

Kempsey Times



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

Issue 17

July 2025

FREE



Kempsey Common

Great weather and great cricket, that is my memory of June, and I can't wait for the next test match! The rest of the month was filled with politics and devastation all over the place. Doom and gloom are a reality in parts of the world and those poor people need our deepest sympathy. Fortunately we live far away and hopefully, we will be able to carry on in our own quiet way and appreciate what we have more than ever.

The cricket in the 1st Test Match between England and India was brilliant and enthralling. The Indian batting was magnificent in both innings but somehow, we held on and played even

better and against all the odds pulled off a fantastic victory. The sportsmanship from both sides was wonderful to see. I noted that in defeat, there was a shake of the head, a smile and

the hand was held out to congratulate the winner. As a number of my friends said when we were closing in on the score, 'it was a pity that anyone had to lose.' Sport is great education; it teaches us many things about ourselves and about other people. It certainly helps to take your mind off all the morbid news we have been having. Let's have more matches like this very soon.

In July, Pershore is celebrating the Midsummer Brass and the River Festival. Both of these events are always very popular

and well attended. Let's hope the weather stays good and everyone will enjoy themselves.

Midsummer Brass

Saturday 5th July

River Festival

Saturday 19th July

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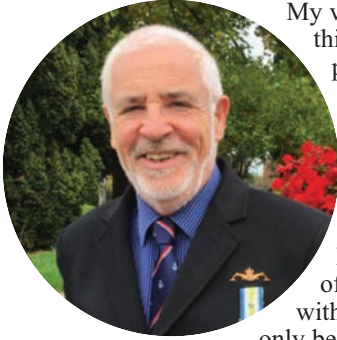
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County and District Report

Councillor Martin Allen



My veg plot has been badly neglected this year; I even had to resort to purchasing some winter veg plants from a well-known local garden centre, the shame of it! But, as I look back on the last few months, I can see that turning away from the gardening has borne fruit in other ways.

Discovering what Hayswood offers and also reacquainting myself with Upton's Tug of War teams has only been the tip of the iceberg; I've been

lucky to meet so many wonderful and interesting folk in our bit of merry old England.

Hayswood CIC Making A Difference



From left to right, Dave Norton, Linda Ravenhill sitting on Troy, Neil Palmer. Councillor Martin Allen, Lucy Guidling

Earlier this year I went to see the hardworking and fabulous Linda Ravenhill who runs Hayswood Equestrian based at Green Street Farm, Naunton. This CIC (Community Interest Company) is delivering a "Making a Difference" programme for all ages and abilities to connect with a pony or a horse through therapeutic horsemanship. This has proved beneficial to a range of individuals suffering from anxiety disorders, phobias, substance addiction, mental illness, learning difficulties and PTSD. I was able to help with some funding to enable much

needed kit to be purchased. Small donations can make a huge difference. Linda kindly said, "Warm thanks to Martin for funding the grant. With it, we were able to purchase new first-aid kits and walkie-talkies, both of which are essential for us to operate."

If you would like to know more about the programme for therapeutic horsemanship, and how to become a sponsor or participant, then please email Linda at: hayswoodequest@outlook.com. Flexible and inclusive options are available.



Colstons Bakery rolls onwards!

Did you know that Upton's brilliant bakery has moved from Old Street into the High Street? I am so pleased to see this happen. It just shows that getting the combined Talbot Head Hotel and two adjoining shops tidied outside has helped turn the shops into far more attractive locations to trade

from. Colstons is an Independent, family run bakery, and with high-end produce at very reasonable prices, it's one of my go-to places. I am hopeful that the second shop, currently empty, may be occupied soon. We will have to wait and see. I will of course do what I can to help.

Young Farmers' Clubs County Rally



I was very pleased to represent you and both the County and District Councils at the Worcestershire Federations of Young Farmers' Club County Rally. Mr & Mrs Cook kindly allowed the rally to take place on their lovely farm in Baughton. I was lucky enough to be included in the VIP guest list and had the pleasure of meeting the Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Mrs Beatrice Grant, who is in the photo with me and the Young Farmers' Club members who worked so hard to make this event a success. There were many attractions, from sheep shearing to vintage tractors.

and finally . . .

So, the Blues and the Sunshine festivals are just over the horizon. Quite a lot of work has gone into trying to ensure the roads are less snarled up this year; let's hope the planning works and it's better

The County Chair, pictured above on the right, Mr Harry Thatcher, must have been delighted with a job well done. I was also delighted to bump into the Upton Young Farmers Tug of War teams. Last year I found funds to enable the ladies' team to purchase Tug of War boots. I never knew there were special boots needed. Fortunately, the boots seem to have greatly helped, and I happily shouted myself hoarse as Upton successfully heaved away. It's great to see young people getting away from the Internet and having a whale of a time. Long may it last.

than last time. While the festivals are on, please allow extra time for any journey, especially on the Thursday – thank you. As ever, I'm here if you need me.

Martin Allen

A few words from... Dame Harriett Baldwin MP

Repair Cafés Head to London to Boost Electrical Repairs

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP joined colleagues to celebrate the work of repair cafés across the country which help to fix loved household items. The MP met with representatives of Malvern's repair café where she has taken in items for refurbishment together with hundreds of local people who visit Malvern Cube to bring in

personal items each month. A group of repair café representatives visited the House of Commons to promote repair café's efforts to repair more electrical items. The UK is the second highest producer of electronic waste per capita in the world.

Dame Harriett said: "I have visited Malvern Cube to take a treasured item of furniture in for repair and I know of the

amazing job the team do giving old items a new lease of life. The trend to repair items rather than throw them away is really important, and I am happy to share the message that repair cafes can also bring electrical items back to life. We live in a easy disposal society but I hope that initiative like this will encourage local people to review their choice to throw items in the bin."



L-R Dame Harriett Baldwin MP with Pete Martin

District Councillors Report

David Harrison & John Michael

The Ketch Roundabout and A4440 (Southern Link Road). What further can I state about this road from Whittington, through St Peters Roundabout, through the Ketch Roundabout and even past the Powick Roundabout – IN BOTH DIRECTION - PLEASE, PLEASE slow down as with extra diversion traffic due to the Closure of Taylors Lane and in part the A38, there is more traffic resulting in more accidents – Just TAKE CARE.

New Community Centre and Sports building in Pixham Ferry Lane

The planning application ref number M/25/00408/FUL submitted by Kempsey Parish Council for this building including car parking, access, "trim trail", Senior and Junior Football pitches and including the Skate Park and a Pump Track has stalled but both John Michael, myself and Martin Allen are working with the Parish Council to assist in various requested documentation from the County Council.

Severn Stoke Bank -

The vehicle Activation sign for vehicles coming down the bank towards Severn Stoke showing a "bend" and the words Slow Down, which is activated when vehicles are approaching and also the "Verge-Masters" are hopefully to be repaired/replaced but some of the greenery will need cutting back as the sun cannot get to the solar panel above the sign to light it up.

Severn Stoke Church –

Ukulele Band fund-raiser for this church held on Friday 6th June was a brilliant evening and well supported (and the music and food was also great).

Just a note....

If you have to call 999 for abuse happening and you are calling from a mobile, then pressing 5 5 will alert the operator that you

cannot speak and the call operator will know automatically that abuse is taking place.

New Planning Regulations – All new estates granted planning after 2028 will have to have 80% of the properties with Solar Panels assuming the regulations do not change again before then.

Updates on Planning within Kempsey

No news yet on any of the planning applications within Kempsey or those between Broomhall Lane and the Southern Link.

Smartwater

There are still kits available free of charge for residents of Kempsey Ward, so if you have moved in since the allocation was completed and now require a FREE Smartwater Kit to help protect your property, please contact your District Councillors or Faye Allen-Carter on 01684 862454

General problems within the Ward Both John Michael and myself have continued to deal with all sorts of questions to try to resolve residents' problems – our details are attached. We are trying to sort out the completion of the estate called "The Glade" and "Derrington Gardens" but it is a hard slog with developers trying to cut corners.

Development Plan for the three Councils - SWDPR

When I wrote two months ago, I stated that the enquiry would have finished at the end of May – well there is one problem with a large development near Tewkesbury and there will be one extra day which will be on-line only (probably in September) to decide this development before the SWDPR finishes. I have also been elected Chairman of this committee until May next year.

Dog Fouling and Fly Tipping

The new/re-affirmed rules have been approved after the outcome from the consultation and the

officers at Malvern can issue "contravention notices" regarding dog waste and more signage will hopefully now appear. Please advise us as District Councillors or your local Parish Councils of problem areas or signage requested.

Flood Defence Severn Stoke

No news – but still being told that the Environment Agency are looking for suitable material so looks promising.

Kempsey Fete

A great success and well done to all the organisers raising funds for Kempsey Church. The lambs (in nappies) were popular with the small children along with the tortoises.

Black Bin waste....

We recently carried out a waste and recycling survey which more than 1,300 of you took part in. We asked you what you thought happened to your black bin waste and an incredible 73% of people said it went to landfill. WRONG!! In fact, your black bin waste goes to the EnviRecover Plant at Hartlebury. This was built specifically so your rubbish could be diverted from landfill and instead used as a fuel source for electricity generation. Every year the Plant deals with 170,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste from homes across Herefordshire and Worcestershire and another 30,000 tonnes of waste from businesses. To ensure maximum efficiency when waste first arrives at EnviRecover, it is mixed to ensure it burns evenly. This is because some items have a higher energy value when burnt than others. For example, plastic burns more easily than food waste. It is then put onto the grate where it is burnt to heat water to generate steam, which then powers the turbine creating electricity. Finally, it is still cheaper for councils to re-cycle than it is to tip, but it must be in the correct bin please.

Buckingham Palace

Jan and myself were proposed by staff at Malvern Hills to visit this iconic Kings Royal Garden Party for afternoon tea on Tuesday 20th May – well what an experience with over 3,000 people there from all over the Country. Unfortunately the King was ill and unable to attend but many Royals in attendance. We also took an extra day to visit some sites while we were in London.

Congratulations also to Sally Linsey who was also present on the same day from Severn Stoke/Kempsey but we did not see her until we were leaving.

Annual Police Report

For the whole of the Kempsey Ward Area – One of the better areas for crime in the West Mercia Area but it would be nice to get these figures even better. A full report is available if you contact us. Police local Email: ka.snt@westmercia.police.uk for Kempsey and Alfrick Safer Neighbourhood team or tel 101

CB Radio Club – A new Club started in Kempsey at the Playing field on Sunday 22nd June- and over 50 people were present so a great success and great food.



David Harrison - 01905 828107 david.harrison@malvernhillscd.net



John Michael - 01905 317930 john.michael@malvernhillscd.net

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Sunshine, Smiles & Surprises

What a glorious day we had celebrating our VE-themed fête—undeniably the hottest day of the year, and without question, one of the warmest in spirit too! The village came alive with bunting, music, and laughter as residents flocked to St Mary's Church to revel in the community festivities. The star-spangled talents of Ruby Rouge swept us all off our feet - what a superb performance! And the infectious energy of Steve Kaos with his circus skills had us gasping as he walked around on those stilts! We were also treated to an uplifting and moving performance by the I-Sing Choir, those harmonies lifted hearts and spirits across the crowd. Stallholders outdid themselves, offering everything from handmade crafts to delicious treats. We hope many of you

went home with a bottle or two from the very popular Pullman Stall. And WOW, wasn't that pulled pork just delicious... A feast fit for the occasion! Our deepest thanks go to every single volunteer who made the day run like clockwork. In particular, we owe a huge round of applause to Joy Clee, Simon & Susan Bott, and Neil & Julie Stevens - your tireless work, creativity, and good humour made this event not just possible, but truly outstanding. And let's not forget our mysterious secret act... dressed in their Dad's Army attire, just so heartwarming. For those who missed our local twist on a classic tune, here's a snippet of Kempsey's version of "Underneath the Arches": Roll on next year! where we going to stay.

