

Kempsey Times

A free monthly newspaper for Kempsey, Norton, Severn Stoke and surrounding villages

Issue 7

August/September 2024

FREE



St Mary's Church, Kempsey

Autumn 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

Kempsey Village Litter Pick

The next Village Litter Pick will take place on
Sunday 22nd. September

Meet at the Village Hall (Tin Hut) at 2.00 p.m.
We have equipment and Hi-Viz available.

Any queries please contact:
marian-walters@tiscali.co.uk

Summer Fete 2024

One hundred years ago Kempsey Church needed electricity installed to modernise and so "Grand Fete for an English village". was organised to raise £150 to cover installation costs. The fete took place on 4th. July 1925 by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Walker in the gardens of their home The Lawns (then a private house.) And according to local newspapers was well supported.

Fast forward ninety-nine years – and this year our fete was also well supported both by participation of our residents and others from further afield - many with old connections to the village.

The highlight was the attendance of "King Henry VIII". A long overdue visit as other kings had used Kempsey church before their 'battles' and of course Queen Elizabeth's both I and II had visited Worcestershire. We were delighted to receive this "Royal Visit".

Glorious sunshine lit up the many side-shows offering adults and children a wealth of entertainment - Grand Draw,

teas, Saints Preserve Us Cakes, Barbecue, church bells, animals, bouncy castle, Pimms bar, beer bar, fruit, plants, ice creams, music, strawberries and cream, tombola, games and face painting, archery, coconut shy, and of course the popular dog show. The delightful trumpet solo and the 'new girl group' kept us sipping tea or quaffing Pimms in the sunshine.

So many parishioners stepped up to give of their time money and gifts to make this another village success story. As in 1925 the papers quote.

"Bowling for a pig, maypole dancing, climb a greasy pole and racing frogs — Parishioners true to local tradition rendered every assistance". This is certainly true 100 years later! but where were the racing frogs? We are also indebted to many local businesses who gave generously so that the Grand Draw was so successful, and the first prize was won by a resident. A special mention to the "Tesco Girls" who always work so hard and cheerfully for Kempsey. The sum of £5700 was



added to our coffers which will be used for work with youth, toddlers and maintenance of our historic church.

*Clerkenleap Service Station
Sunnyside Garage
Hill and Son, Pershore
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Edwards Garage
Seaborne Leisure
Tesco. St Peter's
Bark & Nurd
My Party Music DJ*

There is a lot of fun mixed with hard work setting up and



preparing when we renew old friendships and make new ones. We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did. THANK YOU

The Fete Team

Date for your diary –
next year's Summer Fete
Saturday 21st June 2025

Kempsey Parish Council

Police liaison

A police liaison panel of two councillors has been set up and a first meeting was held with our local police last month. The matters discussed included police coverage of the parish, antisocial behaviour, speeding along Main Road and reporting of incidents. Police numbers are due to increase by one PC and one PCSO in July, bringing the total number of officers to three. There have been only four calls related to antisocial behaviour in the past four months. Any instances of antisocial, threatening, or intimidating behaviour should be reported via the 101 phone number or through online reporting: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime

If people do not report incidents (of any nature), the police will never have a true impression of what is going on. 'Posting' on Spotted Kempsey does not amount to reporting. Reporting online is quicker than making a 101-phone call, usually requiring just one form

with a description of the issue. KPC is currently exploring funding an electric bike for police use as these bikes have proved to be a very effective form of police patrolling elsewhere. When the police bike is in the village, a police car would be parked to ensure a visible presence. Finally residents are encouraged to sign up with 'Neighbourhood Matters' at www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk so that, through email, they can be informed of police alerts and advice, reports of criminal activity and police actions in the area.

Cricket at Plovers Rise

Kempsey Cricket Club has ceased to be operational post covid. With little prospect of it starting up again, KPC has recently signed a short-term lease of the cricket pitches with Worcester Amigos Cricket Club for the duration of the 2024 season. However, KPC and the club are working towards a much longer relationship from 2025 with the club incorporating Kempsey in its name, establishing a second

eleven and a youth cricket club. Improvements to the cricket square will be required and the club are holding two 'softball', eight over, prize money tournaments in August to raise funds for the improvement works. The dates for the tournaments are Sunday 4th August and Sunday 11th August. Anyone interested in joining a 'scratch' Kempsey team on either date, please contact Cllr Paul Cooke on 07836740481 or the Parish Office as below.

Overgrown footways and footpaths

We continue to receive complaints about overgrown footways and footpaths. Where this arises from an uncut hedge overhanging a footway, the Parish Office endeavours to make contact with the owner of the property requesting action to cut the hedge back. This generally produces a satisfactory outcome. Overgrown footpaths are reported to our Paths Warden who assesses the extent of the clearance work needed prior to reporting the matter to WCC

Highways. The last mild winter and heavy rainfall has made the problem particularly difficult this year.

