.

There are many more beautiful plum coloured flower choices for your garden you can enjoy



this month and well into Autumn that would look good with these flowers, such as: *Heuchera's* – so many colours to choose from but one of my favourites is 'Plum Pudding' with dark purple leaves and a dusting of silver. They're semi evergreen but I find they only last a few years, and they're susceptible to vine weevil bugs. But don't let that deter you as they're gorgeous. They're low growing and have insignificant flowers on long wiry stems. And if you need a shrub, I can recommend *Sambucus 'Black*



**Nikki Hollier**

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*Lace'* which has beautiful plum coloured foliage and in June it has clusters of light pink flowers – you can use these to make pink elderflower cordial. It grows to around 3m tall, but if you remove the lower branches it makes a beautiful small tree. In autumn it has black berries which are attractive to birds and apparently makes excellent wine!



### New Calendars ...



Come & see us at the  
*Malvern Autumn*  
27-29th September  
in the indoor shopping

available from



## Upton Times

### Collection Points:

Banjo's - Drum & Monkey - Hughes & Co, Pershore  
Little Upton Muggery - Mojos - Nuyard Garden Centre  
Revills Farm Shop - Rose & Crown, Severn Stoke  
Severn Sweets - Spar - St. Richards - The Jockey Inn, Baughton  
Upton Library - Upton Newsagent - Upton Post Office  
Upton Surgery - Warners - Welland Post Office  
White Lion Hotel - Yorkshire Grey



# Local Road Names

Tim Hickson



In my recent article about the contributions made by Canadians during WW2, there was an image of a road's name plate off Three Springs Road in Pershore. The name was of a Royal Canadian Air Force member who had been killed flying from RAF Pershore. The road is next door to the cemetery where he is buried and by using his name our community shows it recognises the sacrifice made by this young man and many of his colleagues on our behalf. Road names can be interesting although some can be trivial. In newly-built estates, the developer often invents names to make purchasers of the houses feel they are going to live in delightful surroundings. That motive can also be true of some older roads and also in some house names. Other road names simply tell you where you are heading.



However, sometimes historical reasons emerge. Again, off Three Springs Road, there is a short road called The Rail Ground. That is nowhere near



today's railway so why the name? Well, I was told that when Brunel was planning his railways' route through Pershore, he wanted it to pass near the Abbey and then up Newlands before leaving Pershore for Worcester. As a result he bought some land on which to store his materials and that became known as The Rail Ground. But then he was persuaded to site the tracks near the old Race Course (in the angle between the present Station Road and Wyre Road)!



The three springs of Three Springs Road, were clearly significant but where were they and how far did you need to travel to find them? In Robert Rowles' recent articles about Drove roads, he tells us that the Welsh drovers would enter Pershore by the road called Holloway. When I moved into this town, 38 years ago, the road sign read The Holloway, emphasising its significance. Someone spent our money changing this to the



shorter, less informative version shown. Usually, roads in the countryside have names that tell us about their past use. However, if you travel to Croome from Pershore you will probably go all the way along Rebecca Road. Unusually, this road is named after a piece of WW2 radar apparatus. This was fitted to aircraft and transmitted signals to a ground-based Eureka transponder beacon. The returning signals told the aircrew the distance and



direction needed to reach the beacon. The Eureka beacons were used by secret agents and the SAS to get weapons and other supplies. Rebecca Road, of course, passes the site of RAF Defford where the device was developed. If, on the other hand, you were driving to Wadborough, you would probably use Crabbe Lane. However, look at old Ordnance Survey maps and you find Crab Common and Crab Common Farm. Why the change?



In Pershore, the road called No Gains is intriguing. I am told that it was where Pershore people could have allotments to grow vegetables and fruit for their own use - but they were not allowed to sell them. Hence the name.

Little Penny Rope is a street, off the Defford Road. I was told that area of Pershore has always been very fertile and when the ex-soldiers were returning from WW1, being 'sons of the soil', they were given plots of land there on which to grow vegetables and fruit. These they could sell to have an income. However, where the 'Little Penny Rope' comes from I have not discovered.

In Kempsey, Pixham Ferry Lane and, in Powick, Hospital Lane, tell of things that were very important in the past. Upton has its New Road. Why was that significant; was its name connected with the cholera pit? Most places have a Mill Lane which was important in the past if you wished to make bread and needed flour. Where do these Mill Lanes lead now?

**Do write in if you can throw light on any of these names.**

email: [news@hughes.company](mailto:news@hughes.company)  
or post to:  
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Design House,  
8 Church Street  
Pershore  
WR10 1DT





## Farming

Mike Page

At the time I am writing this, King Charles has not long delivered his speech in Parliament announcing what his new Government intends to do. By the time you are reading this we will be starting to get some idea on delivery. One policy of the Left Wing that appears to have been pushed back is the Right to Roam, which would have opened up much more of the countryside to walkers other than use of the present footpath track network still in existence. My fear is that it has just moved further back down the queue a bit and may well come forward again, when other matters seen to have greater priority have been dealt with. My opinion is that granting such rights to many millions of urban dwellers, with little or no experience of the open countryside would be an absolute disaster. For far too many walking the countryside these days, the best way of getting rid of an empty can or plastic wrapper is over their shoulder and onto the ground to be left behind. Dumping of

major waste is another problem encountered these days (it has happened here), and to add insult to injury, the job and cost of correct disposal of that waste then becomes the responsibility of the farmer unless the actual culprit can be identified. Certainly, since Brexit the Conservative Government has been more interested in pursuing an agricultural policy agenda, amongst others, that reinforced the message that Brexit had been good for the UK, opening up a wide range of other international opportunities. It is only in more recent years they have taken on board the idea that being as self-sufficient in food production as we can be is very important strategically. One of the more important grain exporters in the World is The Ukraine; relatively little of that grain will come to the UK, but it is supplied widely across Africa and the middle East and should supply of that grain, as a result of the present war, and measured in many millions of tonnes – sitting alongside the export of millions of tonnes of



*A field very recently harvested and within 24 hours cultivations in preparation for the next crop (for harvest 2025) are already under way.*

other important basic food seeds – come under the full control of Russia it would no doubt be used to control prices in such a way as to give Russia, under its present leadership, advantage in many other situations. The effects would be felt here mostly not in terms of food availability but in terms of food prices. On the subject of grain

production, I am aware so far of only one field of local grain being harvested, and after a far less than ideal growing season with far too much rain over autumn, winter and early spring it has produced rather less grain than hoped for but perhaps more than might have been expected. Typical, as a big part of being a farmer is being an optimist!



## EXCITING MOVE FOR MARTIN AND CARR EVESHAM

Martin and Carr are delighted to announce that we will soon be relocating our Evesham surgery. After many years at the site in Lime Street we will be moving to a new purpose-built surgery at The Valley Evesham.

The Lime Street surgery will be closed from 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 with the new surgery due to open from mid-September. The new site will have vet and nurse consulting rooms, surgical preparation and theatre areas, in-house lab and kenneling facilities for cats, dogs and other small animals.

We will, of course, be happy to see all our Evesham clients at the Pershore surgery whilst the changeover takes place.

Martin and Carr staff are very excited about our relocation, and we look forward to welcoming you all to the new premises very soon.

Best wishes *Eliza*



info@martinandcarrvets.co.uk  
martinandcarrvets.co.uk



## Beeswax - a remarkable natural product

On the underside of the abdomen of each honeybee there are four pairs of oval glands which exude a thin film of liquid wax which dries to form a wax scale. The bee uses bristles on its leg to transfer the scale to the mouth, but they often drop them and many of them can be found on the floor of the hive, like tiny flakes of dandruff.

After chewing it to make the wax malleable it can be added to existing honeycomb. Bees build hexagonal cells for storage of honey, for pollen and for raising young bees. They also build bigger cells for raising the drones (males) and special thimble shaped queen cells.

As it is waterproof it is ideal for storing the watery nectar, and when the nectar has been concentrated into honey a capping of wax is added to keep it watertight and prevent it from fermenting. Freshly produced wax is white but as the bees walk on it, it becomes

yellow due to the pigments in pollen and propolis. Young bees are the comb producers normally, but even old bees will become wax producers if they have full honey stomachs such as when swarming. Some people have interpreted this as being evidence that honey can have a rejuvenating effect, but I think this is a little fanciful.

However, I keep this in mind when I'm eating honey. Bits of wax comb are used to fill any odd gaps or spaces in the hive and when inspecting the colony beekeepers trim these odd bits off. Over a season it is surprising how much accumulates and this can be heated to melt out and harvest the wax. I use a homemade box with a metal tray inside, and a glass cover to allow the sun to heat the debris. As the temperature reaches 62°C or more, the melted wax flows into a collecting dish, and can be removed as a block later, when cold.

Beeswax has a myriad of practical uses in carpentry, embroidery, archery, surfing, cosmetics, model making and metal casting, polish and of course for candles. It burns with a bright and luminous flame so to paraphrase Jonathan Swift in 1709...'. Bees thus furnish mankind with the two noblest of things, Sweetness and Light.'



Martyn Cracknell  
Worcestershire  
Beekeepers' Association



A 'solar wax extractor'



Wax harvest from the extractor

## Elgar's first visit to America



Alice and Edward Elgar with  
Samuel Sanford in 1905

Although we always associate Elgar with England it may perhaps be a surprise to hear that he visited several countries in Europe and even travelled as far away as America. His first visit to the USA came in 1905, mainly as a result of meeting the Professor of Applied Music at Yale University, Samuel Sanford, at the 1900 Three Choirs Festival in Hereford. Then, following the first performance of *The Dream of Gerontius* in the USA, Elgar received many invitations to visit which culminated when Yale decided to award him with an honorary Doctor of Music degree. This persuaded Elgar and his wife Alice to leave England on

9 June 1905 on board the ocean liner *Deutschland* to travel to New York. Arriving some five days later, the couple stayed the night in Manhattan before leaving for New Haven where they were to stay at Sanford's luxurious house. Although Elgar did not care for the heat and humidity of a New England summer, he was royally entertained and was able to visit some of the other lovely villages in Connecticut.