Kempsey Promotions CIC

Underneath the Malverns

(sung to the tune of 'Underneath the Arches' by Flannegan and Allen)

Underneath the Malverns on the 21st of June
We'll celebrate VE Day and sing this special tune
Everyone remembers the sacrifice they made
But you know and we know, memories can fade

Gathered here in Kempsey on this the longest day
Hoping the sky stays blue
Eating all the cup cakes, drinking all the beer
Underneath the Malverns
There's nowhere else like here

Underneath the Malverns it's easy to complain
Far too many houses, they're driving us insane
Dog mess on your doorstep, let's everybody moan
But this place, is our place, the place that we call home

Hills that rise above us, a view that's always free
Somewhere we all belong
People walking by us, always pass the time of day
Underneath the Malverns that's where we going to stay

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Severn Stoke & Croome d'Abitot Parish Council



Our joint parishes of Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot recently welcomed a new Parish Footpaths Volunteer – with great joy it has to be said, as footpaths and rights of way are an important asset for residents. What does the role entail and how can residents help? A Footpaths Volunteer walks all routes at least once a year and checks on the condition of the Public Rights of Way network. Any issues are reported direct to Worcestershire County

Council for action via the 'Report-it' function on their website and also to the Parish Clerk for information. The volunteer also assist with minor maintenance works to keep paths open, particularly by cutting back overgrown vegetation that restricts access. All ably assisted by our Parish Lengthsman where needed. The parish council is currently in the process of negotiating permission from the County Council to assist landowners with the maintenance of gates, stile cross steps and other furniture on the Public Rights of Way network – we shall see how successful we can be with these negotiations. If we do get anywhere, then we will work closely with residents and farmers, The National Trust and Savills on this project. Residents who walk the rights of way can report issues that they find using the same

website:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue

Alternatively, talk a photo and a few details and email/whatsapp it to the Parish Clerk who can report it for you. If you see our Footpaths Volunteer around the parish, please stop to say hello and introduce yourself – as the role does depend on local knowledge and often jobs can quickly be sorted if we know the right person to approach. Other things that residents can do to help is keep dogs on the lead in fields – particularly those with crops – and pick up dog waste. In return the parish council encourages landowners and farmers to keep official routes across the fields clear and accessible – particularly after ploughing. Thank you.



Next Meeting

Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council:
16th July 2025, 7.30pm –
Croome National Trust Visitor Centre SOQ room.

Parish Council Clerk

Lisa Stevens

Tel: 07950 256363

Email:

parishclerk@severnstokeandcroomedabitot-pc.gov.uk

Your councillors are:

Richard Hill, Laurence Freeman
Ian Daly, Susan Faulkner
Royston Garrard,
Laura McEwan-Hill,
Pat Preston, Raymond Williams
We have four vacancies.

Kempsey Parish Council

Community Facility Grants Scheme

In mid-April this year, Malvern Hills District Council announced that funding of £1m was available to a range of community organisations within the District for grants of up to £100k for capital projects that will outlast the District Council when it ceases to exist under government plans for Worcestershire to become one Unitary Authority, or possibly two Unitary Authorities. Grants would only be made to applications supporting one or more of eight strategic objectives. Grants in excess of £15k would require 20% match funding to be eligible. An 8-week window was given to submit 'Expressions of Interest' via a web-based application form. KPC considered a number of possible projects for grant applications but finally settled on three projects which principally address different strategic objectives and have different qualifying conditions. These were: (a) funding for a pump track to be located at the new Community and Sports Centre at Old Road South / Pixham Ferry Lane; grant request for £80k developed in collaboration with Kempsey Skate Park Club (b) funding for an IT Hub / Youth Cabin at Plovers Rise to be located

adjacent to the Youth Centre; grant request for £80k (c) funding to improve environmental performance of the Youth Centre at Plovers Rise through insulation and the addition of solar panels; grant request for £40k. The whole exercise for the total request of £200k generated some 23 pages of carefully constructed text in response to the 30 questions asked for each 'Expression of Interest' and became a seriously time-consuming process. Sterling work from our Community Builder and the Parish Office enabled the submissions to be made in time. We expect to hear the outcome of these applications sometime in July.

Unitary Authorities survey

KPC was notified at the end of May of MHDC's four week 'Shape Worcestershire' survey of preferences for one or for two future Unitary Authorities for the county, to inform MHDC's decision on which option to request central government to pursue. KPC considered the matter at its June meeting and agreed by a majority to request two Unitary Authorities, principally to avoid the possible domination of a single authority by the much more populous north Worcestershire town councils.

Pixham Ferry Lane hardstanding

The concrete pad opposite the Seven Trent Water treatment plant at the end of Pixham Ferry Lane is in fact an agricultural hardstanding. KPC acquired it along with the community land forming the site for the new Community & Sports Centre. It has over the years been a convenient parking place for parishioners wanting to walk on the Lower Ham but recently it has become a site for the irresponsible and lazy element of our community to dump their rubbish, rather than taking it to a recycling centre whose operation we all pay for through Council Tax. Social media has effectively advertised the location as a place to dump rubbish for those for whom self-interest is more important than social responsibility. Very recently hazardous waste has been left on the hardstanding and KPC has regrettably had no option but to close it off to the public.

Councillor recruitment

KPC welcomed Cllr Russ Varley back onto the Council in May after an absence of several years. We still have vacancies for three councillors and KPC councillors were present at the excellent village fete at St Mary church on midsummer's day to promote the Council's work and attract new members. For those who might wish to contribute to community life without the formalities of being a councillor, Cathy Garner our Community Builder was also on hand at the fete to promote volunteering for any of the projects that KPC is pursuing, or indeed for starting new ones. It's not what you take from community life that counts, it's what you contribute to it. 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 Dunn, Parish Council Clerk and Financial Officer on 01905 828183 or by email at: kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com

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Our walking challenge at The Lawns



We have been getting our steps in, ready for our 30k walking challenge around Kempsey. We are doing our Wednesday walks and our volunteers are now regulars. Every resident will have the opportunity to take part, whether exercising at home with gentle leg raises, or a leg cycle, or outside on a frame, or unaided. Every step will be counted!

We have a Heritage group objective of access to the outside and nature. With our "minutes of fresh air challenge" we hit the heady heights of 19,000 minutes last month, with over 42 residents benefiting from time in the fresh air. We are out in the

garden as much as possible. We have been tidying up and trimming, mowing and planting pots and hanging baskets. We have also put up a new awning, so we can make more use of the sensory garden, even if we get a bit of rain. Our gardening Group have been bring on veggie seedling and we hope to be harvesting our usual array of tempting treats.

Our new Lifestyle and Wellbeing lead, Kerry, has been spending time getting to know our residents, their hobbies and interests. One of our gents loves playing the piano in our reception, which has fabulous acoustics. Residents have also been baking cupcakes and we



had a fruit tasting afternoon – thanks to Paul and Judith at the fruit shack at St Peter's Garden Centre for the huge array of different fruits. We have our regular Singing for the Heart Group, poetry and prose and coffee mornings. We always say "variety is the spice of life"

and there is definitely variety in our weeks.

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Bredon Hill

Tim Hickson



Bredon Hill

Referring to Parson's Folly in my previous article set me thinking about Bredon Hill itself. I knew that, geologically it is part of the Cotswolds and I also knew there were three Iron Age camps up there and that the folly stood on top of one of the ramparts of the western one. Archaeology has shown that this fort was attacked early in 1st century AD, but by whom is not known although it was, of course, before the Roman invasion (although there are signs of Roman fortifications on the Hill). It was found that the inner gate was burnt and the mutilated bodies of over 50 young men were found. A row of heads, presumably set on poles over the gateway, was also found. This fort is known as Kemerton Camp. Conderton Camp, to the east, is the smallest and was abandoned in the middle of the second century BC. The third camp had the Norman Elmley Castle built on top of it, high above the village. The castle is thought to have been made by a member of the d'Abitot family (of Croome

d'Abitot), was later passed to the Beauchamps (of Madresfield) and then to the Earl of Warwick. So it became a secondary castle to Warwick, and thus less important, which led to its eventual lack of use and decay in the C16th. Later some of its stones were used to repair the old Pershore Bridge which had been deliberately damaged during the English Civil War. Near Parson's Folly, there are some very large stones. One large stone at the summit is called the Banbury Stone, deriving from a name for the fort in the C8th. It is known colloquially as the 'Elephant Stone' because of its resemblance to that animal. Another pair of stones below the summit are called the King and Queen Stones. Local myth tells that if you pass between them you will be cured of illness. Many poets have written about Bredon Hill. Probably the most famous piece is in A.E. Housman's collection, *The Shropshire Lad*. It begins



Banbury Stone

*In summertime on Bredon
The bells they sound so clear;
Round both the shires they ring
them.*

*In steeples far and near,
A happy noise to hear.
Here of a Sunday morning
My love and I would lie,
And see the coloured counties,
And hear the larks so high
About us in the sky.*

Authors notably include Tewkesbury's John Moore, who wrote the three *Brensham* novels, and Fred Archer who farmed at Ashton under Hill and wrote about his locality in the early C20th, beginning with *The Distant Scene*.

Among the composers who have produced music about Bredon Hill, Ralph Vaughan Williams is probably the best known. However, *Bredon Hill*, *A Rhapsody* for violin and orchestra, by the then Director of Music at Malvern College, Julius Harrison, is well worth listening to. This was commissioned by the BBC during WW2 and then broadcast to Africa, North America and to the Pacific.

Several artists have painted landscapes of the Hill. My own favourite, because it was done by my friend, the late Archie Nicholas, is this.



Its meteorological value is contained in the old saying, 'When Bredon Hill is wearing its hat, men in the Vale beware of that', meaning rain is coming! Also, in WW2, pilots hoping to land at RAF Defford would radio the control tower asking about Jumbo. If they were told, "Jumbo is still in bed", that meant the Hill was still hidden in cloud - so beware. Finally, its name is amusing. Bre is the Celtic for 'hill' and don is Old English for 'hill'. So, literally, Bredon means hill, hill, hill.

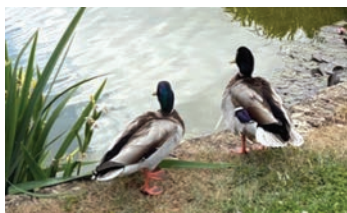


The Megalithic Portal, Kemerton Camp



King and Queen Stones, Bredon Hill

The Walled Gardens at Croome Court – A Summer of Growth, Flavour and Celebration



As the 25th anniversary year of restoration at The Walled Gardens at Croome Court continues, summer is now in full swing; and the garden is thriving with colour, flavour, and life. Following the unveiling of the new water garden in May, and a surge in visitors keen to explore this privately restored gem, the season has brought even more reasons to return.

The vision of Chris and Karen Cronin remains rooted in their original purpose: to breathe life back into one of Britain's largest Georgian Walled Gardens. This summer, that vision is tangible in every carefully tended bed, every buzzing corner of wildlife, and every bite of fresh produce harvested from the soil.

Take, for instance, the onion beds; a beautiful example of how practical planting can still be spectacular. From the deep hues of 'Electric' red onions to the golden glow of traditional yellow varieties and the early, hardy Japanese 'Senshyu', the diversity on display showcases the garden's productive roots. It's a reminder that the Walled Gardens are not simply a place of historic beauty, but a living, working space grown with purpose and passion.

Elsewhere, signs of the season are everywhere: baby melons are beginning to form, cucumbers are ripe and ready to pick (available for purchase just outside the garden gates), and the rose garden is heavy with the perfume of David Austin blooms - a sensory delight in every direction.

Wildlife, too, is thriving. The dipping pond has become a sanctuary for ducks, Great Crested Newts, and elusive moorhens who glide gently across the surface. You may be lucky enough to spot the even more elusive pond dwelling serpent too. These moments of natural tranquillity add to the sense that the garden, while designed and restored by human hands, now pulses with

a life of its own.

Special Events – July Highlights

Building on the momentum of a landmark year, two immersive events will bring new dimensions to the visitor experience this July.

Thursday 17th July - Hortus Croomensis promises a day of inspiration for garden lovers and heritage enthusiasts alike. With speakers including Chris Beardshaw, Jekka McVicar VMH, and Nicholas Dunn VMH, this one-day celebration of horticultural

excellence includes talks, discussion, and a light lunch, plus regular refreshments in the stunning garden setting (£75pp). Book tickets at: croomeht.org/cht-events.html
Tuesday 22nd July - The gardens will play host to Garden to Table – A Taste of Croome, an exclusive collaboration with renowned chef Felice Tocchini. Guests will enjoy a guided tour with the Cronins before watching Chef Felice create seasonal dishes from freshly harvested produce - complete with tasters

and expert cooking tips.
Don't Miss...