Rocky Bridge

KPC apologises for the inconvenience caused due to the delays in repairing the bridge at the Rocky. The councillor organising the repairs has now left the Council and we expect the bridge to be repaired and open prior to the publication of this article.

Deputy Clerk

We are currently recruiting a part time Deputy Clerk in order to deliver a better quality of service to parishioners. The position is being advertised at KPC's website and elsewhere.

For more information regarding the activities of the Parish Council, please refer to our website: www.kempseyhub.co.uk

For all enquiries, please contact Sharon Baxter, Parish Council Clerk and Financial Officer on 01905 828183 or by email at: kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com

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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.

Cornflower Club

After a very successful first half of the year with a varied programme at the club we are now on a break. Our first meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th September at 2:30pm in the Parish hall then a fortnight later on the 25th.

We have plenty of room to welcome ladies and gentlemen over 60 years of age to join us. Do come and see what we do.

Sally Linsey 01905 820476

Julia Grant 01905 820138

A few words from...

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP

New Plan for Severn Stoke Defences

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP has welcomed news that the county council could take over the delivery of the permanent flood defence scheme for Severn Stoke. The MP met with Worcestershire County Council leader Simon Geraghty and chief executive Paul Robinson in January to ask the council to work with the Environment Agency to find a contractor to deliver the scheme. She also formally wrote to the council in April to ask it to take over the

delivery of the scheme. This week it has been confirmed that the council is developing a plan to use a council contractor to do the work.

The Severn Stoke scheme has stalled because the Environment Agency's contractor was unwilling to do the work for the budget available and it wrote to the community last week warning that the project was on hold and needs more soil. Earlier in the year, Dame Harriett met with the Environment Agency's chief executive to share her concerns about the hiatus and she plans to meet with Flooding

Minister Emma Hardy to try to secure support for the council project from the Frequently Flooded Communities fund. Dame Harriett said:

"The current pause on the Severn Stoke scheme is extremely frustrating and local people have shared their concerns with me about their lack of confidence in the Environment Agency. I've been speaking to Worcestershire County Council for six months to ask them to step in. They have their own contractors and could do the work on the bund in parallel with their own work



to raise the road which will cross the new bund. This is a logical next step and while the Environment Agency will still be part of the project, the work should be done by a team on the County Council contractor framework. I am grateful that the county council has taken this approach and hope that the project will get back on-course as quickly as possible."

The Great British Drive

There's a real passion about driving in the UK. Most people want to learn to drive as soon as possible.

We've got a long history of manufacturing in the automotive industry too. By the 1950's we were the second largest employer in the world, only surpassed by the USA. In 1952 the UK provided 52% of the world's exported vehicles. A look at the Formula1 grid will give you a pretty good idea of how we have evolved and grown our expertise in the automotive engineering and design field, we've been cultivating the expertise and opportunity of motorsport engineers since the end of World War II. Today, there's no doubt that the UK make an impact in Formula1 with the facilities and expertise we can offer.

So what does that have to do with our day to day lives and our passion to take a drive out in the countryside?

For many, driving and having the freedom to get out and about, is a privilege that can be lost for a variety of reasons; health reasons including deteriorating eyesight, a lack of

confidence or feeling too stressed driving out and about. For some, these factors can be at the heart of any decision to stop driving, for others the choice is made on their behalf with the withdrawal of a driving licence.

Once you stop driving, how do you fill in the gap? it is this very issue that leaves many community groups in the position of filling in the gap and providing community transport services and volunteer drivers.

Volunteer drivers are a lifeline; offering transport services to hospital appointments, reassuring them that they can attend, be supported and have a friendly face waiting to take you home again. Our drivers recognise the need to support the community and feel hugely rewarded for the time they give to helping others.

If you too have a passion for driving and want to be part of something that makes a big difference in your community and the lives of others. Get in touch and find out more info@communityaction.org.uk or call us on 01684 892381

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Sunshine events at The Lawns



Finally, some sunshine! And in time for our August month of carnival fun including building carnival carriages, making facemasks and decorating our home. All culminating in our Mardi Gras Carnival on 31st August.

To add to the sunshine mood, we have been armchair travelling to South Africa. We



danced for two hours to an amazing African drumming group - making memories and proving, once again, you are never too old to experience new things!