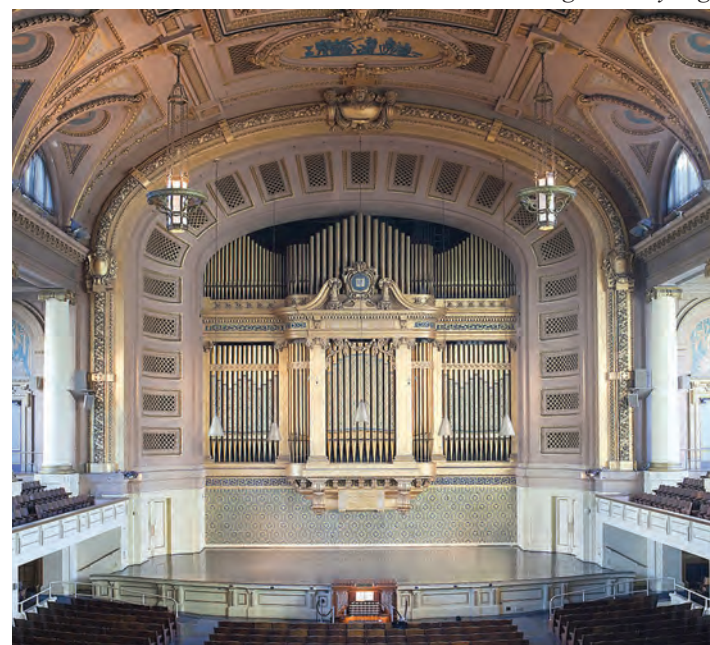
The degree ceremony took place at Woolsey Hall in New Haven on 28 June and following an introduction by the president of Yale, 669 examination candidates were presented with their degrees. Following this, the 'Meditation' and opening chorus from Elgar's *Light of Life* oratorio was performed by the large chorus and orchestra conducted by the American composer, Horatio Parker. The honorary degree candidates, dressed in their magnificent scarlet robes with white facings, then took their seats on the platform. A speech was given praising Elgar and the award presented. The ceremony concluded with the orchestra playing Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* March No.1. This so impressed the

assembled dignitaries that it led to its adoption by other prestigious universities and is still regularly played at degree ceremonies at virtually every American university, college, and high school. We of course know this better as "Land of Hope and Glory". The Elgars finally left for England on 11 July 1905 travelling with Sanford aboard the *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*



bound for Liverpool and their home in Hereford. But this was not to be his last visit which Elgar made to America as we may hear later.

Richard Smith  
[www.elgarsociety.org](http://www.elgarsociety.org)



The interior of Woolsey Hall today



## A view from the middle

Amy Jones

All previous attempts to craft my debut piece for publication have been thwarted by two unsettling pieces of news and I cannot go ahead without mentioning them.

Firstly, the fact that one of my childhood heroes, cricketer Graham Thorpe, took his own life after struggles with depression and anxiety is a reminder that mental health issues can be just as fatal as physical ones and they do not discriminate. Thorpe was a very strong and determined player of great skill and flair but this was no protection from the disease which killed him. I urge all readers to take care of yourselves, check in on your acquaintances, particularly the quiet ones, and seek assistance if something

isn't quite right. Alongside your GP, the charities Mind, [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk) and Campaign Against Living Miserably, [www.thecalmzone.net](http://www.thecalmzone.net) provide resources, which may help.

Secondly, my world was rocked by the news that one of my friends, in her 30s with no family history of cancer, has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer and faces a year of treatment to save her life. It came entirely out of the blue, with no symptoms other than a strange patch on her chest. She would want me to remind you all, regardless of age and gender, to check your chest / breasts. (Despite the name, breast cancer can affect anyone.) CoppaFeel,

[www.coppafeel.org](http://www.coppafeel.org) has an excellent guide on how to do this, so please try and keep up regular checks. Although our NHS seems overburdened, they do react quickly when cancer is a possibility and medical developments are so advanced now that they really can save your life. Public service announcements out of the way, I only have space to reflect on how lucky

we are to live in this part of the world. The passing of time from summer into autumn is punctuated by the sights and sounds and smells of the harvest and is perhaps more noticeable in the countryside than urban environments. I hope you are all able to enjoy it as best you can and I look forward to sharing more positive things with you next month.

"Everybody should have an equal chance - but they shouldn't have a flying start"

Harold Wilson

## Bradley Law

Fern Bowkett



In divorce settlements, courts typically start with a 50/50 split of matrimonial assets, but this can vary depending on the case's unique circumstances. The aim is to reach a fair and reasonable outcome.

### The Sharing Principle

The 50/50 division of assets is a common starting point, but adjustments are made based on factors like the specific needs of one party or the presence of children. High-value pensions, business assets, or other investments may also lead to an

unequal division.

### Length of Marriage

The length of the marriage plays a significant role in determining the settlement. Short marriages (typically 1-5 years) and long marriages (over 5 years) are treated differently, but both are assessed based on fairness. Contributions made during cohabitation before marriage are also considered, especially in short marriages. The White v White case established that even short marriages should start with an equal division of assets, though the court may deviate from this in rare cases, such as childless marriages, where non-matrimonial assets may be returned to the original owner.

### Children's Role

The welfare of children is paramount. If one party is the primary caregiver, they may

receive a larger share of the assets to meet the children's needs. This consideration can lead to an unequal division favouring the caregiving party.

### Legal Framework

Under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, the court considers factors like the welfare of children, the needs and income of both parties, the standard of living before separation, the marriage's duration, and contributions made by both parties. Physical or mental disabilities and the parties' conduct may also be considered.

### Mediation and Legal Advice

Mediation is often required before court action to avoid the costs and emotional toll of litigation. If mediation fails, court proceedings may be necessary. Legal advice is crucial throughout the process



to ensure a fair outcome.

### Unequal Division Agreements

If parties agree to an unequal division, a Financial Consent Order must be drafted by a solicitor and approved by the court as fair and reasonable. Independent legal advice is recommended to protect each party's interests.

### How can we help?

If you require advice or assistance contact:

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## Maternity rights

Carol Draper

Finding out you are expecting a baby can be both exciting and scary but as anyone who is or has been pregnant will know there are a myriad of different things to consider not least of which is what financial support is available.

If you are an employee you have specific employment rights relating to maternity pay, maternity leave, paid time off for ante-natal appointments, holiday rights, pay rises and your return to work although you must advise your employer you are pregnant at least fifteen weeks prior to the baby being due.

Irrespective of when you commenced your employment, you are entitled to up to 52 weeks statutory maternity leave, which can commence up to eleven weeks before the expected due date of your baby. While you do not have to take the full 52 weeks you must take at least two weeks leave after your baby is born or four weeks if you work in a factory. If you have not officially started your maternity leave, it will automatically commence the day after your baby is born or if you are off work with a pregnancy related illness in the four weeks prior to your baby's due date.

To qualify for maternity pay you need to earn a minimum of £123 per week and to have



worked for your employer for 26 weeks continuously leading into the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth. You are entitled to 39 weeks of statutory maternity pay. This is calculated as 90% of your average weekly income for the first six weeks and then, for the next 33 weeks, it is paid at £184.03 or 90% of your average weekly income, which is lower. While these amounts are the statutory minimum, if you work for an employer who has agreed higher rates of maternity pay then you may receive more. Maternity pay is subject to tax and National Insurance.

As an employer, depending on your size, you can recover up to 103% of Statutory Maternity Pay you have paid out.

*For full details about maternity rights visit either [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) or [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)*

*Carol Draper  
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd*

"When the old plum tree blooms,  
the entire world blooms"

*Dogen*



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## Words and more words

Angela Johns

There are words that stick like a cheap price sticker. You reject the words because you can't believe that is a fair description of you, just like you peel off the offending looking sticker. But the words leave a mark because you can't unhear them and it hurt, and the sticker leaves sticky bit that collects the dirt and fluff. Neither you, nor the newly bought item, are ever quite the same again.

There is a balancing act with communication. Responsibility on both sides. There is an ability and skill to listening but the same is true for talking. If actions speak louder than words, then think of the power behind words with actions, actions with words. And what if the words go wrong? There is a big difference between mis-hearing and mis-interpreting but both can lead to misunderstandings. There is a big difference between saying what you want and explaining what you mean. Before blaming the listener, could you check your words?

Was there too much background noise? Did you mumble? Are they tired or did you shout from another room? Are they not prepared to capitulate? Or did you not explain explicitly enough? Were your words welcome? Were they softened with tenderness or did they erupt with bitterness? Were they repeated until their significance were lost in the boredom of overfamiliarity? Were they chosen for the benefit of the listener or the talker?

Were they chosen to subdue, or were they to help you stick up



for yourself?

Were they enough or were they way too much?

Are they an apology or an explanation? Can they be both?

Were they to emote, or did you want to stir emotion? Do they while away the time or do they make it more fulfilling? Were they necessary?

If, like me, you are a quiet one, you too will have been told that sometimes more words are needed! The deep thinking converted to connection with others. Sometimes I forget that my economy with words doesn't always help, my fellow conversationalist needing words of reassurance, advice, acceptance – the list is endless.

There is an ability and skill to talking, but the same is true for listening. And words, given and taken, are needed for both.

*Currently training as an*

*Emotional Therapeutic  
Counsellor with the AETC,  
Angela is a qualified  
Reflexologist, Aromareflex  
Practitioner and Reiki Teacher/  
Practitioner.*

*She is passionate about her  
therapies and spends quality  
time with her clients to  
facilitate their wellbeing.*

*You can find her at  
[angelajohns.co.uk](http://angelajohns.co.uk)*

## Reg Moule

In addition to his award winning media work

Reg is also available

to speak at

Gardening Societies

and other organisations

something that he has been doing

regularly since 1972.