Croome Gallery and Pottery is open every Friday to Sunday and Bank Holidays, 11am–5pm, with access through the National Trust Croome visitor centre. Entry is free when the gardens are closed on Fridays (National Trust admission applies).

With nature at its peak and events that bring garden, food, and history together, there's no better time to experience The Walled Gardens at Croome — a living legacy still growing.



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Admission is £7 per adult, and children under 14 go free
(regular National Trust admission applies).

All proceeds support the ongoing restoration of this historic landscape. Exclusive group tours outside regular hours are available for parties of 15 or more. For enquiries, email info@croomewalledgardens.com.

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Facebook: The Walled Gardens at Croome Court

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Farming

Mike Page

In the last article I mentioned seeing some of the earlier fields in the area being harvested for silage. Grass of course grows at its fastest in the summer and slows down to little more than zero during mid-winter.

Grazing animals running wild will tend to concentrate their grazing activities to areas where the grass is growing best in the summer and spread out over a much larger area in the winter: they are regulating their ration in the only way they know how, to make it sufficient for themselves, if having the freedom to do so. When raised on a farm matters are very different as a herd of cattle may have access to (say) 100 acres of grazing – providing all the foodstuff (forage) they might need in summer, but in winter the area available remains the same; they have to be fed supplementary feed or they are housed and all food is supplied. After an incredibly dry spring and only limited rain in recent times this season may well result in even summer grazing being in short supply. Many years since I last remember it happening, but there have been seasons when the feeding of hay or haylage to livestock out in the summer fields grazing was necessary to supplement their ration even in June/July: a case of bringing some of it off the field just harvested and taking it straight into the livestock fields for immediate consumption, rather

than into store for winter rations: solving one problem but at the same time creating another requiring a solution later on. But I did say last month in life I try to remain optimistic! The making of modern-day silage/haylage and hay is a specialist process. The idea for any farmer is to end up with enough silage/hay of the right 'D Value' (digestibility) to suit the needs of their livestock. In simple terms, grass in the earlier stages of growth has a much higher feeding value, and in its later growth stages there is much more of it, but its value as a feedstuff, as it has gone up considerably in fibre content of much lower digestibility, will have gone downhill markedly. In my younger days as a farmer, the generally accepted 'D Value' giving the best combination of quality and quantity for productive livestock was 63, that being determined by proper analysis, or for a range of commonly grown grasses and other forage crops could be predicted fairly accurately by calendar date, that being linked closely to stage of growth. If making silage/haylage or hay for productive livestock [ie those growing rapidly or (say) producing milk], the aim is for 63D, or perhaps even higher; if the aim is to feed non-productive livestock not producing milk – described in farming language as being 'dry') then grass can



A crop of grass this time (as yet not cut). The drought conditions mean it has thrown-up much fewer seed stems than usual, without much base growth and the hay crop eventually harvested will be relatively light posing problems for next winter's forage supply

be harvested much later as although its feed value will have gone down considerably it will be adequate for the animals' needs – and there is more of it! Barley straw and even wheat straw (which has a very low digestibility and feed value) can be fed to cattle if other higher quality forage is not available or in short supply: it will supply the 'long fibre' material they need to keep their ruminant digestive system 'ticking over', and if supplemented by highly digestible concentrated grain feed as part of the overall diet the cattle will thrive. A bit like offering a child ice cream or a nicely prepared steak: you know which is best for them, and you know which they will likely go for; cattle or sheep offered straw will usually turn away to begin with, but not for long and as they grow hungry they will

soon be consuming it – and seemingly with relish: it does at least fill their bellies, and that seems to be enough to satisfy them. That invites a personal question: At one time I had a field of lucerne on this farm, harvested each year for baled haylage to feed to sheep; a very nutritious foodstuff satisfying all their digestive needs, and one taken to by the sheep with immediate and obvious enthusiasm. It has always left the question in my mind: "Do they go for it with such enthusiasm because their digestive system can recognise it is supplying all their bodily nutritional needs, or because it tastes so good?" Perhaps all we need to make feeding kids an easier process is for some chef to come up with a recipe that makes a steak look and taste like ice cream?

Dragonfly displays

Karen Rose

We're now at the peak of the dragonfly season. Dragonflies, and their more delicate damselfly cousins, are brightening our ponds and riverbanks with their dazzling colours and beautiful wing patterns.

They may appear delicate, but they are one of nature's greatest hunters. Some people consider dragonflies to be the most successful hunter in the animal world, catching up to 95% of the prey which they chase. Able to fly in all directions, even backwards, and with eyes that are made up of thousands of lenses, their acrobatic flight and phenomenal vision mean they rarely miss their targets. And they can eat their own weight in insects in just 30 minutes! For most of the year our dragonflies are hidden from view. Life starts when an egg,

laid in summer near water, hatches into a nymph. This stays underwater, sometimes for years, feeding voraciously on insects and tadpoles until it is ready to become an adult. It then climbs out of the water, sheds its skin and emerges as a shimmering dragonfly, taking to the air to hunt and find a mate.

And while dragonflies love rivers and ponds you can do your bit for them at home as well. No garden is too small to help attract wildlife and any small water feature with aquatic vegetation can attract them. They will help to rid your garden of midges, aphids and mosquitoes and, for just a few short weeks, you can enjoy their beautiful colours and graceful aerial acrobatics.

Karen Rose,
A biodiversity officer for
Wychavon District Council



Emperor dragonfly

Summer to Autumn Flower Favourites

It's July and at this time of year, we are all spending more time in our garden, so, we can easily spot a gap that needs filling. However, finding the right plant for the right spot can be tricky with so many gorgeous plants to choose from.

Ideally, we want one plant to flower from now until Autumn, so here's my favourite flowers to fill the pots and borders with... If I could choose one annual flower, it would have to be Cosmos as they provide lots of colour and always look so cheerful in pots and borders. The 'Candy Stripe' variety has white flowers with magenta edges and stripes and are loved by bees and hoverflies. Their ferny-feathery leaves also add texture and as long as you dead-head them regularly they will bloom until first frosts. They're great value for money when grown from seed – which is simple to do in spring, but you can buy them

ready-grown from the garden centre.

Plant Cosmos with Verbena bonariensis for a gorgeous display. This is a perennial (comes back each year) variety which can grow to around 2m tall, so its best grown at the back of the border. They have slender stems with a purple 'bobble' type flower that are slightly scented and are also loved by bees. If that's too tall for your garden, try the 'Lollipop' variety, which is a small bushy option that grows to around 60cm tall. Under-plant them with Thyme 'Silver Posie' and you will have a lovely fragrant area which is also dog friendly.

Whilst choosing your ideal plants, it's important to consider the wildlife in our gardens and here's my top tips...

- Choose Single-Flowered Varieties: These provide bees and pollinators easier access to nectar.

- Plant in Clusters: Grouping flowers helps pollinators locate them more easily.

- Avoid Pesticides: opt for organic gardening methods to protect wildlife.

- Provide Shelter: Incorporate grasses and shrubs to create habitats for insects and birds. You can add some drama to your borders with Dahlias – purchase them ready to plant now or buy tubers in the spring. There are so many to choose from, such as the pom-pom styles to huge flowers such as the 'Café au Lait' variety which has flowers up to 25cm across and are very striking.

I grew Dahlia 'Bishops Children' from seed last year and although they started off well and were easy to grow, they didn't do much, but this year, they've put on a massive growth spurt and are covered in flowers. I really like the bronze-coloured leaves, but I'm not sure about the bright



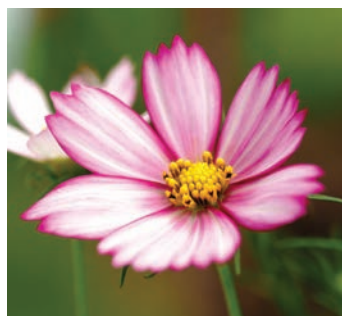
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mix of flowers. If you want a bold border, these are the flowers for you. Add some cheery yellow and orange blooms with Rudbeckia and Helianthus which are commonly known as sneezeweed (what a great name). These will also look good planted in swathes with the Verbena. Their open daisy-like flowers are also good for pollinators.



July gardening tips

Reg Moule BBC Hereford & Worcester

Early July

When sowing seeds water the bottom of the drill, sow seeds and cover with dry soil. This maintains moisture levels around the seeds for a longer period. Cut back straggly violas to encourage new shoots. Use trimmings for cuttings. Water and ventilate the greenhouse regularly. Take clematis cuttings. Conventionally these are taken by cutting the stems into sections between the leaf joints but I find that they also root when cuttings are taken at the leaf joints too. Prune plums, olives, fruiting and ornamental cherries now. Treat large cuts with wound paint but do it straightaway or it will not be effective. Prune and shape bay trees. They will tolerate fairly severe cutting back now.

Mid July

Keep camellias and magnolias moist at all times from now until early October. This is an essential aid to the setting of next year's

blooms. Giving them a couple of handfuls of sulphate of potash now helps as well. Trim hedges including conifer and other evergreen hedges. Be careful with water – early morning and late evening are the best watering times. If you have slug problems morning is better. There is no need to water the lawn. Take particular care of planted containers. Keep them fed, watered and dead headed. I find using a more potash orientated fertilizer like Phostrogen is good. Cut down herbaceous geraniums and poppies as they stop blooming to encourage new shoots. Give roses a boost with a dressing of rose fertilizer. If greenfly attack water lily foliage, just sink the leaves under the water for a few hours.

Keep feeding and training tomatoes and other greenhouse fruiting plants. Try growing oriental vegetables, like Chinese cabbage, this is the best month for sowing. Sow beetroot,

Florence fennel, Swiss chard, raddichio, and turnips in the vegetable garden. Spray potato foliage with Vitax Copper Mixture or one of the plant invigorators if attacks of potato blight are likely. You could also try using soluble aspirin two tablets per gallon of water sprayed over the foliage two weeks. Prune summer fruiting raspberries after harvest by removing old, fruited canes. Air layer straggly houseplants, usually near the top, to create a new plant. Pinch out the tips of unwanted grape shoots after one leaf, to concentrate the plant's energy on fruiting. Take conifer cuttings from stems that are characteristic of the variety.

Late July

Thin out oxygenating plants in pools as they can cause problems if over abundant. Pinch out the tops of outdoor tomato plants once four trusses of fruit have formed. Sow parsley for winter use. Onions, garlic



and shallots are ready to harvest when foliage turns yellow and bends over. Sow autumn / winter salads, e.g. claytonia, salad rocket, corn salad, land cress, and winter hardy white Lisbon onions. Cut the old foliage off strawberry plants after harvest. New growth soon appears. Give them some sulphate of potash too. Take fuchsia cuttings to be trained as standards. Lantana, golden privet and elaeagnus are also suitable for training in this fashion. Take semi-ripe cuttings from most shrubs – they will root easily now. To encourage the production of plenty of embryo figs for ripening next year, pinch out the growing points of the new shoots once they have made five leaves.

Nectar flows

Martyn Cracknell

During the winter, trees may appear completely dormant but the cool conditions promote flower bud development. The buds gradually swell and burst into bloom as soon as warmer weather comes in Spring. This provides abundant nectar and if the weather is mild, bees will gather it, and store it. If we peep into the top of the hive we can see newly built white wax honey comb along the edges of the frames, and if a frame is lifted out and gently shaken over the hive, runny nectar sprinkles out like rain. We get excited because, 'there is a flow on', and we hope that it may translate into a honey yield. Unfortunately a period of cold wet or windy weather may stop the bees flying and they stay at home and eat it all.

Then we enter a period with few flowers which we popularly call the 'June gap'. That is now behind us and the shrubs which flower on the new year's growth, like privet, and brambles take their turn to provide a flower show. This

heralds a second honey flow.

This year I had a bumper Spring flow and virtually no June gap, because many agricultural holdings have been sown with wildflower or green manure mixtures giving a continuity of flowers. Fields of golden rape or field beans were followed by pinkish white buckwheat and mauve phacelia with occasional fields of pale blue linseed, borage or purple Echium. These benefit both hive and wild bees and other insects.