Our wonderful Marjorie celebrates her 100th birthday on Friday 16th August. She dedicated her working life to helping others as a district

nurse in Kempsey. She is so loved in our community and has brought happiness to many families. We are hoping to make her day all the more special with 100 birthday cards, plus that super special one from our King and Queen. Having ripened in the sunshine, we have enjoyed our first crop of peas and beans, plus strawberries and mint. The mint tasted all the more fabulous in a refreshing tippie of Pimms. It is the drink of summer after all! And what better way to toast our success – our residents have raised £1,200 for their garden development project. They were delighted to welcome County Councillor Martin Allen for a tour of the garden. He secured divisional grant funding from Malvern Council for the garden project. It has been put towards waterbutts, watering cans, a hot composter and a wormery. He



said "I know that they are desperate for volunteers to come and help the residents maintain and improve their garden, if someone could give just couple of hours each month, it would make the difference. Meeting Philip was a real privilege; he is not as active as he once was, but he still loves to garden, he just needs a little help."

*With best wishes from
Joy Hoskins
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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



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Camera Club



"A Drop Of The Good Stuff" by Cathy Dhonau

We hope that you have had a good summer (even if it seemed to start a bit late!) This year, unlike last, we had a photographic workshop during the summer break, so that provided something else for the Club's members to fit their holidays and wider photographic interests around. For the coming season we are continuing with the adopted practice of holding almost all of our regular meetings via Zoom. The programme reflects the variety and diversity that this decision permits and we hope that you might find it of interest.

Our first regular meeting, to be held on Wednesday 11th September, will be a talk by Alistair How on "Urban Night Photography", which we hope will provide an interesting formal start to the new season. The second meeting, on Wednesday 25th September, will be a Members' Evening, in which a number of members will share the varied

approaches and genres of their recent image making.

For all of our on-line meetings we are happy to welcome "virtual" visitors in the hope that they will see the benefits of joining the Club by subscribing for the season. Details of the programme of these, and the following meetings, are available at the web address below. If you are interested in attending any of the meetings then please contact us via the link on the website.

www.kempseycameraclub.uk/programme-events/
In the meantime we hope that you will enjoy these two contrasting wildlife images - "A Drop Of The Good Stuff" by Cathy Dhonau & "Lost Hare In The Forest" by Tissy Davidson - two of the four first placed images in our second open projected image competition of last season in February 2024.

*Malcolm A Hay
Secretary*



"Lost Hare In The Forest" by Tissy Davidson

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INSPIRING WOMEN

Kempsey WI

For July, Kempsey WI moved its meeting venue to St Mary's Church in the village, to find out more about this historic building.

St Mary's Tower Captain Mike Harrison and WI Vice President Andrea Halford opened the afternoon with a talk about the church bells, then everyone moved to a table set out with hand bells brought along by Mike. Those who wanted to, had a chance to play some unseasonal carols on the hand bells.

Then members split into groups to learn about points of interest. Committee members had researched and prepared various short histories.

Denise White spoke to groups about the history of Kempsey itself, from the Iron Age and Bronze Age to present day. She explained how the Romans, Saxons, and Danes had all left a mark and influenced place names and why Kempsey is pronounced without sounding the 'p'. Early Bishops of Worcester lived in Kempsey and important visitors over the years included King Henry II and Queen Elizabeth I. Bishop Walter de Cantelupe's involvement with the rebellious

Simon de Montford during the Civil War, holding Mass for him before the Battle of Evesham, led to him being in danger of excommunication. Penny Warren stood near the tomb of Sir Edmund Wylde to explain its history and point out details on two nearby stained-glass windows. Sir Edmund, grandson of the wealthy Worcester clothier Thomas Wylde, died in Kempsey aged just 32 in 1620. His elaborate tomb had a tree growing out of it for 60 years, thanks to a conker confiscated from a choirboy during a service! The nearby windows are the oldest in the church, with glass dating back to the 13th and 14th century.

Heavy rain meant Marian Walters' talk about graves of interest had to be held inside the church. She described the graves of two WWI soldiers, cared for by The War Graves Commission, and that of Edward William Derrington Bell, who was awarded the Victoria Cross after his bravery at the Battle of the Alma during the Crimean War.

The afternoon ended with refreshments of shortbread, strawberries and cream.



The Music Society meets fortnightly on Thursday afternoons in a comfortable lounge at The Firs on Old Road North from 2.00 – 4.00pm. We listen to a variety of music, presented by members, or the occasional visiting presenter.

We would welcome anyone new who would like to come and join us.

Our next meetings will be on 15th and 29th August, 12th and 26th September.

Do come and give us a try. We would like to increase our numbers, so new faces are very welcome. We have a social break in the middle of the afternoon, for tea or coffee and biscuits.

We are a friendly group and mostly very local to 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!



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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.

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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!

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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



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 and Campaign Against Living Miserably, 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 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



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

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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:

Fern Bowkett

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If you or someone you care about is struggling with their relationship, we can help with the legal aspect and take the pressure from you. We provide legal advice and representation for all aspects of matrimonial dispute including divorce, financial settlements, child contact disputes, cohabitation breakdown, domestic abuse and prenuptial agreements to name a few.