*If you would like Reg to visit your group  
please email [reg.moule@gmail.com](mailto:reg.moule@gmail.com)  
for further details and to check availability.*



## Five minutes to tune in, it's a good start! *Karen Harris*

When introducing an exercise to a client, I often get asked, 'what should I be feeling?' When asking someone to relay what changes they are feeling before and after doing an exercise, the reply is often, 'what changes should I be feeling?'

I could give ten exercises to ten people with the same issue, ask them afterwards to write down their experiences and I guarantee they would all be different, ranging from 'OK', to a whole paragraph detailing before, during and after. But what gives some people the ability to 'tune in' and others, looking for clues? No one ever teaches you how to 'feel' or 'sense' or 'focus,' but when you have pain and discomfort, you have no choice but to focus on that area.

*There are a number of explanations.*

1, time. A full-time job/s, being a full-time parent, or full-time looking after other people, doesn't give spare time to anyone for head space; for sitting, or lying down and just breathing and quietening external noise to allow some body sense to be felt.

2, medication...especially pain-killers or nerve blockers. Anything that dulls or 'manages' pain or nerve reaction is surely counter-intuitive because your body's voice is being stifled. There's a chapter in my book (see below) called 'Don't let your body get shout-y.' When we fail to listen to the warning signs, when we don't 'tune in,' compensations occur and they set in to become dysfunctional

patterns of movement - these hurt!

3, breathing. If I had a pound for every time I told a client to breathe I would be writing this from my yacht in the Bahamas! Most of us really don't breathe well. If you have ever watched Wim Hof's techniques you realise how capable we are of extreme changes just with breath-work. Not breathing when exercising holds tension, most of us carry enough of that as it is, so why starve yourselves of oxygen?

4, is probably a combination of 1 and 3, or 2 and 3, or all of them! You could simply start with five mins (just five minutes!) every day, sitting upright on a firm chair, take a deep breath in and exhale slowly. Now, slowly turn your head side to side and feel the tension in your neck and shoulders; close your eyes, lift your shoulders to your ears and let them drop, did you get much movement? Do it again, and this time, breathe in deeply for a count of as they lift and take a full exhalation (five count again) when they drop, repeat that a few times. It's much better with the breath isn't it? Next, roll the shoulders with the breath, do that a few times. Turn your head side to side again. That feels better doesn't it? THAT'S measurable 'before and after,' results, THAT'S tuning in, THAT'S a good start.

*My book delves deeper into this subject, contact me to purchase locally.*

## The choice is yours

*Emily Papirnik*

Life is a continuous stream of choices. Every minute of every day, we are faced with decisions, big and small, that shape our lives and influence our paths. It's easy to fall into the trap of believing that others dictate our choices or that circumstances prevent us from making the right ones. However, the truth is, our lives are ultimately up to us. We hold the power to make choices that are right for us, even if they sometimes seem difficult.

One of the most liberating realisations is understanding that we do not have to judge or complain about the choice's others make for themselves. Often, these choices are none of our business. Instead, we can focus on our own decisions and personal growth. By shifting our perspective, we can choose to be kind rather than judgmental, supportive rather than critical, and compassionate rather than dismissive. This shift not only helps others but also creates a more positive and nurturing environment for ourselves. Choosing to look after ourselves first is a fundamental step towards making better choices. When we prioritize our well-being, we are better equipped to be kind, supportive, and compassionate to those around us. Self-care is not selfish; it's a necessary foundation for a fulfilling and balanced life. By being kind to ourselves, we create a ripple effect that extends to those we interact with, encouraging them to also prioritize their well-being. Being kind to ourselves starts with small, intentional actions.



Notice how taking a moment for self-care makes you feel. Pay attention to the smile that forms when you give yourself a break or treat yourself with the same compassion you would offer a friend. These moments of self-kindness build up, transforming our mindset and the way we interact with the world.

I have embraced the practice of being kind to myself, and I encourage those around me to do the same. It has made a profound difference in my life, and I have witnessed the positive impact it has on others. Each of us has the choice every minute of every day to shape our lives through our decisions. When we choose kindness, support, and compassion, we create a ripple effect that spreads positivity and change.

Ultimately, the power of choice lies within us. By making conscious decisions that align with our values and well-being, we can transform our lives and inspire others to do the same. Remember, the choice is yours—make it count.

"It just makes so much sense"

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## The app to Feel better



## Cooking for fun!

Ailsa Craddock

When I was little, I used to go blackberry picking with my mum - and I, in turn, took my own children with my friends, Claire and Beryl, and their children. Our babies have got babies of their own now and we hope to all go picking again this week - trying to persuade little fingers to put as many of the berries they put in their mouths into their baskets! Our garden is partly an old orchard where the apple trees have fallen down (we have also planted new ones!) and become a secret hiding place for rabbits, squirrels and mice and the trunks homes for woodpeckers and robins. And over it all, has grown the most wonderful blackberry bush, its huge, thorny branches weighed down with all the glistening, purple gorgeousness of fruit!

There are so many things you can do with blackberries - jams, cordials, puddings and savoury sauces - and, of course, you can just freeze them for later and eat every morning with porridge (me) and yogurt (the husband) for a dose of vitamin C throughout the winter. They are free, picking gets you out in the fresh air and it's a time to spend with friends, chatting away as you do, as we have done for years behind years!

### Overnight Oats & Blackberries

1 cup fresh ripe blackberries  
(plus a few for topping)  
1/2 banana (save the remainder for the topping)  
200 mls milk  
½ tsp vanilla extract  
½ cup oats (I like the organic jumbo ones best)

*Topping:*  
slices of banana and extra blackberries

Put the blackberries, banana, milk and vanilla in a blender and blend until completely smooth. Pour into a bowl or glass jar and stir in the oats. Cover the bowl or jar and place in the refrigerator overnight to allow the oats to soak and soften. In the morning add some fresh blackberries and the other half of the banana (sliced) on top (for those with a sweet tooth, add a drizzle of honey or maple syrup).

### Blackberry Salad

Baby spinach/ watercress/ rocket leaves (or a mixture if you have it!)  
fresh blackberries  
crumbled gorgonzola or blue cheese  
walnut pieces (optional)  
citrus vinaigrette (recipe below)  
1/3 cup good-quality olive oil  
1/4 cup freshly-squeezed orange, lemon, or lime juice  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

Whisk together all the vinaigrette ingredients. Toss the leaves and blackberries together with the vinaigrette and serve topped with crumbled cheese. It will look so beautiful with the light green leaves and purple blackberries, you will be loathe to eat it - but do!



### Blackberry, Elderflower and Mint Fool

200g ripe blackberries  
1 - 2 tbsp elderflower cordial  
60g caster sugar  
a few fresh mint sprigs  
150ml double cream  
125ml full-fat Greek yogurt

Put the blackberries in a saucepan with the elderflower cordial, caster sugar and fresh mint sprigs. Set the pan over a medium heat and gently bubble the mixture for 10-15 minutes until the berries soften and release their juices, then reduce to a thick coulis. Remove from the heat and let it cool a little, then taste, adding more sugar or a dash more cordial if needed. Remove the mint sprigs. Allow the mixture to cool completely (it will become more like jam in consistency). Pour the double cream into a large bowl then, using an electric mixer, whisk to soft-medium peaks. Stir in the

Greek yogurt, then fold in the cooled blackberry coulis, creating a swirled effect. Spoon the fool into a dish and serve straightaway, or cover and chill for up to six hours.

### Blackberry Fridge Jam

*As the name implies, you keep this in the fridge once made. It has half the amount of sugar normally used so better for you. I put it into small jars so that I am opening and using quickly.*

Weigh however many blackberries you have and put in a bowl. Weigh out half that weight in preserving sugar and add to the bowl. Mash the fruit up slightly and leave aside for no less than an hour. Put into a saucepan (you can at this point add a tablespoon of cassis if you like/have), bring to the boil and stir a rolling boil for exactly 5 minutes. Allow to cool and put into sterilised jars.

## Thoughts from the Snug . . .

### Out of the mouths of babes

There are several examples of Snug regulars telling tales of grandchildren that prove their worth and delight us by their innocent brilliance.

The first story was of a Granddad who always made a morning available when he would take his seven year old granddaughter for a drive in the car for some bonding time- just him and his granddaughter; a chance for an ice-cream was a treat both enjoyed.

However, one week he was suffering bad cold and wanted to stay in bed. Luckily Grandma came to the rescue and offered to do the trip instead. When they returned, the little girl anxiously ran up stairs to see how Granddad was. "Well, did you enjoy your trip with Grandma?" he enquired.

"It was great!" she replied " and do you know what? We didn't see one prat, pillock, moron or idiot anywhere at all today."

Another recalled the time when a Grandmother decided to teach her grandson how food came to the table. She had already involved him in picking apple and black-berries and how seeds germinated to produce carrots, onions, etc. The little chap seemed most interested by the whole story. Flushed with her success in this matter she enthusiastically invited him to come and get some potatoes. She marched into her garden, grabbed a fork and proceeded to unearth the tubers. The boy was enthralled and said, with sincere curiosity, "Grandma, why do you bury your potatoes?"