Now a second flow is underway. I have been kept busy trying to provide adequate space for storage of the large volume of watery nectar, which will ultimately become a much smaller volume of concentrated honey. With a modern hive, this is achieved by adding honey boxes, called 'supers' to the top of the hive but in the old days of straw skep beekeeping, the top of the basket was usually closed.

In this case the skep was lifted off its base, and a ring of a few



coils of straw, called an eke, were placed underneath. This practise of adding space beneath was called 'nadiring' as opposed to 'supering'. Periodically through the summer, additional coils were added so that the capacity of the skep was gradually increased, or 'eked out'. In the UK it is normal to take two harvests, rather than a little bit at intervals throughout the

year, but some beekeepers take their bees to the hills of Yorkshire, Wales or Scotland, for an August holiday, to take advantage of the flowering heather, and thus gain a third harvest.



Village Life

John Driscoll

So the year is half over, and the commonly held view seems to be this has happened all too quickly and how can 2025 be flying by at such pace?

Is this a sign of advancing age and the number of days already witnessed – or is there something more sinister going on?

Hard to know in our current world.

Anyway, it's summer and we seem to be having a great one so far. Sorry if you're a farmer or lawn-lover desperate for rain! Otherwise, what's not to love about long light evenings and no scrabbling around on dark mornings – unless of course you're venturing out before 4.00am. This brings the added bonus of having more time to just stop and spend time chatting with friends and neighbours when out and about. We don't have a village green or other focal point but our fabulous local pub does give us a gathering place with the added benefit of lovingly tended ales, wines etc, and always a great welcome.

Life in the village has actually been pretty quiet and uneventful of late, after our VE80 commemorations in May. I'm

thinking this is basically how we like it round here and a big attraction for those of us seeking life away from the hustle and bustle of city life. I certainly don't want that to change radically. We can't expect to live in a time warp insulated from the outside world, but aiming for a little bit of peace and quiet among like-minded folk surely isn't too much to ask?

This hiatus in village activities has me pondering whether we should be arranging something over the summer months, or whether we should just let it drift and allow events to unfold on their own. We do need to raise funds at some stage to buy replacement pads for our village defibrillator.

Funding the defibrillator a few years ago was a great example of our community getting together and we've since kept adequate money in the village account to pay for planned replacements. We'll now need to raise a little to replace the money spent, and I for one am confident we'll have no problem calling on local generosity to achieve this.

Thank goodness we haven't needed the defib yet, but there's



such reassurance knowing it's nearby should the need arise. Lots of our village residents have completed training in the basics of defibrillator use and CPR, and we have an emergency contact arrangement for everyone to access. A great local community effort. Okay, many of us would admit to having an implied vested interest in having this support nearby, but surely that's alright! Did I mention earlier that our local pub is the centre of village life for many of us? Fittingly, this is where the defibrillator is

located, with our landlords acting as custodians as well as providing the necessary electricity supply without charge. I would normally avoid quoting Jeremy Clarkson – maybe the ultimate 'Marmite' – but during his current series, he refers to a 'pub as a hub' for any community, and in our case that's certainly true. It's also a great example of giving people the chance to get together so they can do what people do best – work as a community. Thank you to our great hosts – and see you soon!

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Ailsa's Kitchen Ailsa Craddock

I have always loved ice-cream – not the Mr Whippy soft stuff but proper ice cream with eggs and cream and different tastes. When my brother was little, he used to think “various ices” on a menu was a flavour and there seems to be no ending now to the “various” combinations – you can even have savoury ones for in between courses. A few years ago, I entered a competition and won an ice cream maker but I also have a few favourites which don't need one – you just whip it up and freeze. If you haven't got a maker, and it's asked for, you can get by with taking the mixture out of the freezer and mashing the ice crystals in for a few times. Keeping it easy for you, these are all made without a maker – so you can definitely say you made these all by yourself.

French chocolate Ice cream

50g castor sugar
4 tablespoons water
175g plain chocolate
3 egg yolks (save the whites for meringues etc – you can even freeze them!)

300ml double cream

Melt the sugar and water in a pan to a syrup. Break up the chocolate into a bowl and add the hot syrup. Mix until smooth and add the yolks. Whip the cream until stiff and add the chocolate, folding it through until all combine. Freeze. Simple!

Lemon Ice Cream

Large lemon, juice and zested

200g castor sugar

250ml milk

250 ml double cream

Combine the zest and sugar. Put the milk in a bowl and stir in the zest mixture until the sugar is dissolved. Stir in the lemon juice. Whip the cream until stiff and gently fold into the lemon mixture. Line a loaf tin with cling film overlapping the edges. Pour into the tin, cover over with the edges and freeze. Tip out and slice to serve.

Stem Ginger Ice Cream

4 eggs, separated

110g icing sugar

3 – 4 pieces of stem ginger, finely chopped

275ml double cream, stiffly whipped

Whisk the yolks and icing sugar together until pale and very thick. Fold in the ginger and whipped cream. Using a clean whisk, whisk the egg whites into peaks and gently fold into the mixture. Pour into a 1.5 litre plastic container and freeze overnight.

Peach Ice Cream

6 ripe peaches

600ml pot double cream

397g can condensed milk

Put the peaches in a heatproof bowl and pour over boiling water. Leave for 5 minutes and peel off the skins and remove the stone. Roughly chop them and set aside. Whisk the cream with the condensed milk until



thickened slightly and falls in ribbons from the whisk. Add the peach chunks to the cream, stirring gently. Put into a 2 litre plastic container and freeze for 3 – 4 hours or overnight. Take out of the freezer 20 – 30 minutes before you want it. Filo Crisps – something a little different to serve with ice cream. The contrast between crisp biscuit and soft cream is really lovely! Lay a sheet of filo on a baking sheet, brush with melted butter and sift over some icing sugar. Repeat with 2 or more layers on top, finishing with a thick layer of sugar. Cut the filo into small squares and bake in the oven at 200°C for about 10 minutes until golden and crisp. Sauces to serve with ice cream – sometimes a good plain vanilla ice cream is all that is wanted – and a good sauce will elevate it to ambrosia!

Hot Chocolate Sauce:

Put 150g dark chocolate into a pan with 25g castor sugar and 4 tablespoons of water. Melt together over a gentle heat then slowly increase and boil for 2 minutes. Beat in 25g unsalted butter and serve hot.

Melba Sauce: Mash or puree 250g raspberries. Stir in 75g icing sugar and the juice of half a lemon. The sauce can be served warm or cold.

Toffee Sauce:

Put 50g butter, 50g brown sugar and 2 tablespoons golden syrup into a saucepan and heat gently, stirring, until the butter and sugar have melted. Bring to the boil and boil hard for 3 – 5 minutes. Cool and stir in 150ml single cream and while still hot pour over ice cream.

Voices

Angela Johns

The air is full of the sound of bird life today. The swifts are squealing and wheeling, the sparrows are squabbling and scrapping. And if I tune my ear in there is a wren, its voice so big for such a tiny thing, that I only hear my favourite blackbirds in between its repetitive refrain. Each have something to say: feed me, I live here, look at me, this is mine, danger!

My voice too, carries my message. Sometimes loud and sure of itself (even when I'm wrong), sometimes no more than a squeak (even if I'm right). Usually I want it to carry the feeling behind it with emotion and sincerity. But there are times I don't want my voice to reveal my vulnerability, or when I wish for others to keep their faith in me even when I can't do that for myself.

Years ago I once got stuck in a funicular railway with my young boys with the Austrian August sun beating down on our glass carriage above Innsbruck. I calmly narrated all the sights we could see whilst simultaneously fretting about how I could secretly share my bottle of water just between us, not the ten or so other people sharing that confined space. As it turned out it wasn't long before one guy collapsed, pale as a ghost, and I whipped out the water and gave it straight to him without a second thought. Now the quivery fear of thirst was dialled up a few notches but I continued to use the calm strength of my voice explain to the boys that the train people knew we were stuck and would be working to get us off soon – the next stop wasn't far and they always have a plan. Next, a lady started having a panic attack, screaming and wrenching at the door, and yet another was yelling down the intercom that someone was dying so they had better get us out quick. This was turning



into a precarious situation in a hot and tight space and I was starting to get a menopausal sweat-on. My boys moved in closer with their faces upturned and expectant. At this point I'm also reassuring myself. Fast forward to this year when my boys are legally, if not always practically, men and I have a partner that thoroughly knows my weaknesses. On a walk on a hillside in Spain with him this year I got stung by a bee. There was no-one I needed to show how brave I am so I screamed and cried like a four-year-old demanding that he gets it off me, get it off me! I then whimpered for the next mile repeating frequently that it "really hurts". The child inside of me felt safe enough to reveal how she really felt about being stung and was very vocal about it.

Our voices are instruments but what tune will we play? And who is listening? More to the point, who do we really want to hear it? Anyone? Someone in particular? Or is it just that we want to tell a part of ourselves because it doesn't feel like anyone else has got the message yet.

Angela is a qualified Emotional Therapeutic Counsellor registered with the FETC and NCPS. Also a Reflexologist and Reiki 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

The power of your uniqueness

Emily Papirnik

As a therapist, one of the most recurring themes I see in my practice is people shrinking themselves to fit into someone else's idea of "normal." We try to belong, to blend in, to not stand out too much. However in doing so, we often silence the very parts of us that are the most powerful: our uniqueness. *This is your gentle reminder* — you are not meant to be the same as anyone else.

You have a unique combination of life experience, perspective, and energy. That alone makes you valuable. The way you see the world, the way you respond to it, the way you feel and express yourself — that's yours and yours alone. You are worth being seen, heard, and shared.

Sometimes we hold back because we think, "Who am I to share this?" or "No one will care."

What if your words, your experience, your insight — even if it seems small to you — is exactly what someone else needs right now?

You never know what moment, what truth, or what expression might be the catalyst for someone else's healing or growth.

I see so many people playing



small, believing that their wisdom is only valid in private, with friends or family — if that. However if something helped you, brought you clarity, softened pain, or opened your heart... it's worth sharing. We don't need to speak to everyone, we just need to reach the one person who needs it most. When we let our uniqueness be known, we create ripple effects of connection. It's not about being perfect or profound — it's about being real and loving in what you offer. Wrap your words in care. Allow your truth to be felt. Please don't waste a moment hiding it from the light. There is power in your presence. There is beauty in your perspective. Let your nuggets of insight and knowledge be known. Someone, somewhere is waiting for the very thing only you can give.

"Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians"

Charles de Gaulle

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Romy Kemp *Liverpool University*



My trip to Grasmere
A few weeks ago, I went to Grasmere on an English course university trip. We departed at 9.30am on Tuesday and it was already baking hot. However, as the coach continued to drive to our destination, clouds started to show, and the temperature declined - I found this wonderful but others did not. Obviously, we couldn't take a lot of luggage because of space and I struggled with this. I felt rather underprepared, but I was fine and got on with everything just fine without a single issue. It was just because the weather was hot in Liverpool that I didn't

think it was going to be as windy and rainy in Grasmere, but I was very much mistaken. Quite a few people on the trip seemed to be taken aback by the high pollen, and it certainly stopped me from sleeping. My friends on the trip even commented on it the next morning saying that they knew I was tired because I hadn't started yapping away yet. This did make me laugh! For me, one of the most important parts of the trip was all of the nature that I saw. I know living in the countryside we all see quite a lot, but I've always been interested in it and seeing it across the country is wonderful. I saw a buzzard and deer on the way there, and then when we were in Grasmere, I saw cows, sheep, a lot of birds, bees and even wild rabbits. Our accommodation was right next to a lake which was a delightful sight to wake up to. We went to William Wordsworth's Dove Cottage and museum which was definitely a good place to go to if you visit the Grasmere area. I'm not always a fan of walking around a museum but I really enjoyed

looking at all the artefacts and history of the Wordsworth family. We also climbed a mountain to look at a waterfall and become one with nature - this blew a few city students minds who didn't grow up around greenery. I think my mind was stuck in a high school mindset because I didn't think we'd get as much free time as we did, so we were able to go and explore for ourselves. I'm so glad that I went on the trip and I definitely made some new friends as well as strengthening the friendships I already had with my mates on the trip.