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SUPPLEMENT

Memories of a Country Village: Part 6

Kempsey Worcestershire 1911 – 1995

By Cyril Weaver

More characters I remember

A good memory can be a great blessing and comfort in your later years, so just to remember my neighbours of some eighty years ago can give me real pleasure.

The house in the village named 'West Royd' was the home of Capt. Gilson, who was followed a little later by Major Gale, an international croquet player who, unsurprisingly, kept his lawns in perfect order. I thought he was a lovely gentleman because he used to give me coppers to search those lawns for a weed that was never there.

Just previous to the 1939 war another ex-army officer (making it three in a row) came to live at West Royd. That was Major Derrington who was made head of our local home guard at the outbreak of the Second World War.

After the war the house, became the shop and newsagents

called 'West Royd Stores'. West Royd is now gone, and in its place is Florence Close.

Our neighbours in Freelands were two nice, elderly ladies who were very prim and proper. They were known as the 'Miss Aches'. I knew them quite well because my Grandfather tended their large garden which reached to the top of the Alleys.

In the cul-de-sac, called the Freelands, there were three pairs of semi-detached cottages, where in the first, lived my Grandparents Mr and Mrs Floyd. Next to them were Mr and Mrs Jenkins who had their son and daughter-in-law living with them. It was there, when I was still a lad in the early 1920s, that something rather strange happened. The son's wife, a nice girl whose maiden name was Miss Gwillam, left the house late one night, never returned and was not ever heard from again. However, I remember a few years later, in the early 1930's, a similar thing took place when another lady, a Mrs Venables disappeared under similar circumstances. They do say that lightening never strikes twice.

Two young ladies, vanishing from one small village in quick succession, is quite remarkable. It would make a good crime drama for T.V. today

The Seaman family lived in the middle of the cul-de-sac and had one son who became the landlord of the Boars Head at Severn Stoke during the last war. His only sister was married to Mr Higgins the saddler who lived next door.

At the top end of the village lived John George whose small holding reached to Olde Road South. Now of course, it is built on to form Meadow Close. John George was also the Church Sexton, a job he later handed over to his daughter Connie. His son Bill, known to us all as 'Cocker George', was not only the

local gravedigger but also a good cricketer.

Another great old character who lived almost opposite my other grandparents in Church Street was Alf Presdee, the local shoe mender. He could talk to a customer whilst he held the sprig's (the hob-nails hammered into the soles of work boots) in his mouth. What a perfect name they have given to his house and workshop with its lovely thatched roof- Cobblers Cottage.

With Church Street still on my mind how well I remember a real pal of mine, Stan Lilley, living at the Rookery. Stan married a sweet, local girl, Olive Martin, who lived with her widowed mum and three brothers in Olde Road South before her family moved to Mormore Farm at Kerswell Green.

Even with all those years gone by there are certain things and persons you never quite seem to forget. One was that chap from up Post Office Lane, Arthur Haines, who would greet anyone with a slap on their back with his great big flabby hand. Always best avoided, I thought.

Another was Mr King who married Mrs Collett after she lost her husband. They lived at Kings Hill. For a short while George King worked for my Dad. Father had all his employees names on their insurance cards written with surnames first. I used to tell kids at school that King George, worked for my father. I don't think they believed me.

Even as I got a little older, I still found a few of those very likeable characters around. There was Old Joe Sparks the ex-policeman, who walked every morning without fail, from Kerswell Green to the village for his pint and a chat to everyone on the way. Another one was our friend, Apple Slade who, except for talking, did a hell of a lot of nothing at all. An interesting chap though.

Then there was my dear old pal, Jack (Peggy) Pimlott, who having lost a leg, made his living as a night watchman. A night watchman was a regular thing to see in those days (right up to the late 1950s) guarding building sites and holes in the road. I spent a lot of happy times with him by his hut, having a warm and a talk by his fire and that row of red lamps that he attended to. A lonely career though.

In 1929, aged eighteen, I was enlisted as a Special Constable. Then I got to know someone who, I would say was the strangest character of them all. That gentleman was George Pitcher who had a small farm up the Holloway, at the top end of Green Street, quite near the common.

George was a real nice fellow most of the time, but I'm sorry to say at other times his behaviour changed. He seemed very badly affected by phases of the moon. At those times, just to say the least, he became most difficult. He did all sorts of mad things like driving round Kempsey Common hell for leather, in his horse and trap, waving his whip and shouting out that he was Ben Hur.

It was when he was in those bad times that I would help our local policeman, PC Jack Wall, (a friend I always held in great respect) to collect him for a short spell of treatment in the local asylum. I particularly remember the night we were called upon by Reg Chipp, Landlord of the Farmers Arms on Kempsey Common. The moon was up and that lunar period had taken over poor old George Pitcher. He was at the pub taking the tiles off the lean-to roof at the side of the building. He said the pub had to be taken down and that he had the job to do it. Reg Chipp, who also knew him very well, told him that as it was going to be a long and dusty piece of work, he should come inside, have a drink, then he would help him. By doing this,

and keeping him talking, Reg got his wife to call us. We arrived in time to save dear old Reg's pub.