Buddy Bach



## Romy's Uni Life *Romy Kemp*

### Liverpool University

#### Finally Summer

I have been back for almost two months now, and have been enjoying days out with friends' and family. I have been extremely busy with events from festivals, to track days, and even to mini days out shopping. Being able to drive over summer has been fabulous for just getting out and about, and also for just travelling around the West Midlands. Thankfully, compared to last month, pollen seems to have lessened and I am actually able to function without constant sneezing and an itchy face. I am extremely glad that I don't have to rely on antihistamines every day now! I am even able to roll in the grass if I wanted to! I am excited to welcome the outdoors back into my routine. My only source of nature was my mini plant collection. I have a few cacti, and one in particular has started sprouted flowers, which I was not expecting! I have only recently found out that it is a *Haworthia* (which is called a zebra cactus or a pearl plant), and is apparently a succulent. It has been wonderful to watch the little flowers grow. Being away from my university friends has been rather strange - you become so used to being with the same people all day, every day. They essentially become like a new family, in a sense - they help you, laugh with you, support you when



you're feeling stressed or upset - and you can surround yourself with so many amazing and different people! University life, in a big city, is extremely different to life in the countryside, and I do already miss the bustling crowds of Liverpool. Although the weather hasn't been too hot so far, throughout the year, there have been hot days and I'm sure a mini heatwave to come - and if not, it will make Autumn (and winter) feel that much more spectacular - for me anyway! Autumn, to me, is the best season. It just has a different and warm vibe to it. Although, when I go back to university, there will be heinous amounts of rain - it seems to rain all the time in Liverpool, but it's great weather for scarves! I am currently getting ready to go on holiday, and by the time this article is released, I will be on another one! I seem to be busy every single day, and I'm not upset about it! It's great to get out and about all around the country. I hope everyone has a fantastic holiday break!

"The treasury could not, with any marked success, run a fish and chip shop"

*Harold Wilson*



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## Evie's Teenage Focus

### Evie Aubin



#### Hello again!

With the summer holidays in full swing now, it feels as if I haven't written in ages.

Last time I was writing I had just been to my Taylor Swift concerts and to be completely honest I think I was in (from what I've gathered from social media, is being called) a post-concert depression. I've brought tickets to another four shows between now and next march!

Before the Eras Tour I had only been to a couple of concerts, from memory, one of them being the previous Taylor Swift tour, one of my favourite albums from her, called 'Reputation' and a LoveJoy concert that I think I've talked about on here before. I've been to a few others with my parents when I was younger, but if I'm being honest, I don't remember any of those so I'm choosing not to count them.

The Eras tour really made me fall back in love with live music so I'm really looking forward to my next ones.

I've got tickets to see Noah Kahan in late August, The Last Dinner Party in October and then Gracie Abrams and Sabrina Carpenter in March. These are a bunch of my favourite music artists ever so I'm definitely going to recommend listening to them! I've seen multiple times people talking about how difficult it is to get tickets to concerts, but luckily for me I've always found it really easy (I'm starting to think it's a hidden talent of mine) my favourite experience of getting tickets (besides the Eras Tour of course) would probably be the Noah Kahan tickets, I'm going to see him with a friend of mine from sixth form. Luckily for us, at the time tickets went on sale we were both supposed to have a free period at school, so we would be together. Unfortunately, for us though, we found out on the day that, we would actually be having an assembly. However, this artist is one of our favourite music

artists...ever. And nothing. Absolutely nothing, was going to stop us. We shuffled our way to the back of the hall, my phone open and waiting in the lobby of the dreaded ticket master app, waiting to get into the formidable online queue. The assembly starts and teachers discuss this that and the other, whilst me and my friend are on the edge of our seats trying to inconspicuously buy concert tickets. When we got through the queue with tickets in our basket the worst thing that could happen happens... the app forgot my card information. However not all hope is lost, my friend, (*the amazing woman that she is*), sneakily pulls her debit card from her bag and hands it to me. The only problem I have now, is that the clock is running low (if you didn't know when you get tickets like this it only gives you a few minutes to actually buy the tickets from the time you put them in your basket)- so now I'm trying to put card details I've never seen before into my phone with about a minute to spare, all while trying not to draw any teachers attention, and seeing as the person holding the assembly had been teaching for over 10 years it's safe to say they've seen many students before try to get away with being on their phone in assembly and it never ends well for the student. However, today wasn't that day for us and we somehow managed to procure tickets. Needless to say, me and my friend are incredibly excited. I'll make sure to tell you all about it next time I write to you, toodles!

"One man's wage increase is another man's price increase"

*Harold Wilson*



## Gregory's World!

### Word Forest

Nice of you to swing by, fellow reader. Come on in! Oh yeah, watch your step. To the untrained eye, my room looks like a bomb site of socks, scrap paper and mugs from coffees long gone, but I promise everything is actually part of a meticulously organised system. Or, there might be a tiny chance my eyes are the untrained ones.

This might be because I've recently spent a lot of time in my room – you see, I decided to take up an internship. Internships seem to be all the rage at the moment. There will be a proper definition somewhere, but they're basically work experience placements which last longer and command extra 'oooooh' factor. They usually tend to give eager-eyed, youthful-hued undergrads a good push towards possible career options (or away from them – they can't all cut the mustard, I suppose).

Aware of a long summer beaming on the horizon, I decided to scratch my internship itch. In Trinity term, I popped my head around the door of a careers fair. Liking what I saw, I popped the rest of my body around the door too, and chatted to the stallholders. Then I met Tracey and Simon West from Word Forest.

Word Forest is a reforestation charity which operates mainly in Garashi, Kenya. It has one mean and nasty rogues' gallery in its sights – the public enemy number ones being hunger, the devastation caused by extreme droughts and flooding, and (their big bad boss) climate change. It's a quite a battle for a small charity based in Devon, but I was drawn in by their conviction and their heart. I worked remotely with them for three weeks (angling my camera to show only a beautifully tidy bedroom behind me), alongside a posse of other interns (who were probably doing the same); Tracey and Simon really made us feel like a team, even though we were scattered across the country and able to quite accurately notify each other of rain or clouds which could soon be heading each others' ways. It's a long shot, fellow reader, but you might've guessed (after fifty-nine articles) that I kind of like to write. Mostly, my stuff tries to make you chuckle. I hadn't had an opportunity to write things that would have more direct, real-world effects on people's livelihoods and education. I could bring my own passion for writing to the job, including writing the script for a promotional video, making the wording of grant applications punchier (which

can be fun, I promise), and – the mammoth task – creating a mega document about permaculture to be sent to Kenya. The mega document, in particular, was a teaching resource I was assured – grandiose as it might sound – would save lives.

On the one hand, Word Forest gave me proper experience of a 9 to 5 job, talking to colleagues, attending morning briefings, fighting with spreadsheets – which always comes in handy. Beyond that, they gave me the chance to have a real impact on people's lives and I learned loads about climate change and its root causes – the idea of which used to bounce around my mind like a big incomprehensible ball of 'Aarrgghh!'. I discovered what an impact agriculture makes. Did you know that 80% of agricultural land on Earth is used to rear livestock – but out of the 47% of land used for food production in the US, for instance, 70% of that is used just to grow food for that livestock? I had no idea we used so much space growing food for food. It highlighted just how much precious land we dedicate to rearing animals which, while tasting good in a saucy seeded bun, do release ridiculous amounts of methane into our atmosphere, firing up

the global thermostat. One of Word Forest's main aims is to facilitate education about permaculture (a way of farming which ensures you aren't wearing the land down to nothing, but that you replenish it as you go). If rural communities in Kenya practice more sustainable farming methods, they become food secure and more self-sufficient, with a fighting chance of withstanding other devastating challenges hurled their way. If you're interested in Word Forest's David-like battle against this hot, planet-consuming Goliath, there's a link below to their website and some more info. Wow. July has been busy. Voting at the start of the month, now internships! Gregory's World is starting to feel very grown-up and serious indeed. Shiver. Don't worry, though. There's plenty more fun to come!



<https://www.wordforest.org>

## Thinking of renting privately? Here's what to consider

Whether you're renting on your own or with other people, one of the first decisions to make is whether you want to rent directly from a landlord or through a letting agent. Renting directly from a landlord might mean you have less to pay before moving in, fewer references and you might not need to do a credit check. Alternatively, renting through a letting agent means that if they manage the property they'll liaise with the landlord about any repairs that need doing on your behalf. However, if a letting agent behaves badly and you believe they're at fault you can complain to their independent complaints body, known as 'redress scheme'. There are lots of websites you can use to find somewhere to rent but if you can't look online, you could visit a local estate agent or ask friends and

family to help you. When you're looking, remember, never pay any money before you've seen the property and if you can take someone with you when viewing properties. Avoid renting directly from an existing tenant, this is called 'subletting' and the tenant might not have the landlord's permission to rent to you, which could cause problems down the line. If a tenant is showing you around the property on behalf of the landlord they should give you the landlord's contact details. To make sure the property you're going to rent is safe, affordable and meets your needs, ask the landlord or letting agent some key questions. For example, how much rent is and how it should be paid, if the rent includes any bills, how long the tenancy is, if there's the opportunity to

renew and if there's a break clause in case you need to end the tenancy early.

Check if you'll need to pay a holding deposit while the landlord carries out pre-tenancy checks, this can't be more than a week's rent and should be returned to you at the start of the tenancy. You should also ask your landlord or letting agent what documents you'll need to provide when you agree to rent the property including evidence of your Right to Rent. Before you go ahead, ask how your tenancy deposit will be protected, if any furniture or appliances are included in the tenancy and, if relevant, whether you can have pets. You should also request any obvious problems with the property are fixed before you move in. If a landlord refuses to rent to you because of who you are, this may be discrimination.

For instance because of your race, religion or sexual orientation. A 'no kids policy' or refusing to rent to you because you get benefits could also be discrimination. You only need to tell a landlord or letting agent you receive benefits if they ask. Some may then require a guarantor as security if you have no renting history, or if they feel you may have trouble paying rent. They can still refuse to rent to you if they think you won't be able to afford it.