Work experience

Recently I had some work experience at a rural high school in Herefordshire. I primarily wanted to do it so that I had something else to write on my CV. However, I really enjoyed it and it has honestly become a route that I'd maybe want to go down after university. I met the English department team and sat in on lessons, even helping students with work. At first, it's hard to get to grips with because the kids don't know me enough to want to ask for any help from me, but they

seemed to ask for my help pretty quickly which was good. It really brought me back to high school though but in a different light; I really enjoyed helping the students analyse poems and extracts which I didn't expect.

Although I loved writing when I was at school, picking out important parts of the language used was never my favourite because I didn't quite get to grips with it but I had so much fun helping the students grasp meaning from the texts. I think I had more fun than they did! Overall, the English department team really welcomed me and made me feel as though I had something to offer. They all had a different way of teaching, but they couldn't have done more for their students, and it is evident that there is a real sense of compassion and pride for what they do. Both teachers and students alike show respect and friendliness to all within the school community and I really enjoyed my time and I thank them for having me. It was a really insightful experience that I may pursue as a career in the future.



Preventative Health Care



Preventative health care is an important part of veterinary practice. It is a medical approach focused on maintaining good health and stopping diseases before they occur. The main way of doing this is through regular health checks for your pet with vets and nurses and keeping up to date with vaccinations. It can also include regular parasite control for both external parasites (fleas, ticks and mites) and internal parasites (gastrointestinal round- and tapeworms).

What happens at a health check?

At a routine health check the vet will perform a physical exam looking for anything out of the ordinary. Areas that are looked at include:

- Mouth – checking for dental disease or other disorders
- Eyes – looking for signs of aging of the lens and conditions like 'dry eye'
- Ears and skin – checking for signs of irritation or growths that can occur over time
- Chest – listening for indications of heart or lung disease
- Abdomen – feeling for any abnormalities like fluid or growths
- Mobility – are they moving around as freely as they should be

If anything of concern is found, then discussions can be had as to what the next steps could be. This might be further investigations, treatments or just monitoring.

As cats and dogs age much quicker than humans we recommend 6 monthly health checks, often an annual vaccination and health check with the vet and a visit at 6 months with the nurse.

Older animals also benefit from routine blood and urine testing and blood pressure checks. These can often detect conditions much earlier than when looking for clinical changes in your pet's health.

If your pets' vaccination has lapsed this can be quickly got back up to speed with a second 'top up' vaccine to ensure full immunity. We regularly run a Vaccination Amnesty where you can get the vaccination course for the cost of a booster vaccination if your pets' vaccines are overdue.

Best wishes *Eliza*

Gregory's World! *Gregory Sidaway Exeter College, Oxford*

Every Day is Saturday. Nothing quite says looseness and a sense of freedom like a pair of baggy pants. Technically, they were 'fisherman's pants'; a pair of leaf-green pantaloons with self-tie straps at the front, and a waistline generous enough to fit at least two very close friends. A sign on the changing room wall would show me in six cartoon stages how to tie these straps and avoid any unwanted reveals. Along with the pants, the receptionist at the front also handed me a light green shirt. I hadn't slipped into something so flowing and oversized since I'd performed in *Macbeth* back in Michaelmas. I looked in the mirror. All I needed now was a cap and feather, and my transformation into Peter Pan would've been complete. Perfect. I was ready. My mate stored our belongings in a locker – our last reminders of our former selves, of a former life marred by exam strain and exhaustion. I squeezed into a pair of flip flops and waddled out into the corridor to begin my rebirth. I was about to become a new Greg, a looser, calmer, more pliable model after exam season had left the old one hunched and desk-bound. It had

long been one of my life goals to experience a Thai massage. My sauna-and-dunk-in-icy-water experience in Oslo at Christmas had been a step in the right direction. Now, finally, on Liberation Day, my first day of newfound freedom, it was happening. Two masseuses beckoned us upstairs into a dimly lit room with a row of beds. The air was heady with the tang of tea-tree oil, lilting with a gentle piano accompaniment. My mate had done this before, so I followed his lead, perching on the end of a bed like he did, while my masseuse knelt and washed my feet (brave woman). Next, she asked me to take off my glasses and lie on my front. My nose and mouth were over a groove in the pillow so I could breathe and live to write this tale. As I began to sway into a cosy void of relaxation, my masseuse found my toes. She subjected them to the most intense round of 'This little piggy went to market' I have ever endured. Snap, crackle, pop! Up, she climbed, her fingers working away. Originally, I thought there would be lots of back chopping. In reality, there was less chopping and more kneading. She pressed and

moulded me like a dough ball. The bed creaked – or was that my spine? Exam season preys on the spine and the head, in particular. Hour upon hour at a laptop had left me in dire need of straightening. Her thumbs found my shoulder blades and worked away at every crick, sinew and fleshy bit. Sensations rushed over me in waves, rising and falling along a scale of 'pleasant' to 'almost painful' then back to 'pleasant'. I couldn't believe it. She was so small but so strong. The head massage was a particular favourite – and sorely needed too. I flipped over, already feeling dozy. She shuffled around the bed and pressed both thumbs into my forehead as if I were a brand-new Easter egg she was trying to crack into. As she rubbed my temples in rhythmic pulses, she flattened out the furrowed brow of essay concentration. I imagined long streams of memorised quotes being squeezed out of my ears, lost for good. Adios! For the grand finale, I sat up and crossed my legs, while she buried her kneecaps in my back, pulled my arms behind me and stretched me into a human slingshot. Stretch ... Stretch ... Click! A click deep



in my back – like a knuckle rapping on wood – and, with that, my fifty-minute session was somehow already over. Time passes differently in a Thai massage parlour. When I emerged, I was no longer waddling. My posture was lifted, my forehead relaxed and freed, and the baggy pants felt like an extension of myself. What a stranger I'd been to my body! This sounds cheesy, but I mean it literally: it turns out I have a pressure point below my right shoulder blade that makes me laugh involuntarily. And laugh, we should. Every day is Saturday, fellow reader. Exams are over, the possibilities are endless. We could do anything, go anywhere. Besides, now I'm far more flexible.

Evie's Teenage Focus

Evie Aubin Oxford Brookes University

As I write this, I'm sat in my living room surrounded by my family; my cat purring on my lap as she digs her claws into me (her favourite pastime). It's been a month since I've come back home and I've fallen back into my calm and comfortable routine. The first weekend I had home (after spending time with all of my family) I deep cleaned my room whilst trying to throw away a bunch of, well anything and everything that was taking up space, either in my wardrobe, cabinets or shelves. And whilst I didn't end up chucking much out, after a bit (or a lot) of reshuffling I did get everything I needed back into my room. And soon after that, I started my new job at Costa coffee. After going to university I had decided to leave my old job at McDonald's and had decided to try something new. And honestly, I love it so much

more than McDonald's; I had worked there for almost three years, I had made some amazing memories and friends, but it was time to move on. I still work within the same service station, I just decided to switch restaurants, but with that came a new management team, new staff, and a new menu. After going through my training, I was thrown right into the deep end, serving customers and making drinks. And surprisingly I actually really enjoy it; when I was working at my old job, I never really looked forward to it, the possibility of it being a good shift really just depended on which managers were in. But here at Costa everyone is just so lovely. And this theme goes into the customers as well; what really surprised me was difference between the customers at McDonalds and Costa even though they are all

in the same building, at McDonalds we would have customers fighting on the floor, yelling at people and just being incredibly disrespectful to other people and staff, but at Costa everyone is just really lovely, and I think that's probably why it's so much more enjoyable than McDonalds. But as exciting as my new job is, that's not all I've been up to! I've met up with a couple of friends sometimes for coffee and other times for a Movie and lunch, me and Daisy recently saw the new how to train your dragon movie, and whilst it is essentially a shot for shot remake of the original one it was still really good. As well as that later this week we are taking a trip to London to BST Hyde park to see Olivia Roderigo perform, along with a few other people I'm really excited about seeing, such as The Last Dinner Party who I



had tickets to see last year but the concert had been cancelled so I never got to go, as well as girl in red and others. And then I'll be going again a week later to see Noah Kahan and Gracie Abrams who I have mentioned time and time again. So, I'll tell you all about them next month; until then, toodles!

Worcester Podiatry now pleased to offer an extensive Physiotherapy service

Worcester Podiatry, based in St John's, are excited to be expanding their clinic space into 27 Bransford Road, as well as the current premises at number 23. This increased space will allow for a Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation clinic, which will allow us to offer patients immediate treatment and solutions, as well as longer-term strength and fitness plans, delivered in a private, one-to-one medical environment.

Meet our new Lead Physiotherapist;

"Hi, I'm Richie — a UK-trained physiotherapist with over eight years of clinical experience in both the NHS and private sectors. I completed my MSc in Rehabilitation Science at the University of Brighton after earning a BSc in Exercise and Sport Science from the University of Exeter.

I've worked in hospitals across Kent and Essex, specialising in trauma and orthopaedics before shifting my focus to musculoskeletal physiotherapy. I help clients recover from joint surgeries, particularly hip and knee, manage sports injuries, and get back to doing what they love.

I'm qualified in acupuncture (AACP) and hydrotherapy (ATACP), and I'm a big proponent of strengthening exercises in my physiotherapy approach. I believe physiotherapy should leave you stronger and better than when you first saw me — not just simply recovered or healed. I've worked with a wide range of clients, from those with back or neck pain, those recovering from hip and lower limb surgery to young athletes and marathon runners and people with Scoliosis, Bell's palsy, and desk-based jobs.

Outside of the clinic, I'm usually in the gym or looking for a good coffee spot. I'm currently working back toward a 200kg squat and planning further studies. I speak English, Cantonese, and Mandarin, and I'm committed to helping every patient feel informed, confident, and supported throughout their recovery journey."

Common conditions we treat

- Joint or muscle pain (e.g. back, hip, knee, shoulder, neck)
- Sciatica
- Recovery following surgery or injury
- Sports injuries and overuse

conditions

- Tendon issues, such as Achilles or patellar tendinopathy
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 - Postural or workplace-related discomfort
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- What to Expect at Your Appointment*

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We focus not only on treating pain but on helping you understand your body and build confidence in your recovery.

Why choose Physiotherapy at Worcester Podiatry?

- Whole-body approach – We look at how different parts of the body work together, not just

where the pain is

- Lower limb expertise – With podiatrists and physiotherapists working closely together, we offer in-depth care for feet, legs, and movement
- Tailored to you – Everything we recommend is based on your lifestyle, goals, and preferences
- Experienced, friendly team – We take time to listen and work with you, not just treat symptoms

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Whether you're in pain, recovering from injury, or wanting to move better day to day, physiotherapy can help. Book your appointment today and take the next step towards better movement and less pain. Our podiatry clinics continue to offer treatments for Planter Fasciitis, Ingrown Toenails, Diabetic Foot Conditions, Verrucae & Warts, Athlete's Foot, as well as routine care, wound care, Corns, Calluses & Bunions.

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Planning for your business Are you protected?

Carol Draper

If you are starting up in business, it is likely you will need a business plan in order to apply for a bank account or financing. An initial plan will detail the structure of the business and what it is being set up to do, its customer base, anticipated turnover and profit, and plans for growth.

It is easy to get caught up in what ought to be included in a business plan and how to make the figures work. However, as a business owner, whether you are a sole trader or large company the important thing is to plan for your business.

Forget the headings and take time to consider what you want to achieve and what is important to you. Having decided, you can then look at what needs to be done to reach those goals.

Planning is an ongoing process and should not just happen at the beginning. There is no wrong answer and as circumstances change, your plans are allowed to change too.

There is the tendency to think everything must relate to profit and tax but that can become very limiting. While profit is the end result, businesses comprise people, products, systems and values and any plans should relate to them. I took over at Clifton-Crick



Sharp a year ago. I was conscious that in our business the way the offices are set up means staff are split up from each other on different floors. This makes communication more difficult and has left some feeling isolated. My ideal when I took over was to have all staff on the same floor, closer together and more able to discuss issues and learn from each other. The situation has now arisen which will allow that to happen. While there is no guarantee it will work, I anticipate the whole team will grow and develop leading to increased job satisfaction and better work outputs all of which should be reflected in the bottom line. Planning for your business allows you to be in control rather than events controlling you so if you don't already, why not give it a go.