On another night George called at the Anchor Inn where he tipped a sack full of fox furs onto the floor of the bar. He was trying to sell them as fox fur was quite a fashion accessory at that time. George had shot and cured those pelts himself. This was not a terribly significant act in itself, but then I was troubled and unnerved in my awareness of the danger of George possessing a gun. I could never quite understand, why he was ever allowed to carry or own a lethal weapon? Whenever the moon was up our old friend George often went really quite mad. I'm grateful I never had to confront him with his twelve-bore when there was a full moon, nor try to solve any gun-shot murders in the village.

Changes to places

Although a lot of changes have taken place since I walked to school on that dusty footpath, there's still a lot as it used to be and in some areas there are some real improvements.

Gone is that rather large old building from opposite the Crown Hotel known as the Old Malt House. It was used for a while as a garage and filling station, close to where the bus stop and phone box are today. That sharp bend in the road has gone. Now it's replaced by a nice piece of landscaping in front of what was once the main entrance to Kempsey House.

Also gone is that row of cottages on the other side of the road, together with the old reading room and caretaker's house that I mentioned before. We had the British Legion hut in Squire's Walk but that was only there for a short while before being replaced by a house, built and lived in by my father, just before the war. At that time it was the first and only house on either

side of Squire's Walk.

The Post Office and Pillar Box have been moved from one side of the main road to the other and the small house next to what was the Queen's Head was demolished. That large field on the side, known as the Oak Field, has been built on. The small pool, close to the pub also gone, but that lovely old oak tree in the corner, close to the road, still remains. He was already a big, fine, tree when I was a boy.

As the motor cars and the traffic increased, so the public houses also changed. Each one needed something rarely seen or heard of before the Second World War; a car park. That nice house and garden where Col. Hamilton used to live was demolished for the Anchor's parking. The house and dairy where Alf Mountford and his family sold their milk, next to the Talbot, met the same fate, as did the large skittle alley at the rear.

That small house adjoining the Queens Head, as I mentioned before, had to go. In fact the Crown Hotel seemed to escape best of all because they only lost their garden and a bit of the skittle alley, but that big iron weighbridge by the side was taken away.

The Fox at Green Street (now called The Huntsman) lost their lawns and garden, but the Farmers Arms on the Common came off best. They lost nothing over the years and gained a lot. With the new M5 motorway built on their doorstep, what was before just a house with a license to sell beer and fags not only got a car park in the front, but a caravan park and children's play and amusement area at the back.

The approach to the Farmer's Arms is much the same, instead of having to open and shut that wide gate, you cross the new motorway bridge which provides a splendid view over to The

Malverns on a clear day.

I don't think even old George Pitcher, in his mad moments, would want the Farmer's Arms knocked down now.

Earning a few bob extra

There is a difference between a funeral and a burial. I attended several burials in the 1920s and 30s when I started working for my father and it always earned me a few extra shillings. It happened quite often. Poor and lonely people who died were often buried by the local parish. These poor people, often from the workhouse, had no friends or relatives so there was no funeral service, just a prayer and a blessing at the grave side. When Bill George (the grave digger) got instructions for this type of burial he would inform me of the time and date so that I, together with a workmate, would be on hand to help.

On these mornings a small hearse would arrive with just the driver and coffin. There waiting at the back gate were The Vicar, Bill, The Sexton (Bill's father) my workmate and myself, the driver making up the fourth carrier. With the Vicar and Sexton leading the way we went through the church, no service, just a few words and a prayer by the graveside. It was all over immediately after we had lowered the coffin into the grave. As soon as the Vicar and Sexton walked away, the driver, who had been given a pound by his firm, gave of us five shillings each, keeping five for himself. He then left, and so did we, leaving Bill to finish the job.

So there is was, five whole shillings earned in less than half an hour. Splendid riches! Remember, the poor old farm-labourer and others were only getting thirty bob a week, and what's more, I did this duty in my father's time, so I still got paid by him as well. Just like pennies from heaven. It did take away

some of the sadness of events like this.

Allotments and pea picking

In the years between the wars almost every family had an allotment. Today there are very few left and I have a feeling that the good old kitchen garden will soon be a thing of the past. In our day food provided from the allotment was essential to most households. Even the wealthy people grew their own produce, even if they did employ a gardener to do it. One of my grandfathers had his allotment beside that footpath joining Church Street with Lyfts Lane where Chapel Walk exists. There was also a large plot of allotments at the bottom of Pixham Lane called Broadmoor and my father rented one in Draycott Lane. My job as a boy, whilst I was still at school, was potato picking. We all mucked in.