For further information and advice, please contact your local Citizens Advice South Worcestershire office on 01684 563611 or visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

**citizens  
advice**



## Autumnal treats



Well, no sooner did Summer arrive than, wow, it's gone. Back to work, back to School, back to life's routines. However, there are still a few treats in store for us if we take the trouble to look. Firstly, the Longborough Festival Opera have enjoyed a huge success with their production of the whole of Wagner's Ring Cycle to great critical acclaim, especially for their production of Die Walkure which was noted for its compelling interpretation. So much so that it is now available to watch, for free, by visiting [www.operavision.eu/performance/die-walkure-1](http://www.operavision.eu/performance/die-walkure-1). Their season ended, though, with a splendid series of performances of Puccini's masterpiece La boheme. I was especially struck by the

contribution of the Longborough Youth Chorus who added not just numbers, but more importantly joy and zest to the Chorus.

These young people, drawn from a wide geographical area, not only contributed much to the production but also doubtless learned a great deal from the experience. *For more information see [www.lfo.org.uk](http://www.lfo.org.uk)*

Also nearby, in Stratford on Avon, the Royal Shakespeare Company is also working hard to encourage career opportunities for young people with their Next Generation talent and skills development programme which aims to help build a fairer, more inclusive theatre industry – not, note, just for actors. Last month saw the first 'real' jobs for two of the programmes' participants as Trainee Assistant Director and Trainee Assistant State Manager for a production of Two Gentlemen of Verona.

*See [www.rsc.org.uk](http://www.rsc.org.uk) for more.*

Finally, for those who tend towards more traditional metal-bashing roles, the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway are offering a Young Engineers Weekend at their Toddington base on the 28th and 29th of

this month, which will give young people the chance to sample not just the 'heritage' skills associated with steam locomotion but also the operation of diesel locomotives, track laying, signals and signalling- experiencing the whole gamut of jobs involved in the operation of a railway.

*See [www.gwsr.com](http://www.gwsr.com) for more.*

The biggest event locally this month is, of course, the Malvern Autumn Show which opens on Friday 27th for three days. I'm looking forward to visiting the new Tipple Zone, mainly because it's being hosted by Piston Distillery from Worcester (you may remember that we tried on of their Master classes some months back) but another fun event looks to be the Great Malvern Cake Off which will host well known faces from previous TV series of the Great British Bake Off. AS well as Q&A sessions we will be able to enjoy seasonal baking demonstrations and fun challenges and competitions. If you fancy your chances in the competitions then apply online at [www.malvernautumn.co.uk/compete](http://www.malvernautumn.co.uk/compete) - and Good Luck! Because many visitors in the

Brian Johnson-Thomas

past have bemoaned the fact that dogs have always been banned from the Showground (with the honourable exception of assistance dogs) this year, for the first time, the organisers are trialling a brand new 'Dog Day' when well behaved dogs on short, non-retractable leads will be welcome. There will also be a dedicated Dog Show with fun, informal categories such as 'waggiest tail' and 'dog most like its' owner'. Sunday dog entry tickets are free but need to be booked in advance at [www.malvernautumn.co.uk](http://www.malvernautumn.co.uk) which is also where you can buy advance tickets for the show at £20 each (children under 16 go free).

I should also at least mention the prestigious RHS Flower Show, the CANNA UK Giant Vegetables Championship and the Garden Theatre, hosted by the BBC Radio Two and escape to the Country presenter Nicki Chapman, plus the family Green which will host an exciting range of activities including pedal tractors and a climbing wall. I may not see you on the climbing wall, but I hope to somewhere there!



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10-12 hours a day**



# The Worcestershire Poet who wrote A Shropshire Lad



Perhaps you have noticed that for the past couple of years the Pershore Times has been publishing-every month in Poets' Corner -- a poem or two from A Shropshire Lad. This book of 63 poems was published by A.E. Housman in 1896. He was not really a poet, and he was not from Shropshire - but he was certainly an interesting man. Alfred Edward Housman was born near Bromsgrove in 1859, which makes him a Worcestershire lad. The hills in Shropshire were on his western horizon when he was a lad and frequently going out for walks in the countryside. At Bromsgrove School he studied Greek and Latin. The death of his mother

on his twelfth birthday was traumatic; he became withdrawn and morose, and increasingly pessimistic about life. But in 1877 he won a scholarship to St John's College, Oxford to embark on the four-year Classics course. Housman got a First in the examination after the first two years, but he failed the Final examinations at the end of the course. One reason is that he didn't like the subject matter so he didn't study properly. Another reason is that just before the exam he learned that his father was very ill. Finally, he spent too much time with a new friend of his, a brilliant science student at St John's College named Moses Jackson. Housman went home to Worcestershire humiliated. But the following year he passed the Civil Service exams and got a job in London, at Her Majesty's Patent Office where Moses Jackson was already working. For the next decade Housman beavered away in the Registry of Trademarks. During his first two years there he shared lodgings with Moses and Moses' younger brother. At this time Housman developed

a lifelong but hopeless devotion to Moses, a decent chap who had no interest in an emotional relationship with another man. In the evenings Housman examined ancient Greek and Latin texts in the Reading Room at the British Museum, and he wrote articles which were published in academic journals. When University College London advertised in 1892 for a Professor of Latin, Housman applied, and he got the job. Housman had occasionally written poetry in his youth and at Oxford, but in 1895 he wrote many new poems and revised earlier ones. There were several reasons for this burst of poetic activity: Moses Jackson had married and left England to teach in India; Moses' brother had died in 1892 at the age of 27, and Housman's father died two years later. Alfred was upset, depressed, lonely, and painfully aware that life is short and pleasures are brief. The poems reflect this pessimistic outlook on life. By 1896 he had 63 poems that he wanted to publish. He gave them Roman numerals-and the Pershore Times has been publishing them in order. Only rarely does a Housman poem have a title. A Shropshire Lad was soon published and since

1896 the volume has never been out of print. There have been at least 300 different editions. The latest Shropshire Lad- a hardback illustrated edition with wonderful photographs - was published last year and is on sale at Hughes & Co. on Church Street in Pershore.

In 1911 a vacancy arose for the Chair of Latin at Cambridge University. Housman applied and was offered the job, along with a prestigious Fellowship at Trinity College. That is where he lived and worked, until his death in 1936.

Although many of the Shropshire lads are unhappy, unfortunate, unlucky in love, and likely to die young, Housman is actually talking about human discomfort and distress, human loss and loneliness, and these exist anywhere and everywhere. You could say that Housman's poems are filled with doom and gloom. But his genius was to write poems that have simple words, comforting rhymes and musical rhythms - and these counteract the morose message and the pessimistic outlook.

For further information, please visit the website:  
[www.housman-society.co.uk](http://www.housman-society.co.uk)

## A.E. Housman and a Herefordshire Lad

*An illustrated talk by Max Hunt,  
Secretary of the Housman Society*

**Saturday 28th September 2024**  
2.30 pm at Cradley (nr Malvern):

Three lives became tragically intertwined in 1895

- a flamboyant playwright whose masterpiece, The Importance of Being Earnest, had recently opened in London's West End;
- an officer cadet from Cradley in Herefordshire, now at Woolwich's Royal Military Academy with a scholarship from Marlborough College;
- a pessimistic professor of latin at University College London who was about to become a well-known poet.

They had in common a deep sense of anxiety and injustice at the intolerant attitudes of Victorian society. The results: the notorious trial of Oscar Wilde was luridly reported in many newspapers; Harry Maclean committed suicide in London's Charing Cross Hotel; A.E. Housman wrote some bitter and sarcastic poems that were published in A Shropshire Lad.

**Venue:** St James the Great, Cradley  
(on Rectory Lane, WR13 5LH)  
A large church car park is available.

There will be an illustrated talk by Max Hunt and a visit to Harry Maclean's grave in the churchyard. Coffee/tea and cake will be served afterwards. Tickets are £10 (cash only) on the door, which include refreshments. There is no advance booking. Cradley is about three miles west of Malvern. This event is promoted by the Autumn in Malvern Festival and sponsored by the Housman Society.

## A E Housman, the Worcestershire Lad.

*An illustrated talk by Max Hunt,  
Secretary of the Housman Society*

**Tuesday 24th September 2024**  
7.30 pm

An illustrated talk to Pershore Civic Society

**Venue:** St. Andrews Centre, Pershore

## 'A Shropshire Lad'

*Author: John Hayward*

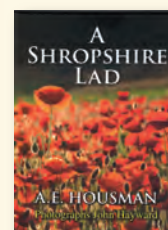
This is the first photographically illustrated edition of 'The Shropshire Lad', timed to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the A E Housman Society, recently launched by the BBC television presenter, Nick Owen. Photographer John Hayward follows the different locations mentioned in the poem with stunning, full-colour plates.

Published by: Merlin Unwin Books, Ludlow, Shropshire  
Available from:

**Hughes & Company**

Design House, 8 Church Street Pershore WR10 1DT

Tel: 01386 803803 Email: [print@hughes.company](mailto:print@hughes.company)

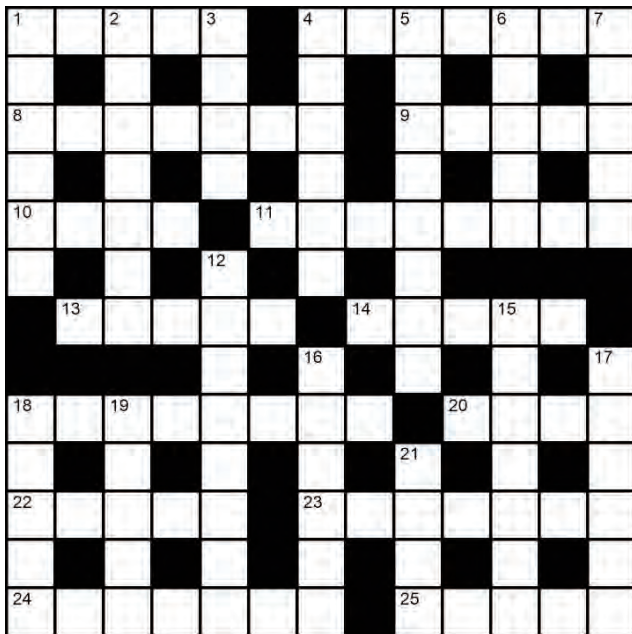


**£20.00**



# Coffee Break

## Crossword



## Across

- 1 Bay (5)  
4 Serious collision (5-2)  
8 Group within a group (7)  
9 Sort of line dance (5)  
10 Large town (4)  
11 Capsize (8)  
13 Track (5)  
14 Anaesthetic (5)  
18 Left-hander (8)  
20 Worry (4)  
22 Electromagnetic telecommunication (5)  
23 Flagellate (7)  
24 Brings up (7)  
25 Entice (5)

## Down

- 1 Invertebrate creature (6)  
2 Seafood choice (7)  
3 Playthings (4)  
4 Record cover (6)  
5 Free from error (8)  
6 Member of the Indian majority (5)  
7 Type of Chinese cracker (5)  
12 The exact middle of the day (4,4)  
15 Aural membrane (7)  
16 Falls into disuse (6)  
17 Thoroughfare (6)  
18 Fragment (5)  
19 Mammary gland in cows (5)  
21 Baptismal bowl (4)

## Sudoku

Each row and column must contain the numbers from one to nine, without repetitions.