Carol Draper FCCA
Clifton-Crick Sharp & Co Ltd

"Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes; but no plans."

Peter F. Drucker



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Fossils Cricket Team 30th year celebration match

The Fossils cricket team played an inter-club match on Sunday 15th June 2025, exactly 30 years to the day since their very first game on 15th June 1995. The result was the same - a win for the Presidents team. The Fossils batted first and scored 159 runs in 35 overs. Rob Miles, Dave Mills and

Dave Turner all scored 35 runs, then retired not out. The Presidents team scored 162 for 8 in 34.1 overs, with Kevin Gilbert making his 35 before being bowled by Cliff Rawlings. Paul Wells, Simon Hudson and Malcolm Jones also scored their 35 runs before they retired not out. Pick of

The Fossils bowlers was Cliff Rawlings who took 4 wickets. The Presidents team won by 4 wickets. Over 50 people attended the match, including 4 of the original players from the match in 1995. Two of them - John Reynolds and John Banner - both played aged 83 years

young. The other 2 were Tony Neel aged 93 and Geoff White aged 81.

An excellent day ended with the cutting of a beautiful birthday cake and a draw for Acorns Children's Hospice raising £100.

*John Reynolds
Founder & President, Fossils CC*



Diaries of Sir George Dowty event

Shown below are the attendees at the Worcestershire County Cricket Club on the 9th June at an event to launch the book containing the Diaries of Sir George Dowty- sometime President of the club in their Championship winning sides in the 1960s. Four Mayors attend with their consorts giving an indication of the respect Sir George Dowty is still held in 50 years after his passing. George Dowty's son spoke of his recollections of those heady

Championship winning years when he accompanied his father to the ground. The Dowty News for September 1964 captures the time well as it records - *Champions:* Sir George Dowty, President of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club, is overjoyed at the first County Championship for his team in their centenary year, defeating Warwickshire at Edgbaston and noting also that the wicket keeper, Roy Booth works at Dowty Seals in

Ashchurch during the close season.

It was most poignant that the lady, who served as Sir George Dowty's secretary from 1970 until his passing in 1975, Caroline Flippance, and had edited his diaries for publication was presented with an inscribed goblet by Sir George Dowty's son. The Dowty Group acquired the Worcester based mining engineers Meco in 1969 and a grandson of Mr Mark Higgins, who was the Meco chairman at

the time of the acquisition, spoke of his memories. Adrian (Viscount) Buckmaster who led the Dowty Mining Division during the 1980s completed the story telling of the ultimate acquisition of Meco by Japanese interests. The erection of a statue of Sir George Dowty in 2024 now followed by the publication of his diaries, covering the years 1919 until 1975, gives fitting recognition to one of Worcestershire's finest sons. *Martin Robins*



From the Boundary

Peter Jewell, *Resolve Law*

As I said last month the weather plays into Worcestershire's hands. Warwickshire had they looked at the met forecast would have realised the impending weather. Worcestershire with the fluke draw are firmly stuck to the bottom of the Division One. In the first round of the T20 Worcestershire lost to struggling Lancashire who are one point from the bottom of Division Two. Things have picked up with two wins that have Worcestershire mid table but the next game against Warwickshire will see them either in the ascent or not. I met up with my old friend Barry Richards, who I knew from my Natal days. What would have world cricket seen from the like of Graeme Pollock, Mike Proctor and Barry Richards had South Africa not been isolated. Barry's Record saw him play only four tests against Australia with an average of 72.57 his first-class career including

mainly Natal and Hampshire, with an average of 54.74. England beat Zimbabwe and so they should. Zim. used to be a reasonable force in Cricket but sadly not now. England then played the West Indies at Edgbaston. What a performance, but again the West Indies are struggling. It is sad to see a once great and best in the world country fall to the lows at present. Speaking to Dessie Haynes and Collis King put this down to the islands infighting and other interests of the youngsters. Look at Welsh Rugby in the late 60's and early 70's no one could touch Wales. However, with the collapse of coal mining all the mine club sides disappeared. Well, the Local elections are over and we wait to see what next. The County Council has some serious financial difficulties. If there is not to be a cut in services, then they must undertake a forensic audit of all procurement

and contracts. I suspect that there is bad management. The latest news is that the Littleton's election result which was a draw is headed for the High Court. The Green Party win on the toss of a coin could be overturned or a re-run. I will not amplify the evidence as the matter is subjudice. Starmer, spoke to the people a few days ago and really looked stupid. Half rolled up shirt sleeves instead of a suit and tie. Yes, we heard again for the 18th time that his father was a tool maker and mother worked in the NHS, so what, good jobs but what has that got to do with running the country and spending more time going around the EU, driving Britain back into the EU. He has allowed foreign fishing back into our waters and has cemented the ECHR. Our courts should be supreme. Starmer is considering lifting the two-child cap and may allow people to marry their

cousins, that is not only medically wrong it is disgusting. Jo Swinney wants to cull the cattle in Scotland to help global warming. What is with the politicians are they all that stupid. Labour are a dead duck the Conservatives have become impotent, they have had it! A third of the Tory vote want to in Reform a third want to be Liberals and the other third run around like headless chickens. The Greens and Liberals, Well I am sorry the mufty fluffy world is not real. So, what of Reform? So far, they have not really put a foot wrong and have some good people, but soon the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. They cannot be worse. Labour will hang on for dear life for the next four years God help us and don't blame me I did not vote for them. My articles are becoming more controversial, please write to the editor and have your say. It is still a free country (just).

A view from the Middle

My dear readers, I had been so looking forward to regaling you all with tales of swashbuckling half centuries and hatfuls of wickets. However, soon after the first win I told you about last month, my cricketing world came shattering down with the onset of a knee ligament injury, ruling me out for the entire season. It has been a topsy-turvy, difficult, but illuminating few weeks since. The initial reaction to such a long-term enforced absence was disbelief followed very quickly by despair. I went through all the stages of grief, including anger at the pitch, my shoes, techniques, anything that

might have contributed to the injury, as well as bargaining with the medical professionals about how I could get back playing sooner. (This was incredibly unrealistic given that at first, I couldn't even climb up stairs or drive a car given the leg movements required!) With the support of friends and family, I eventually landed on acceptance and reframed my absence from the playing field into availability to do other things. I have found myself more able to spend time with friends who had not really expected to see me during the cricket season. I've been catching up on my reading.

And I've been able to fill the cricket void by coaching children at school and clubs around Worcestershire. It is a great joy to be about to pass on my knowledge - although I have to be careful how animated I get during demonstrations and often have to ask a player to do it. And I've discovered a far greater sense of satisfaction when a player puts something, I told them into practice than most this I ever achieved while playing. I'm very happy now to be engaged in something which will keep me involved in the sport long after my knees give up...which may be sooner rather than later! Another good thing about the injury is that the mental



rollercoaster I went through inspired me to enrol on a sports psychology course for the next academic year. Hopefully, it will help me become better equipped to deal with any injuries that come my way as well as any suffered by the players I coach. And, of course, if I learn anything interesting, I'll tell you all about it!

Thoughts from the Snug... Don't panic, we're British!

In these troubled times it is usual for government agencies to warn the general public about levels of threat. The recent Covid Epidemic comes to mind. However, other threats to the public at large also exist including other epidemics, floods droughts, forest fires terror and cyber-attacks, civil unrest, plus the possibility of aggression from another power. Government agencies will issue threat levels at high, medium and low risks or red, amber yellow and green.

All serious stuff. In re-calling our Covid experiences we discussed the value of re-labelling the threat levels to a less vague and abstract sounding stages, but which certainly convey concern, but also embody a more British 'Stoic', 'Keep Calm' attitude. For example, the first is acknowledged as a 'Tiresome' level, next a 'Rather Irritating' stage and finally a 'Bloody Nuisance' level. One member of the Snug claimed the 'Bloody Nuisance' phase was last

reached in the 1940s Blitz when tea rations became scarce. More violent threats could be staged at: 1) 'Miffed', 2) 'Cheesed off', 3) 'Irritated', and 4) a 'Bit Cross'. Apparently, Sir Francis Drake was a 'bit cross' when he had to abandon his game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe when the Spanish Armada was spotted in 1588. An Australian visitor to the Snug offered some alert levels from down under: 1) 'No worries', 2) 'She'll be alright, Mate' and

for the escalated higher levels 3) 'I think we may need to cancel the Barbi this weekend', finally, 4) 'The Barbi is cancelled'. It is said this final escalation phase has never been used in our second largest colony. Nice to see the Australians have inherited some of our Britishness. Delightful! Let's hope we avoid the higher levels of escalations like our Commonwealth cousins.

Buddy Bach

Pershore River Festival 2025 - Saturday 19th July 10am - 4pm



The theme of this year's Pershore River Festival, to be held on July 19th, is "Rock the Avon (don't wreck the Avon)".

"So much has been written about pollution of our rivers, we want everyone at the Festival to recognise that we must all help to keep our river alive. The Avon is a vital part of Pershore's environment for wildlife as much as for people. We must hold the river in trust for future generations."

Organisers have written a song to emphasise the importance of the river to wildlife and to the town. It will be performed at the Festival and everyone can join in!

The River Festival is a free event for all ages. It has become a staple part of Pershore's annual calendar, raising funds for Pershore Riverside Youth Centre. Attractions on the river include a Bell Boat Regatta organised by Andy Train of Fladbury with races for community teams, including the Wychavon Parish Games. Avon Navigation Trust will have their floating Waterways Centre on site and there will be Boat Trips on MV "Princess Marina" and MV "Corsair". The Marine

Volunteer Service will entertain too. Other attractions on the river include stand-up paddleboards and try-it sessions in canoes and kayaks, organised by Wychavon Kayak and Canoe Club, based at the Riverside Youth Centre. On land will be stalls for food, craft and charities, plus a craft fair, inflatable assault course for children and mad Sumo Wrestling. Children's football and short tennis activities will feature and we hope to have displays by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and guided tours of Avon Meadows Community Wetland.

And of course a raffle with generous prizes, with all profits going to the Riverside Centre. Refreshments will be provided at the Riverside Centre with generous donations of cakes and scones from Pershore WI and friends and family. Hot food is available from Pershore Football Club. Entertainment includes no fewer than 14 different musical acts throughout the day, organised by Paula Evans.

All details are available in the free programme, available shortly.

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Declarations and Peregrinations

Brian Johnson-Thomas



After his calamitous defeat at Worcester in 1651 King Charles fled for his life to the Continent where he stayed more or less in poverty for the best part of a decade. However the British people did not take kindly to government by a strong man and after the death of Cromwell there were calls for King Charles to return. The immediate consequence was a very British fudge known to posterity as the Declaration of Breda whereby in exchange for getting his throne back Charles promised to let bygones be bygones, issuing general pardons all round and retrospectively legalising all that had gone before.

So when it came to fixing a rendezvous for lunch with an old Dutch colleague Breda came to mind. It's a pleasant city, about the size of Worcester I guess, in the extreme south of the Netherlands close to the border with Belgium. We travelled there on a ferry from Hull to Rotterdam, from whose Central Station it's just 22 minutes on a high-speed line to Breda. The advantage of the ferry is that P&O, who operate that route, offer mini cruises at bargain prices starting at £105 per person for two nights' there and back, sharing an ensuite cabin. They add to that the connecting bus from the port to the railway station, giving a



pretty seamless journey. It's a twelve hour overnight journey each way but there's plenty to entertain us with everything from a casino to a disco. They also have a variety of eating and drinking options, we had an excellent al la carte meal in the Brasserie which would stand comparison with any upmarket restaurant anywhere. Not only that but the staff were so helpful – I'm waiting for a new knee and so have a little temporary difficulty carrying baggage – but we were helped on and off and every step of the way. Nothing was too much trouble and they anticipated all our needs.

Not just us, either – we saw several 'wrinklies' like us and a lady with a small baby get the same VIP treatment. I've travelled quite a lot in my life but the P&O service this week was easily as excellent as, say, Business Class on Emirates – and I used to really enjoy that as well! See www.poferry.com for more information. As I write this we're still on the road, enjoying a few days in Lincolnshire, a County which perhaps we tend to overlook, but we will be home in time for the next offering of the Longborough Festival Opera.