Also gone is pea picking, a big thing in this area once, and I don't mean growing peas on an allotment. Farmers, like the Kingtons, grew whole fields of peas and the picking season started with posters on the gateposts that advertised the pea sale. First came the pea minder with his bivouac (a small camping tent) in the corner of the field, then a few days before picking started, Alfe Smith and myself would help Billy Kington with the job of pea topping, something not seen today. With a short cane in each hand we went down between the rows clipping off the heads and blooms so as to give more growth to the peas. The peas were then picked a few days later.

To be continued

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 or www.acas.org.uk

*Carol Draper
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"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*

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
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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Karen Harris

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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, youthfull-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

**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. 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*

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 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 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 - 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 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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Help for Ukraine

While it is that time of year when many of us will be looking forward to a summer holiday, we have a timely reminder from Ukraine Freedom Company (UFC) that sadly soldiers and civilians alike continue to be killed on a daily basis in the Ukraine, yet this barely merits a mention in the media.

In last month's Pershore Times (Issue 94) UFC reported on the support for its ongoing Ukraine Appeal it receives from Rotary Clubs and many individuals in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire area. Most recently, UFC were grateful to receive financial donations of £500 from Pershore Rotary and £500 from Worcester Vigornia Rotary. This money will go towards the filling and distribution of 'comfort' boxes to the men and women fighting at the front. £500 will fill 100+ boxes – containing a variety of items to help make life a little more bearable (foodstuffs, sweets/chocolate, personal

items etc) these are much appreciated by the troops, and UFC have received emails of thanks from a number of front line troops. Locally, UFC have been sending out 60+ 'comfort' boxes monthly, a total of 1000+ to date, and this could not be maintained without the generosity of Rotary clubs and local people.

UFC have also been sending a wide range of medical support, from simple first aid items to mobility aids and hospital beds. There is specifically an urgent, ongoing need for 'trauma' packs – issued to individual troops, these contain a range of emergency items such as tourniquets, wound dressings, bandages, chest seals, scissors etc. Packs can be attached to a soldier's belt or webbing for easy access. It is perhaps ironic that the Israeli army's constant state of battle readiness has resulted in huge improvements in the design of trauma items, and the 'Israeli' tourniquet is in great demand. Ukrainian troops



can wear these on individual limbs; in the event they get wounded, the tourniquet can be applied immediately, resulting in many lives being saved. Trauma packs are quite expensive to put together, and UFC are appealing for donations – packs can be purchased complete, or put

together by UFC volunteers from individual contributions.

Anyone wishing to contribute/donate, or for further information, contact local UFC representative Brian Watkins, email lovelacewatkins@uwclub.net

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

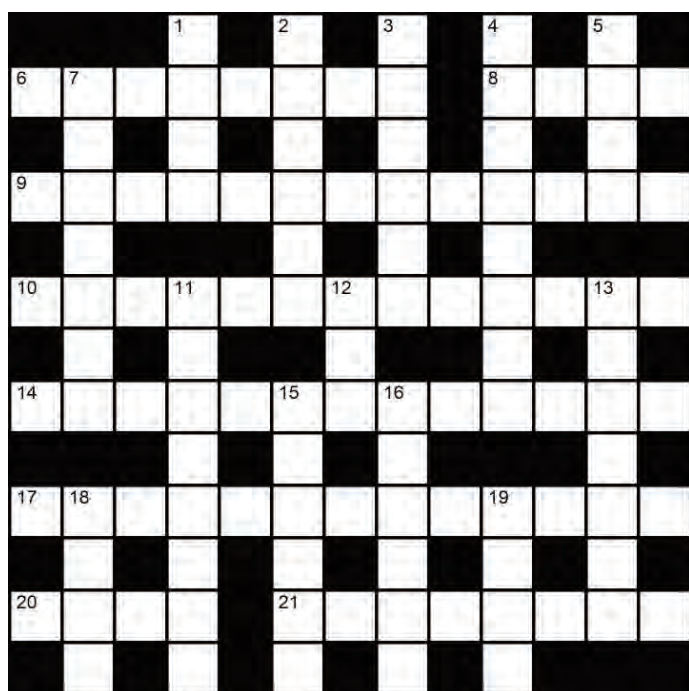


University. Housman applied and was offered the job, along with a prestigious Fellowship at Trinity College. That is where he lived and worked, until his death in 1936. Although many of the Shropshire lads are unhappy, unfortunate, unlucky in love, and likely to die young, Housman is actually talking 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

Coffee Break

Crossword



Across

- 6 Relinquish a throne (8)
8 Tibetan oxen (4)
9 Mayonnaise (5,8)
10 Expert in atmospheric conditions (13)
14 Rebirth of the soul in a new body (13)
17 Meteorologist (13)
20 Unknown (4)
21 Freeze (8)