1		6		9		3		
			6					4
2	7	3	4			8		
				8		7	6	
	9	4		5				
		8			2	4	5	1
4					8			
		2		4		9		7

		1						
2	6				9	7		
	4				8		2	
		6		5				1
4		3				2		5
8				7		6		
	8		2				4	
		5	8				3	2
						1		

## Crosswords

## Sudoku

## Wordsearches

Jigsaw puzzles  
also available to play  
online for FREE



visit:

[www.uptontimes.com/coffeebreak](http://www.uptontimes.com/coffeebreak)

## Wordsearch

U	Z	I	N	C	L	X	D	N	B	G
N	N	N	N	O	R	I	L	I	H	Y
E	O	I	O	E	N	W	O	T	Z	N
T	B	C	X	A	N	E	G	L	R	O
S	R	K	Y	R	E	I	X	A	E	T
G	A	E	G	G	O	C	D	B	V	P
N	C	L	E	O	N	O	A	O	L	Y
U	G	S	N	N	N	P	E	C	I	R
T	X	Q	R	U	H	P	L	U	S	K
B	Y	R	U	C	R	E	M	X	M	D
X	M	U	I	S	O	R	P	S	Y	D

Argon	Neon
Carbon	Nickel
Cobalt	Oxygen
Copper	Radon
Dysprosium	Silver
Gold	Sulphur
Iodine	Tin
Iron	Tungsten
Krypton	Xenon
Lead	Zinc
Mercury	

## July Answers

1	S	2	T	3	A	4	T	5	I	6	O	7	N	8	F	9	E	10	T	11	A
	A		A		F		A														
12	T	13	H	14	A	15	N	16	K	17	F	18	U	19	L	20	R	21	A	22	R
	O		N		E		T		P												
23	G	24	E	25	N	26	E	27	G	28	H	29	O	30	H	31	H	32	O	33	T
	R		H		I		N		O												
34	S	35	P	36	R	37	Y	38	A	39	U	40	I	41	N	42	T	43	O	44	
	L								N		E		S		T		S				
45	G	46	O	47	B	48	L	49	E	50	T	51	E	52	L	53	O	54	P	55	E
	T		I		E																
56	I	57	T	58	E	59	M	60	S	61	T	62	E	63	A	64	M	65	E	66	R
	E		I		S		A		I		D										
67	D	68	A	69	T	70	E	71	S	72	T	73	I	74	C	75	K	76	U	77	P



## Poets' Corner

### A Shropshire Lad XXX

Others, I am not the first,  
Have willed more mischief than they durst:  
If in the breathless night I too  
Shiver now, 'tis nothing new.

More than I, if truth were told,  
Have stood and sweated hot and cold,  
And through their reins in ice and fire  
Fear contended with desire.

Agued once like me were they,  
But I like them shall win my way  
Lastly to the bed of mould  
Where there's neither heat nor cold.

But from my grave across my brow  
Plays no wind of healing now,  
And fire and ice within me fight  
Beneath the suffocating night.

XXXI

On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble;  
His forest fleece the Wrekin heaves;  
The gale, it plies the saplings double,  
And thick on Severn snow the leaves.

'Twould blow like this through holt and hanger  
When Uricon the city stood:  
'Tis the old wind in the old anger,  
But then it threshed another wood.

Then, 'twas before my time, the Roman  
At yonder heaving hill would stare:  
The blood that warms an English yeoman,  
The thoughts that hurt him, they were there.

There, like the wind through woods in riot,  
Through him the gale of life blew high;  
The tree of man was never quiet:  
Then 'twas the Roman, now 'tis I.

The gale, it plies the saplings double,  
It blows so hard, 'twill soon be gone:  
To-day the Roman and his trouble  
Are ashes under Uricon.

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

### Spot & Shop - July Winners

- 1) Sam Ratcliffe
- 2) Celia McMahon
- 3) Angela Cousins
- 4) Judith Stanley

**Last month's answer:**  
**Wintour Estates Ltd**

## Fun Quiz!

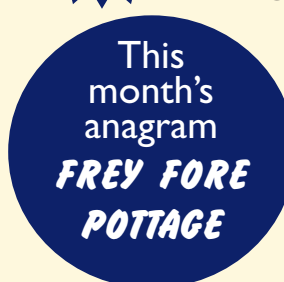
1. What was the first Pirates of the Caribbean movie called?
2. True or false: The temperature on the moon is roughly the same all day?
3. What is the center point (neutral) of the PH scale?
4. Which French military general married Josephine de Beauharnais in 1796?
5. What is a supernova?
6. Is tennis an Olympic sport?
7. How many time zones is the world divided into?
8. True or false: Lewis Carroll was a pen name, as opposed to the real name, which was used by the author of Alice in Wonderland?
9. What is the capital of the Czech Republic?
10. With reference to sound, what do the letters dB stand for?
11. Which famous explorer was stabbed to death in Hawaii?
12. What is a marsupium?
13. Which Disney character sang 'Let it Go' in the Disney movie Frozen?
14. Which war ended on September 2, 1945?
15. What island is New York's Statue of Liberty located on?
16. What are igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic the three main types of?
17. Which Roman numeral immediately follows iii?
18. Which continent does Iceland belong to?
19. Which 60's singer had a hit song with 'Rubber Ball'?
20. Which ocean separates Africa and Australia?

Answers: 1. The Curse of the Black Pearl 2. False: Temperature changes are extreme - cold at night, hot during the day 3. pH 4. Napoleon Bonaparte 5. An explosion of a star 6. No 7. 24 8. True 9. Prague 10. Decibels 11. Captain James Cook 12. Ayn Rand (to protect eggs, offspring...) 13. Queen Elsa 14. World War 2 15. Liberty Island 16. Rock 17. IV 18. Europe 19. Bobby Vee 20. The Indian Ocean



### COMPETITION TIME!

Take a look at the anagram  
**The answer is the name of a business that is advertising in Upton Times this month**



#### This month's prizes!

**1st - £25 cash**  
Donated by The Royal Oak, Kinnersley

**2nd £30 Food Voucher**  
at Warner's, Upton

**3rd £10 Voucher**  
at Revills Farm Shop, Defford

**4th Reg Moule Gardening Book**

Complete and return this form or email:  
news@hughes.company for your chance to win!  
**Upton Times closing date: 27th September 2024**

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

Return to: Upton Times, Hughes & Company  
8 Church Street, Pershore Worcestershire WR10 1DT



# The Church of the Good Shepherd, Hook Common

Our next big event is on Saturday 7th September, when we will be holding a local history exhibition from 1:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. in the church. This will be followed by an evening of Victorian entertainment (with audience participation!) featuring parlour and music hall songs together with recitations, and led by our own

– our very own! – Mary Weatherill. The evening starts at 7:00p.m. and light refreshments, wine and other beverages will be served. Entrance to these events is free, though there will be an opportunity to donate to the church if you wish.

*Kate Chester-Lamb*



To celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving this year, we are trying a slightly different format.

On Sunday 22nd September, we will be hosting Harvest Hymns and Tea, with tea at 4.00 p.m. in the church, followed by a short service of hymns and readings led by, Mary Weatherill and similar to the 'Hymns with Pimms' service. This will be an opportunity to enjoy an excellent tea and then sing your favourite Harvest hymns afterwards, and all are

cordially invited to join us. As a rural church surrounded by farms and farmland, the celebration of Harvest is very important to us, and more so this year when our farmers have been struggling with adverse weather conditions. If you would like to bring a Harvest offering, then please choose something that can be passed on to the Foodbank

*Kate Chester-Lamb*

## Church Services

### Sunday 1st September

11:00 Good Shepherd, Hook - *Holy Communion*

### Sunday 8th September

09:30 Upton Parish Church - *Holy Communion*

11:00 St Mary's, Ripple - *Matins*

11:00 St Nicholas, Earls Croome - *Holy Communion*

### Sunday 15th September

09:30 Good Shepherd, Hook - *Morning Worship*

11:00 St Mary's, Hill Croome - *Harvest Festival*

18:00 Upton Parish Church - *Choral Evensong*

### Sunday 22nd September

09:30 Upton Parish Church - *Morning Worship*

11:00 St Nicholas, Earls Croome - *Morning Worship*

11:00 St Mary's, Ripple - *Harvest Festival*

16:00 Good Shepherd, Hook - *Harvest and Hymns*

### Sunday 29th September

11:00 St John the Baptist, Strensham - *Benefice Harvest Festival*

### Sunday 6th October

09:30 St Gabriel's, Hanley Swan - *Harvest Festival*

11:00 Good Shepherd, Hook - *Holy Communion*

### Sunday 13th October

09:30 Upton Parish Church - *Holy Communion*

11:00 St Mary's, Ripple - *Sealed Knot Service*

11:00 St Nicholas, Earls Croome - *Harvest Festival*



## Church Services and Online Worshipping Opportunities for Your Church in the Old Hills Malvern Churches

### SEPTEMBER 2024

#### Sunday 1st September

*The Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity*

9.30am Living Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am Living Communion at POWICK