Debussy's enigmatic Pelleas et Melisande (playing on various dates until July 10th). More of that anon. However we really did enjoy Rossini's Barber of Seville (again playing on various dates until July 13th. Henry Neill played a superb Figaro and I was also very taken with Lauren Young's take on Rosina, (not to mention the topical

musical joke played with her name). My only slight regret is that the scenery shifters, an entire comic act in their own right, doing an essential task with humour and panache, didn't get a curtain call.... This year's season will end with Purcell's Dido and Aeneas which will be staged from the 26th of this month until the 2nd



of August and, as is now traditional, will give a platform to the Emerging Artists of this year. See www.lfo.org for details.

Also that weekend of the 26th will see a Diesel Gala on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway which runs from Broadway down to

Cheltenham racecourse. See www.gwsr.com for details.

(Since I vividly recall School trips by steam haulage the idea of 'vintage' diesel trains still seems a little strange to me, since I recall their introduction so vividly!)

Ah well, tempus fugit....



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u3a
Pershire & District

Tuesday 15th July at 2pm
"Healthy Ageing - is it possible & how?"
With Professor Janet Lord, who has researched and published extensively on this topic, renowned both academically and in popular culture
No meeting in August

Tuesday 16th September at 2pm
Inside the mind of a cryptic crossword setter...
With Mark Hartshorne, known as "PostMark" in his crossword life, delving into the world of words.
All welcome, including non-members
Meetings held at Number 8, High Street, Pershire
For more details, contact Sally Whyte Speaker Coordinator on email: u3apershore.sally@gmail.com
www.pershire.u3asite.uk

150th anniversary of the birth of William Henry

This July marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of William Henry ("Billy") Reed, a name perhaps known now only to lovers of Elgar's music but an important figure in the history of the Three Choirs Festival. Reed was born in Frome in Somerset into a musical family and soon showed talent on the violin. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music, and within a few years was a member of the Queen's Hall Orchestra, founded by Henry Wood to perform at the newly established Promenade Concerts. As well as a performer, Reed had some considerable success as a composer, having several works played at the Proms in the early years of the century. In 1901, he was appointed Leader of the Gloucester Orchestral Society, playing and teaching at centres throughout the county, and thus began a relationship with the Three Choirs Festival which continued throughout his life. At the 1905 Worcester Festival, Elgar was presented with the Freedom of Worcester, and Reed

was amongst the crowd lining the High Street from the Guildhall to the Cathedral. Elgar sought Reed's help when piecing together his ideas for his Violin Concerto, and a close friendship was formed which continued until Elgar's death in 1934. The 1939 Three Choirs was due to begin in Hereford on September 3rd, the day war was declared, and the festival was cancelled. Undeterred, Reed packed his fiddle and travelled to Hereford to play a short solo during morning service at the Cathedral – he had played at every festival since 1902 and was not to be put off by a little thing like war! It was to be his last Three Choirs, as he died suddenly in July 1942 whilst adjudicating in Scotland. His ashes were interred close to the Elgar window in Worcester Cathedral.



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SCAN ME

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FINDERS FEE




Jazz News

Peter Farrall

We're having a rollercoaster of events at Pershore Jazz during spring and summer with capacity audiences at every monthly club night. In May, Sarah Spenser's Sax and Bone Band transported us to Preservation Hall in New Orleans and by the time this is published, we will have enjoyed red hot Dixieland jazz by DixieMix from Norfolk. And now, as they say, something completely different; July will see the newly formed Emily Masser/Alex Clarke Quintette. Emily and Alex are two personable young ladies whose mutual love of traditional and mainstream jazz drew them together and generated the idea for this exciting new project. Alex is well known and loved by Pershore fans ever since her first public appearance as a fifteen-year-old at the 2015 Pershore Jazz Festival. Since then, she has become a much sought after performer on the jazz scene being voted Rising Star in the British Jazz Awards 2019 and finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2020. She leads her own quartet and is also much in demand as a featured star in many other prestigious bands. Emily Masser is perhaps not such a well-known name at Pershore Jazz Club but that is certain to change when we've experienced the talent of this twenty-one-year-old from Wigan. Emily is currently

studying at London's Guildhall School of Music and is already being hailed as the next rising star of jazz by audience, musicians and critics alike. She was featured on the Clarke Tracy Quintette album "Introducing Emily Masser" and has recently released an album of her own, "Songs with my Father" on which she is joined by her dad, top bebop saxophonist Dean Masser. Enjoy swinging arrangements of the Great American Songbook and mainstream jazz with perhaps a little Bossa Nova thrown in. Emily Masser: vocals, Alex Clarke: saxophones, Tom Kincaid: piano, Mike Green: bass, Gaz Hughes: drums. *Don't forget!* "Pershore Jazz on a Summer's Day" which this year is full of Kings, Dukes, Counts, Earls, Queens and Ladies. A who's who of jazz royalty where you can learn how these jazz legends got their names and hear the timeless music they produced. Saturday 9th August 2.00 – 10.30 pm at Number 8, with a break 5 – 7.30 *One ticket covers the whole day.* *Book an early evening meal at one of Pershore's prestigious restaurants to complete your day of classic jazz!* *Tickets: 01386 555488 online at number8.org or in person at the Box Office*



Emily Masser + Alex Clarke Quintette

Wednesday 30th July 2025

*Doors open at 7.00pm music at 8
In the Function Room, Pershore Football Club
Admission £12.50 to include a raffle ticket
Book in advance and pay on arrival
email: club@pershorejazz.org.uk tel: 01527 66692
find us on Facebook*

Music Matters

Steve Ide

Music rivalries

There have been some classic rivalries in music, Oasis vs Blur, Hendrix vs Clapton, Oasis vs Radiohead, The Beatles vs The Stones, Biggie vs Tupac, Oasis vs Pulp, The Clash vs The Pistols and Oasis vs Oasis. More recently, the diss track has become a favorite of Hop Hop artists wanting to air their grievances. Drake's Family Matters is part of a long-term disagreement with Kendrick Lamar and Lauren Hill's Lost Ones is a savage dig at ex-boyfriend Wyclef Jean. These disagreements can come from artistic differences, financial issues or love triangles. Some are manufactured to sell records, but some come from a genuine

dislike of each other and their music. Sometimes mutual respect and even friendship were part of the relationship. Rivalries are part of the entertainment of music and feed into the often-tribal nature that music can have. When you have creative people with massive egos, falling outs are part of the business. So pick a side and enjoy the fun, these squabbles have produced some truly hilarious moments and some fabulous songs. And most of all, we thank the Gallagher brothers for their consistently cutting and funny insults to everyone. **Notable new releases** All Asimov and No Fresh Air by Half Man Half Biscuit The boys from Birkenhead

return with their usual satirical take on British life, where else can you find songs about the history of Raw Plugs and a detective solving crimes with his chickens?

Lotus by Little Simz This feels like a very personal album. Little Simz hits the mark with this raw release, in places it's a dark album, but she also brings the sunlight.

More by Pulp Pulp returns after 24 years away to show they've lost none of the wit and wisdom of previous years as they reflect on the new England they find themselves in.

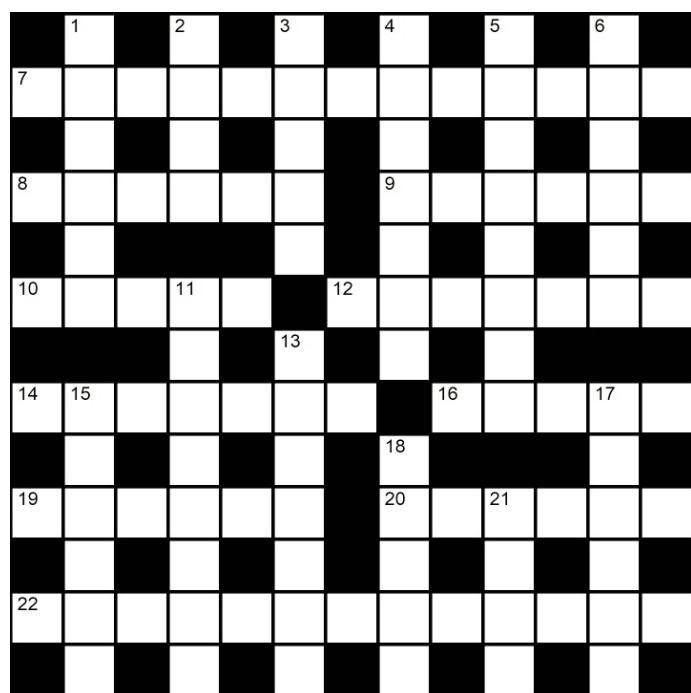
Add to playlist

Connected by Love by Jack White
Rapture by Blondie
Soul School by Cornershop
Where's me jumper by The Sultans of Ping
Ingrid Bergman by Billy Bragg



Coffee Break

Crossword



Across

- 7 Conclusively (4,3,3,3)
 8 A mix of living tissue and machinery (6)
 9 One or the other of two (6)
 10 Eat like a king (5)
 12 Having an interesting past (7)
 14 Combat area (3,4)
 16 Seaport in NW Israel (5)
 19 Spanish fleet (6)
 20 Walk softly (6)
 22 Computer messaging system (8,5)

Down

- 1 Salad green (6)
 2 Maidenhair, for example (4)
 3 Pass into law (5)
 4 Consequences (7)
 5 Standards of judgment (8)
 6 Arm cover (6)
 11 Fairly large (8)
 13 Dredge up (7)
 15 Kind of airliner (6)
 17 Baffles (6)
 18 Performed terribly (5)
 21 Career golfers (4)

Sudoku

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

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

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

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

Films Wordsearch

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

AMADEUS

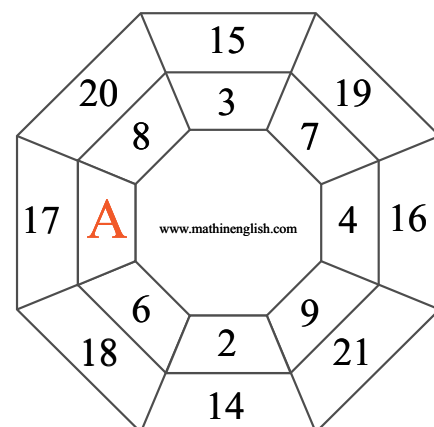
ARGO
 BABEL
 BASOC
 BE COOL
 BIG
 BOBBY
 CARS
 CON AIR
 CRASH
 E.T.
 GANDHI
 GHOST
 HEAT
 HERO

HOOK

I, ROBOT
 JUNO
 ONCE
 RAY
 RED EYE
 RUMBLE FISH
 SAW
 SHINE
 TANK
 TROY
 TRUE GRIT
 UP
 WALL E
 ZOOM

Brainteaser

What 1 digit number replaces A in this puzzle



Poets' Corner

XLVII

The Carpenter's Son

"Here the hangman stops his cart:
Now the best of friends must part.
Fare you well, for ill fare I:
Live, lads, and I will die."

"Oh, at home had I but stayed
'Prenticed to my father's trade,
Had I stuck to plane and adze,
I had not been lost, my lads."

"Then I might have built perhaps
Gallows-trees for other chaps,
Never dangled on my own,
Had I but left ill alone."

"Now, you see, they hang me high,
And the people passing by
Stop to shake their fists and curse;
So 'tis come from ill to worse."

"Here hang I, and right and left
Two poor fellows hang for theft:
All the same's the luck we prove,
Though the midmost hangs for love."

"Comrades all, that stand and gaze,
Walk henceforth in other ways;
See my neck and save your own:
Comrades all, leave ill alone."

"Make some day a decent end,
Shrewder fellows than your friend.
Fare you well, for ill fare I:
Live, lads, and I will die."

A. E. Housman 1859-1936

Quiz!