Down

- 1 Turkish currency (4)
2 Outlaw (6)
3 Breakfast food (6)
4 Power of vision (8)
5 Related by blood (4)
7 Blind system of writing (7)
11 Lack of variety (8)
12 Belonging to us (3)
13 Exhibitionist (4-3)
15 Prejudice against old people (6)
16 Baby's feeding bottle cap (6)
18 Sicilian volcano (4)
19 Clarets (4)

Sudoku

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

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

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

Crosswords

Sudoku

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Wordsearch

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

A N C
AMP
APEX
BID
BRIT
CHAD
DUAL
DUO
ERIC
FIGURES
GARTH
GRAIL
HAN
HARDLINERS
HEW
IBSEN
ISN'T

KEG
KILO
LEG
LIMB
LOIS
LOUD
LUSTY
MAZE
NAY
PLEASE
RIVIERA
ROAR
SAN
TRY IT
VEIN
WOE
ZEAL

July Answers

1	A	B	S	U	R	D		4	R	I	O	J	A
	D		U		E		7		E		U		R
8	V	A	N	I	L	L	A	9	S	O	N	I	C
	E		L		Y		G		T		C		H
10	R	O	A	M			11	I	S	R	A	E	L
	T		M		H		12	T		I			T
13	I	M	P	R	A	C	T	I	C	A	B	L	E
	S						14	A		T			C
15	E	M		16	P	E	R	O	R		17	W	R
	M				E		B		I		18	U	
19	E	X	T	R	A		20	A	N	T	B	E	A
	N				I		L		N		A		R
21	T	O	T	A	L			22	S	H	E	K	E

Poets' Corner

A Shropshire Lad

Reveille VII

When smoke stood up from Ludlow,
And mist blew off from Teme,
And blithe afield to ploughing
Against the morning beam
I strode beside my team,

The blackbird in the coppice
Looked out to see me stride,
And hearkened as I whistled
The tramping team beside,
And fluted and replied:

"Lie down, lie down, young yeoman;
What use to rise and rise?
Rise man a thousand mornings
Yet down at last he lies,
And then the man is wise."

I heard the tune he sang me,
And spied his yellow bill;
I picked a stone and aimed it
And threw it with a will:
Then the bird was still.

Then my soul within me
Took up the blackbird's strain,
And still beside the horses
Along the dewy lane
It sang the song again:

"Lie down, lie down, young yeoman;
The sun moves always west;
The road one treads to labour
Will lead one home to rest,
And that will be the best."

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Spot & Shop - July Winners

- 1) Mrs G Wagstaff
- 2) Aidan Goodchild
- 3) Paul Thompson
- 4) Paul Thompson

Last month's answer:
Slimming World

Fun Quiz!

1. Which Bruno Mars' song begins with lyrics: 'Easy come, easy go, that's just how you live'?
2. Which band did Lionel Richie join in 1968?
3. Who released an album in 2008 called 'Fearless'?
4. Who sang 'Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me' with George Michael?
5. What year did Robert Palmer's 'Addicted to Love' reach number 1 in the US?
6. Which Bob Marley song includes the lyrics: 'But I didn't shoot no deputy'?
7. Which 2014 song was released by Austin Mahone and featured Pitbull?
8. Where did the pop group ABBA come from?
9. Which Kings of Leon song begins 'I've been roaming around'?
10. What song was released by Kenny Loggins in 1984 and also featured in a movie with the same title?
11. What year did Lady Gaga release her hit single 'Born This Way'?
12. Which pop duo did Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe form?
13. Which song by Savage Garden reached number 1 in the US in January 1998?
14. Who is lead singer of the rock band Aerosmith?
15. Which Elvis Presley song begins with the lyrics: 'When no one else can understand me'?
16. What is the opening line to Meghan Trainor's 'All About That Bass'?
17. Which female rapper features in Justin Bieber's 'Beauty and a Beat'?
18. Dinah, Camilla, Normani, Ally and Lauren make up which girl band?
19. What is the opening line to Ben E. King's 'Stand By Me'?
20. In 2004, Usher released one of the decade's best-selling albums worldwide, what was its title?

Answers: 1. Grenade 2. The Commodores 3. Taylor Swift 4. Elton John 5. 1986 6. I Shot the Sheriff 7. Mmm Yeah 8. Sweden 9. Use Somebody 10. Footloose 11. 2011 12. For Shop Boys 13. Truly Madly Deeply 14. Steven Tyler 15. The Wonder of You 16. Because you know I'm all about that bass 17. Nicki Minaj 18. Fifti Harmoni 19. When the night has come 20. Confessions



COMPETITION TIME!