12.45pm Baptism at POWICK

#### Sunday 8th September

*The Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity*

9.30am Living Communion at CALLOW END

11.00am Living Communion at MADRESFIELD

12.45pm Baptism at MADRESFIELD

#### Sunday 15th September

*The Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity*

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at POWICK

9.30am Harvest Service at GUARLFORD

11.00am Harvest Service at POWICK

#### Sunday 22nd September

*The Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity*

9.30am Harvest Service at CALLOW END

11.00am Harvest Service at MADRESFIELD

#### Sunday 29th September

*The Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity*

10.30am Café Church at CALLOW END

Midweek Communion at The Orchard Room in Colletts Green  
Thursdays 12th & 26th September from 10.30-11.30am



01905 830270 [www.aldhillsmalvern.co.uk](http://www.aldhillsmalvern.co.uk)

For Zoom Access codes and links, please contact us via

[revgarycrellin@gmail.com](mailto:revgarycrellin@gmail.com) or [aldhillsmalvern@gmail.com](mailto:aldhillsmalvern@gmail.com)



# Malvern Festival of Ideas 2025



**A date for your diaries:**  
**Friday 7th - Sunday 9th March 2025**  
Some of you will know of, and be looking forward to, the next Festival of Ideas. As the title suggests, the Festival celebrates opportunities to examine and consider a wide range of issues and perspectives, hear from impressive, well informed speakers and share ideas in a welcoming space. The 2025 theme will consider the unspoken truths that influence and shape our lives. Next year’s speakers are currently being invited and an initial list has been published. These include the historian and television presenter David Olusoga; Brenda Hale, the British judge who served as President of the Supreme Court of the UK; the scientist and broadcaster Adam Rutherford; and educator and contemporary historian Anthony Seldon. Other speakers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests - for example in law, journalism, creative arts, economics, comedy writing, computer science, politics, and education. There are activities for children too. There will be so many topics from which to choose! The final programme, themes, list of speakers and schedule will be available in the Autumn.

*For more details see [malvernfestivalofideas.org.uk](http://malvernfestivalofideas.org.uk)*

6pm Sunday 15th September

Church of St Peter & St Paul, Upton upon Severn

# CHORAL EVENSONG

Led by **Rev Canon Greville Cross**  
Organist **John Holloway**  
Musical Director **John Holloway**

Canticles (Harris)  
Hymn 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace' (Wesley)

## Useful numbers

Upton Fire Station ..... 01684 771780  
Upton Library ..... 01905 822722  
Upton Police Station ..... 101  
.....(In an emergency always call 999)  
CrimeStoppers ..... 0800 555 111  
Upton Post Office ..... 01684 592761  
Upton Surgery ..... 01684 592696  
Upton Tourist Information ..... 01684 594200  
Upton Town Council ..... 01684 592273

MHDC Council  
Out of hours Emergency hotline - In an event of an emergency call: .....0300 003 5367

To report faulty traffic lights or urgent Highways issues call: ..... 07875 033759  
*Please note: This number should not be used for 'day-to-day' enquiries.*

- Waste Services ..... 01684 862490  
- Planning Dept ..... 01684 862221  
- Pot Holes ..... 01905 765765

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<https://tewkesburyu3a.org/>

No longer in full-time work?

Looking for interesting things to do??

Join us now for fun and friendship!

**Rural Reels**

## Rural Reels Films

Upton upon Severn Memorial Hall  
Doors open at 7.00pm Film starts at 7.30pm  
Tickets on the door £5.00

Saturday 21st September - The Miracle Club Cert 12A  
Starring Laura Linney, Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates  
Female friendship in late 1960's working class Dublin when the Catholic Church reigned supreme. A bus trip to Lourdes becomes more than a pilgrimage as each of the women look for answers to very different questions.

Saturday 19th October - A Haunting in Venice Cert 12A  
Starring Kenneth Branagh and Michelle Yeoh. In post-World War II Venice, Poirot, now retired and living in his own exile, reluctantly attends a seance. But when one of the guests is murdered, it is up to the former detective to once again to uncover the killer.

*For films at the Memorial Hall, Upton upon Severn, please enter post code WR8 0HA to see film screening information.*



# Friends of St Mary's Church, Ripple

Welcome to this Summer update. There have been several significant changes of personnel to the Ripple Parochial Church Council: Roger Gillard, Churchwarden for 4 years, stepped down as Churchwarden at the Annual Ripple Parochial Council meeting in May. Roger has set in motion major changes which will be the basis for safeguarding the future of St Mary's and ensure its place in our community for years to come. He has inspired and organised many events and liaised with both Church of England colleagues and key members of the local community, forged good relations with The Sealed Knot Society and prepared the ground through "The Rippling with Life" Project to attract grants to support the Church's heritage and Christian mission. Happily, Roger will continue to serve as a PCC member and Reader.

The newly elected Churchwardens are: Anita Marsland and Wendy Phipps, both of whom live very near to St Mary's. Denise Fox was

elected Secretary. Both Hilary Dee and Pam Hemmings have decided to retire from RPCC and we thank them for their many years of wise counsel and support. Other members of the PCC are: Nicholas Blake (ex-officio), Jose Bunn, Anne McLucas, Rachel Sessford, Joy Till (Treasurer), Reverend Barry Unwin (Priest in Charge and Chairman). Safety & Risk Assessment Policies Following an extensive survey by John Bennett, an experienced assessor, a number of issues were identified as needing attention and which are being addressed. This included the need for a **Safety & Risk Assessment** Policy which was subsequently adopted at the AGM in May. Copies are available from the Secretary, Denise Fox. As part of the Survey potential fire hazards were also identified and the necessary precautions have been put in place. **Lighting & Electrics** The Victorian lantern over the porch has been rewired and renovated and solar powered

lights have been installed along the path leading to the Church. Both projects were undertaken by local resident Julian Salter and our thanks to him (a Friend of St Mary's). The electrical system is over 40 years old and will have to be updated to meet the additional load which will be put on it in future.

## **Wheelchair/pushchair Accessibility**

The West door which has a ramp leading into the Church is now open every day for those requiring easier access. The porch entrance continues to be open daily (but mind the steps!) and daily opening hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm.

## **St Mary's Bell Tower**

The Bell Tower is a landmark in the area and has panoramic views across the Vale of Severn from the tower's top. The lower stages of the tower, transept and the nave are late twelfth century and the Tower was heightened in the 15th century. There are 6 bells cast by John Rudhall in Gloucester in the early 18th century and were recast in the early nineteenth century (1808). There has been

a clock in the Tower since 1705 and recently the winding mechanism has been electrified and regularly chimes the quarter, half hour and hour. The bells are currently rung on 4th Sunday of most months and there are 4 regular bell ringers – 6 are needed. The Ripple Ringing group are members of the Worcester and District Change Bell Ringing Association and bell ringers come from all over the country to ring Ripple's bells and enjoy their sound. The Tower Captain, Joan Payne, is keen to welcome lapsed ringers and new ringers, and is prepared to arrange for training in the tower. Contact details below. Did you know anyone can request the bells be rung to celebrate a significant occasion - a memorable birthday, wedding, christening, memorial or big family or local event in return for a donation? If anyone would like to see and hear the bell ringers in action or have the bells rung for a special occasion, contact Joan Payne on tel: 01684 297251 or email: joan.payne567@gmail.com "

## **Remembrance Tree**



**Are you on the Organ Donation Register?  
Do your Family and Friends know your wishes?**

For further information telephone **0300 123 23 23**  
For enrolment information go to **www.organdonation.nhs.uk**

*Sponsored by: Hughes & Company*



**You are invited to an  
'Open Rehearsal'  
on  
Tuesday 3rd September  
at 7.30 pm  
at St Edmunds Hall, College Road  
(corner of Priory Road)**

The Chorus is keen to welcome new members for the beginning of the 2024-25 season, when our Musical Director, Jonathan Brown, will start preparing us for our next concert with works including Haydn's Nelson Mass and Rory Boyle's Cantemus Igitur, which was commissioned for our 100th anniversary in 2020 but fell victim to the Covid pandemic.

The concert will be in Malvern in February 2025.

More details about MFC can be found at: [www.malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk](http://www.malvernfestivalchorus.co.uk) including contact details should you have any questions.

*We're a friendly bunch, so come and give us a try!*



**A fun evening of  
poetry and music**

with **John Bradshaw & Chris Hall**

**Saturday 5th October  
7.30 pm  
Earls Croome Village Hall**

Tickets £10  
including ploughman's supper &  
pudding, BYO drinks  
(info/tickets from 01386 751196)  
Raising funds for Earls Croome Church



A Remembrance Tree has been introduced by the path leading to St Mary's on which can be hung small knitted hearts in memory of loved ones. The knitted hearts are available in the Church by the Visitors' Book.

#### Visitors' Book

Most days people visit St Mary's and may leave comments in the Visitors' Book – a selection from which: "Thank you so much for being open", "Superb misericords", "What a beautiful Church", "Stunning", "Peaceful", "Wonderful Church", "Great glass!", "Fabulous", "Amazing & beautiful", "Love the kneelers", "So calming", "Lots of history", "A space blessed by the Holy Spirit". Visitors come from all over the UK, Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia & New Zealand.

Please sign the Visitors' Book when you come to St Mary's and write any comments you may have.

#### Volunteers

St Mary's Volunteers continue to provide essential support and their contribution is much appreciated. If you can spare a few hours of your time or can help with ideas for events or

fundraising we would be very grateful.

For further information on how you can help, contact the Churchwardens: Anita Marsland, mobile: 07725 406293 email:

anita.marsland@outlook.com  
Wendy Phipps, mobile: 07795 956524 email:

wendyphipps@btinternet.com  
OR the Secretary, Denise Fox, mobile: 07985 514452 email: denise.h.fox@gmail.com

Organist needed for 4th Sunday of each month  
We need an organist to play the modified 1930 Conacher Sheffield & Co organ which was installed in St Mary's in 1988 and regularly maintained and tuned. If you are interested in playing this fine instrument please contact the Churchwarden(s), details above.

#### Rippling with Life Project – Architects drawings & costings

The architect who undertook the 5 yearly report in 2023 on St Mary's state of repair has been asked to provide drawings and costings on what is required to make good the problems and plans for improvements to seating, heating, lighting and catering facilities. These are necessary

for both gaining permission to do the work (called Faculty) from Worcester Diocese and to support applications for funds to grant making organisations. St Mary's has been advised that it has met the initial criteria required by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and now has to submit full details as the next step.

#### Events for 2024 to date

The Tewkesbury Band celebrated its 50th Anniversary of the Band's revival on 28th April in the Church and it was an outstanding event.

A very successful Pet Service took place on 7th July.  
Future Events for 2024  
Saturday 24th August Halifax Crash, Cleeve Hill 1944  
Commemoration Bell Ringing Bank Holiday Monday 26th Aug Tea & Cakes at St Mary's  
Saturday & Sunday 14/15th Sept National Heritage Weekend at St Mary's  
Monday 7th October Harvest Supper 7pm Railway Inn  
Sunday 13th October Sealed Knot Founders Day Service at St Mary's, Sunday 10th November Remembrance Service at St Mary's, Saturday 16th November Christmas Fair 10am – 12 noon Ripple Parish Hall, Saturday 23rd November

Concert by Upton Parish Choir 7.30pm St Mary's, Sunday 8th December Carol Service at St Mary's.

*Further details will be publicised nearer the event.*  
Future Services at St Mary's

#### Sunday 6th October

11am Harvest Festival

#### Sunday 13th October

11am Sealed Knot Society

Founders Day Service

#### Sunday 3rd November

11am Service for faithful departed

Sunday 10th November  
10.45am Remembrance Day Service

#### Tuesday 24th December

4pm Crib Service

#### Tuesday 24th December

11.30pm Midnight Service of Holy Communion

*Keep up to date with what's going on at:*

<https://hopechurchfamily.org/locations/> &

[www.facebook.com/stmarysripple](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysripple)

To visit St Mary's Church, the address is: Station Road, Ripple, GL20 6EY

*Warmest good wishes*

Nicholas Blake

Chair, Friends of

St Mary's, Ripple

Tel: 01684 593563

Email: ngdblake@aol.com

## Jazz News

Peter Farrall



Pershore Jazz on a Summer's Day saw a brilliant six hours of classic jazz enjoyed by an appreciative audience at Number 8 on Saturday 10th August. Five small group sessions illustrated styles from New Orleans, Chicago and Dallas before all the musicians took to the stage for a two hour evening concert of 1930s and 40s swing music including, amongst others, numbers from the Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman and Fletcher Henderson repertoires. Arrangements by Australian maestro Michael McQuaid made full use of the

potential power of a big swing orchestra whilst allowing space for soloists to add their personal contributions. The general consensus was that it was probably the best jazz ever heard in Pershore but perhaps the most appropriate audience reaction was the standing ovation at the end.

So, onto our autumn and winter programme at Pershore Jazz Club beginning in September with the Moscow Drug Club. Before anyone calls the terrorist or drug squads! They're nothing to do with Putin or Spice – just a quirky name for a quirky

band who took their name from the tongue in cheek song by B.B. Gabor about a fictitious club in Moscow where subversives listened to jazz and smoked Georgian Gold tobacco. (In fact, there were such secret clubs, as we learned from Russian jazz musicians now domiciled in the EU). With a lineup of trumpet, accordion, guitar and bass, backing a sultry vocalist (Katya Gorrie) they take inspiration from 1930's "jazz age" Berlin nightclubs where a disenchanted population were clinging to a bohemian lifestyle in the face of the ominous upsurge of fascism. All this is well illustrated in the novel "Goodbye to Berlin" by Christopher Isherwood, based

on real life experience at the time and which became the story behind the film "Cabaret" Fortunately, we don't have the problems which they had, and still have, in Russia, Berlin once more has a vibrant night life, and we can enjoy our jazz nights in the happy ambiance of Pershore Town FC. Even if we could get hold of Georgian Gold, we couldn't use it because of current smoking regulations but Moscow Drug Club can still take us to the heady days of pre war Berlin cabaret, an illicit cellar in the backstreets of Moscow or a Hot Club on the left bank of the Seine. Look forward to a very atmospheric, entertaining evening of jazz with a difference.

## Moscow Drug Club

Wednesday 25th September

Function Room, Pershore Football Club

Doors open at 7pm, music at 8

*Admission £12.50 to include a raffle ticket.*

*Book in advance and pay on arrival*

*email: [club@pershorejazz.org.uk](mailto:club@pershorejazz.org.uk) tel: 01527 66692*

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## Copy Deadline

October Issue - 23rd September 2024

## Sport!

Sport over the last couple of months. European football has come and gone with players falling over crying yet they get up and off as if nothing had happened it, is a shame. Then with Rugby. It's amazing that when players need six stitches then run back and taped up and continue playing. Wimbledon saw the retirement of Andy Murray with little progress any other British players. So now I turn to the summer game of cricket. The first two tests were won by England. I was the guest at the third test at Edgbaston. The weather was perfect, the cricket was excellent and in the Hollies stand they were, as always, in full flow with a butcher chasing three people dressed up as pigs and then later a chef was chasing three people dressed up

as lobsters. England is one of the few countries that test matches are always full to watch the real game which is test match cricket. England have what it really needs in Mark Wood, who can bowl at 95mph plus. Viv Richards said when asked, "When you go to the Indian continent why don't you take spinners on a flat track." He said "When you have bowlers, who bowl at 95 mph, flat track or not it is still 95mph" The batting seems balanced now with the new keeper Smith at 7. His knock of 95 was outstanding. England have also great prospects in Atkinson and Bashir, who is a tall spinner. England were in some trouble at five down and had the West Indians appealed Root's not out, which was out, then England might have been in trouble.

I truly hope that the West Indians can get back to the great days

of Haynes, Greenidge, Richards and Lara, backed up by Walsh, Ambrose, Clarke and Marshall to name but a few. A strong West Indian side is good for world cricket.

I spent some time chewing the fat over a glass with David Gower who, by the way, has an excellent wine cellar and Mark Ramprakash, two stylish batsmen, as were Barry Richards and Tom Graveney. We discussed everything from world test cricket to the Hundred. It was our opinion that County cricket has a problem especially the likes of Worcestershire, who languish one from bottom in both the T20 and the four day game but seem to be better in the one day cup.

Worcestershire's ruination started with a chairman who knows nothing of the game and may have been involved for the wrong reason, never being a club member. He left in a hurry



under a shadowy cloud. If the ECB go from 18 to 12 counties, Worcestershire will be under serious threat.

Ashley Giles has a serious problem firstly with no elected board and a new chairman who lives in the south and another non-cricketer and secondly with the ground and water. They have just called, "Over", so it will be more on England v Sri Lanka and the progress or not of Worcestershire.

*From the Boundary*

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## New British Taekwondo Champion

Dylan Griffiths Johnson aged fifteen from Pershore is the British Taekwondo Champion. The recent tournament was held at Bromsgrove School Arena. He excelled in a hard fought contest. Teams from all

over the UK took part and the USA. Dylan comes from a family with a long and illustrious Martial Arts history Mum Rachel and Dad Tony are 6th and 7th Dan, in Korean Martial Arts.



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# Upton Times



## Tennis Centre success at 'Play your way to Wimbledon'

Pershore Tennis Centre is proud to announce the recent accomplishments of two of its members at the prestigious Play Your Way to Wimbledon event. This initiative, supported by the LTA and The All England Lawn Tennis Club, provides grassroots players from across the UK with the unique opportunity to compete on the iconic grass courts of Wimbledon.

Naomie Tarver, a dedicated member of Pershore Tennis Centre, secured the runner-up position in the women's wheelchair division. Her journey to Wimbledon was marked by victories at the Lee Valley and Grantham Wheelchair National Series competitions, which qualified her for the final event at Wimbledon. This year's competition featured a round-robin format with six women,

though one participant withdrew, leaving five competitors.

Tarver delivered a strong performance throughout the tournament. She won her first match 4-1, 4-0 but faced a setback in the second match, losing 1-4, 2-4. Her determination was evident in the third match, where she came from behind to win 0-4, 4-0, and 10-5 in a tiebreak against a young GB player. She concluded the round-robin with another decisive victory, 4-1, 4-0, resulting in three wins out of four matches.

Reflecting on her experience, Tarver commented, "Playing at Wimbledon is an incredible honour. Competing on the same courts as the tennis greats is something I will never forget. After last year's runner-up finish, I felt the pressure, but I am



pleased with my performance and look forward to striving for the top spot next year."

In addition to Tarver's success, Pershore Tennis Centre's Will Barton made an impressive debut in the junior category at Play Your Way to Wimbledon. Competing on grass courts for the first time, Barton won all three of his matches, earning him the title of junior champion. His achievement is a testament to his hard work and

the supportive environment at Pershore Tennis Centre.

Naomie Tarver added, "It's fantastic to see Will perform so well in his first Wimbledon experience. The support from our club has been incredible, and it's great to share this journey with fellow members." For more information about Pershore Tennis Centre and its programmes, please go to: [www.pershoretennis.co.uk](http://www.pershoretennis.co.uk) or call 01386 556677

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