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



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1st - £25 cash

Donated by Royal Oak, Kinnersley

2nd - Cotswold & Beyond Book

Value £20

3rd - Reg Moule's Gardening Diary

Value £10

4th - Pat's Pantry -

Jar of home-made marmalade

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Kempsey Times closing date: 27th September 2024

Answer:

Name:

Telephone/email:

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Calling all knitters and Crocheters!

Can you help us to share some Christmas Joy around the
Communities of Severnside Parishes for December 2024?

We are asking for your help to knit or crochet
as many Angels as we can before December 2024.

So in December we can Angel Bomb the communities in Norton,
Kempsey and Severn Stoke with a host of yarn Angels!



Join us on Fridays

at Create and join in
with other creatives, knitting
at St Marys Church, Kempsey

from 9.30 to 12pm during term time.



There will be yarn and patterns available for you to use in the church.
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Email: kay.mason@motov8.org.uk or Call: 07921 122802



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Severnside Parishes

Contact Information

Curate in Charge: Rachel Colthurst -
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Baptisms: email: libberty.holt@motov8.org.uk

Funerals: email: rachel.colthurst@motov8.org.uk

Weddings:

email: weddings@severnsideparishes.co.uk

Please see social media and notice boards for more information.

Church Services

First Sunday

10:30am	All Age Service	St Mary's Kempsey
10:30am	Holy Communion	St Denys Severn Stoke

Second Sunday

10:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Kempsey
10:30am	Holy Communion	St James Norton

Third Sunday

10:30am	Informal Worship	St Mary's Kempsey
10:30am	Holy Communion	St Denys Severn Stoke

Fourth Sunday

10:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Kempsey
10:30am	Morning Worship	St James Norton

Fifth Sunday

Benefice Service - Please see social media and notice boards for more information

Thursday's

10:00am	Holy Communion	followed by coffee morning
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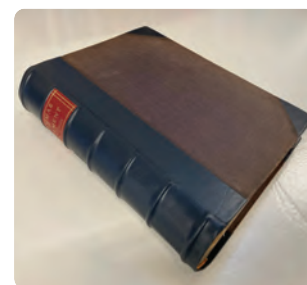
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Established in 2021, AFC Kempsey has rapidly risen through the ranks of local football. Over the past three seasons in the Cheltenham League, the club has impressively secured four trophies, earning promotions every year. AFC Kempsey now embarks on a new challenge in the ZOOMM Herefordshire Football League Premier Division. The ZOOMM Herefordshire Football League Premier Division is a step seven football

league, which presents a new challenge for AFC Kempsey. This move signifies not only the club's growing ambition but also the clubs willingness to compete at a higher level of football. The upcoming 2024-2025 season marks the beginning of this new chapter, with AFC Kempsey eager to build a strong presence within the Kempsey community. We will kick off our campaign on 10th August, at Plover Rise Playing Fields, where we will face Bromyard Town at

Type	Date / Time	Home Team		Away Team	Venue
L	10/08/24 14:30	AFC Kempsey Firsts		VS 	Bromyard Town First KEMPSEY PLAYING FIELDS
L	14/08/24 19:45	Worcester United FC Firsts		VS 	AFC Kempsey Firsts MALVERN TOWN FC (LANGLAND STADIUM)
L	17/08/24 14:30	New Dales Vale FC First		VS 	AFC Kempsey Firsts ARCHDALES SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
L	24/08/24 14:30	AFC Kempsey Firsts		VS 	Ledbury Town First KEMPSEY PLAYING FIELDS
L	31/08/24 14:30	Ro-Stars Hereford Firsts		VS 	AFC Kempsey Firsts ROMAN PARK - CREDENHILL



2:30pm. The club invites local residents to come out and show their support for the team. We as a club are thrilled to begin this new journey in the ZZOOMM Herefordshire Football League Premier Division. We're excited to see our community come together to support us, and we're determined to make them proud. With the community's support, we aim to continue our

upward trajectory. The upcoming season promises to be exciting, we are ready to embrace every challenge that comes our way.

For more information on fixtures, player news, and club events, follow us on social media
Instagram @afckempsey or X @AFC_kempsey



AUGUST						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

OCTOBER						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Useful numbers

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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

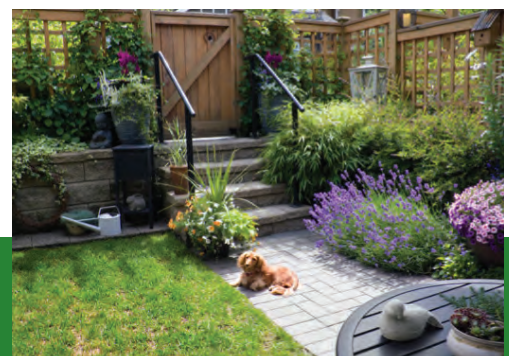


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