- 1) The War of the Roses was ended when Lancastrian forces defeated Yorkist supporters in the final battle of the war. In which county did the final battle take place?
- 2) In June 1936, *Gone With the Wind* was first published. Who was the author?
- 3) In 1913, Emily Davison a women's suffrage activist was fatally injured. How?
- 4) In 1883 the train line that is identified with intrigue and luxury travel started operations. What is it called?
- 5) On 15th June 1215 which significant document was signed by King John limiting the power of the monarchy?
- 6) In June 1949 George Orwell published his political novel of life under a totalitarian government. What was it called?
- 7) In 1862, General Stonewall Jackson concluded his Shenandoah Valley Campaign. In which war?
- 8) The first Boat race held on the Thames between Oxford and Cambridge took place in June of which year. Was it a) 1829 b) 1849 c) 1869
- 9) On her birthday, in 1942, Anne Frank began keeping a diary. How old was she?
- 10) In 1894 an international congress in Paris founded the International Olympic Committee to reinstate the ancient Olympic Games. Who led the committee?
- 11) Alexander Graham Bell was granted a patent for the 'telephone' in which year? a) 1836 b) 1856 c) 1876
- 12) American pharmacist and chemist Wilbur Scoville died in march 1942, but what is he best remembered for?
- 13) In March 1910 frenchwoman Raymonde de Laroche, became the first female to obtain a licence to do what?
- 14) James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in march 1969 to assassinating who?

Answers: 1) Nottinghamshire 2) Margaret Mitchell 3) Trampled by King George V's horse at the Epsom Derby 4) The Orient Express 5) Magna Carta 6) *Nineteen Eighty-four* 7) American Civil War 8) a) 1829 9) 13 10) *Pierre de Coubertin* 11) c) 1876 12) Creating the 'Scoville Scale' for measuring the heat of chillies 13) Fly a plane 14) Martin Luther King

June Answers



July Brain teaser: The number is 5

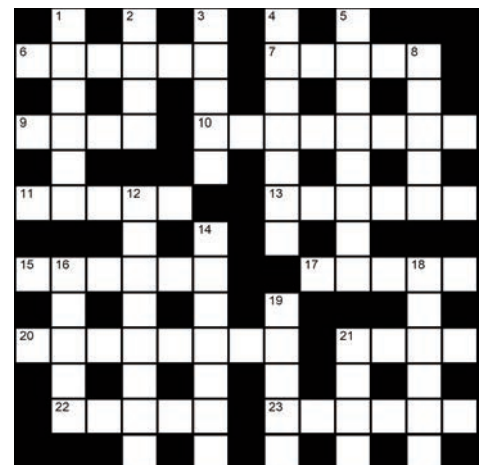
Anagram Crossword

Across

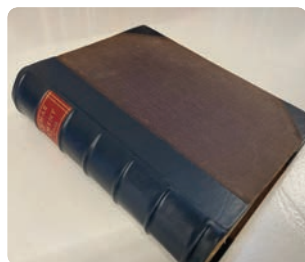
- 6 Heater (6)
- 7 Trove (5)
- 9 Owns (4)
- 10 Trailers (8)
- 11 So - yak! (5)
- 13 Danger (6)
- 15 Phases (1-5)
- 17 Orcas (5)
- 20 Reels off (5,3)
- 21 Diet (4)
- 22 Elton (5)
- 23 Specie (6)

Down

- 1 Worker (6)
- 2 Bone (2,2)
- 3 Karts (5)
- 4 Magneto (7)
- 5 Wine bars (8)
- 8 Tilde (5)
- 12 Layering (8)
- 14 Deforms (7)
- 16 Wells (5)
- 18 Saddle (6)
- 19 Parts (5)
- 21 Meth (4)



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**Copy Deadline for
August Issue - 21st July 2025**

Severn Stoke & Croome D'abitot News

Happenings in Severn Stoke and Environs

John Henderson

St. Denys' Church, Severn Stoke

The Parochial Church Council and The Friends of St Denys, both charitable organisations have been in joint discussion to see whether The Friends might operate as a wider community benefit.

The PCC has the legal duty to maintain the church building and churchyard and Parishioners have the responsibility of providing it with sufficient funds to maintain a shared Priest, Revd Kat Mepham through the Parish Share (£10,766.00 this year) and to undertake necessary repairs and payments for the building. This has been achieved up to now by the generosity of people through legacies and the efforts of the Friends of St Denys Committee, which holds fund-raising activities throughout each year to assist with the cost of Insurance, repairs and improvements. These efforts are proving to be inadequate with endless rising costs. The 12th century church of St Denys is now the only community building in the

parishes and as has always been the situation, except in Victorian times, it has been the meeting place for village events, celebrations and meetings. That is why we welcome the Parish Council to hold their public meetings in the church during the warmer months and indeed any other organisation or groups which might wish to use the facilities.

Please become involved in the continuing efforts to achieve the lively participation of locals to make for a better life. A number of villages nearby provide a wonderful example, such as Birlingham. Contact any PCC or Friends' committee member or me, John Henderson on johnboydhenderson@hotmail.com Talking of public spiritedness, we are delighted that for her voluntary work as Treasurer of the PCC and the former Parish Hall Committee over decades, as joint leader of the Cornflower Club in Kempsey and Severn Stoke parish organist for over 60 years and many other works, Sally Linsey was invited to a



Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May.

St Mary Magdalene, Croome d'Abitot –

The annual Benefice service and picnic is to be held on Sunday, 20th July at 11.00 a.m. All are welcome to attend this informal service and a byo picnic after in beautiful surroundings, with kind permission of the National Trust to permit car parking in the Croome Car Park and free entry to non-members attending the Service.

Friends of St. Denys, Severn Stoke –

Raising funds to modernise the church!

In June, the Friends' Committee raised a fantastic £520 towards church funds and donations of £206.60 were made to the vivacious Malvern Ukulele Band in aid of Maggs Day Centre for the Homeless in Worcester. Thanks to all who provided the delicious refreshments and to the organisers, who arranged such a happy and worthwhile event for a very receptive audience.

Advance Notice –

Saturday, 20th September - Craft Fair in St Denys' Church, following last year's very successful events.

We still need a volunteer to take over the running of the 100 Club, not an onerous task, but it will finish if no one comes forward. It raises over £800 annually towards church funds and many have benefited from the monthly prize draws. Please contact Sally Linsey – 01905 820 476

Spot and Shop - June Winners

- 1) Margaret Duffy
- 2) Steve Church
- 3) Mary Dexter
- 4) Joanna Baines
- 5) Ann Bradley
- 6) Carol Griffiths
- 7) James Thorp

Last month's answer:
Bowbrook Gardens

Kempsey Times

Collection Points:

Hughes and Company, Pershore

The Anchor - The Crown - The Talbot - The Seaborne

Rose and Crown, Severn Stoke

Kempsey's Morrisons - Co-op, Canada Way, Lower Wick

St. Peter's Garden Centre, Broomhall

St Mary's Church, Kempsey

St Denys Church, Severn Stoke

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

SPOT and SHOP!

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£50 CASH

This month's anagram
ADVENTIST ACCESS FIREGUARDS

This month's prizes!

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2nd - £25 cash

Donated by Hughes and Company

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at The Queen Elizabeth, Elmley

4th £10 Voucher
at Revills Farm Shop, Defford

5th £10 Voucher
at Craftypyro, Bakers Arcade, Pershore

6th Reg Moule Gardening Book

7th Pat's Pantry -
Jar of home-made marmalade/jam

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Kempsey Times closing date: 25th July 2025

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7:00 - 8pm Martail Arts

Contact Sensei Dave Webster
For more info & private lessons
07870 948180

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Clive Harrison 9th Dan
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07976986439
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JULY

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			

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

 Green recycling bin  Black waste bin



Severnside Parishes

Contact Information

Vicar: Rev Kat Mepham -
tel: 07512 222635
email: revkat@severnside.church

Baptisms: email: libbirty.holt@motov8.org.uk

Funerals: email: revkat@severnside.church

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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Useful numbers

Worcester Fire Station 01905 725030

Kempsey Mobile Library

Second Tuesday in the month 01905 822722

Kempsey Police Station 101

.....(In an emergency always call 999)

CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111

Kempsey Post Office 01905 828469

Kempsey Doctors Surgery 01905 820466

Kempsey Parish Council 01905 828183

MHDC Council

Out of Hours Emergency Hotline -

In an event of an emergency call: 0300 003 5367

To report faulty traffic lights or urgent

Highways issues call: 07875 033759

Please note: This number should not be used for 'day-to-day' enquiries.

- Waste Services 01684 862490

- Planning Dept 01684 862221

- Pot Holes 01905 765765

Severn Stoke Parish Council 07950 256363

Help the Homeless 0300 500 0914



Seyernside Youth

Fun, games, community and a little talk or thought!

We have pool, table tennis, craft and lots of games!

Free of charge to come

A tuck shop - for those who want sweets!

Wednesday 6:30pm - 8:00pm at St Mary's Kempsey
Year 6 - Year 13 Term time only!

For more information
 Please contact Libberty email: libberty.holt@motov8.org.uk



Stepping Stones

Join us with your children ages 0-5 for play, friendly chat and shared support!

Crafts and a sensory around a theme!

Monday 10:30am
 St Mary's Church - Kempsey

Tuesday 10:00am
 St Mary's Church - Kempsey

Thursday 1:00pm
 St Mary's Church - Kempsey

£3 per family - Snacks and refreshments provided!
All Welcome!

For more information Please contact Libberty at libberty.holt@motov8.org.uk

Art Ministry Relaxation and Mindfulness

Mindful Colouring - Bible Journalling - Sketching
 Poetry - Creative writing - Painting
 Prayer Doodling - Collage

Friday 9:30am - 12:00 noon
 Refreshments and Breakfast Pastries 9.30am | Create 10am - 12pm
Term time only!

Sanctuary Arts Community
 St Mary's Church, Kempsey

There is no charge but we ask for a suggested donation of
 £5 for on-going material

All Welcome!

For more information Please contact Kay Mason
 01905 356216 / 07921 122802 Email: kay.mason@motov8.org.uk

TOOLS WITH A MISSION

This charity collects and refurbishes gardening, carpentry, building tools, sewing machines and bicycles for distribution in Africa

We collect them here in Kempsey and send them to a national centre to be shipped to needy families.

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Camera Club



"Coupling Class" by Charles Ashton FRPS

As I reported in the previous article, the Club is proceeding with its relatively new summer mode, where the greater proportion of events and meet-ups are in the open air and fewer indoors (whether in person or on-line) during what used to be a closed season. In July we have a further workshop-related event, plus the latest iteration of our Edit Challenge, the results of which will be the subject of our meeting on Wednesday 23rd. The Challenge involves a second member of the Club editing/developing an image and then their version being compared with that from the original author. We usually cover about 15-20 images in the evening; the similarities and differences for each base

image often spark an interesting debate. We would be delighted to welcome anybody interested; please make contact via our website www.kempseycameraclub.uk. In the same location you will find information regarding further events through the summer and our programme for the new season which formally commences in September. In the meantime we hope that you will enjoy these two examples of very different styles of photography - "Coupling Class" by Charles Ashton FRPS & "Herbarium" by Shelagh Allen LRPS - a further two of the five top placed images in our Open Print competition held in April.

Malcolm A Hay, Secretary



"Herbarium" by Shelagh Allen LRPS

Kempsey WI



Four members of Kempsey WI (plus one husband!) were able to answer a last-minute call for help from the local Lawns Care Home. More people were needed to push wheelchairs so that residents could join in a procession marking the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. They reported the event was a great success, with participants delighted to see cheering schoolchildren lining the streets and motorists tooting horns. Later in May, members looked at their handwriting with fresh eyes, after a talk by graphologist Sandy Grayson. Sandy, a former legal secretary who started a business offering calligraphy services before moving onto holding calligraphy classes on cruise ships, explained how handwriting can expose people's feelings. She said the strokes, loops and way of forming letters and words show the person's mood

at the time of writing and styles can change through a person's life. As a demonstration, she displayed several signatures of famous people from film stars and singers to Royals and politicians. Donald Trump's signature was said to be very aggressive, making a huge statement!

July's get-together is a garden party at the home of one of the members. The next regular meeting will hear about Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, a Sikh suffragette. Monday August 18th, 2pm, Kempsey Youth Centre, Plovers Rise.

For more information contact Secretary
Judy Sanders,
kempseysec@wi.org.uk

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Music Society

The Music Society meets fortnightly on Thursday afternoons in a comfortable lounge at The Firs on Old Road North from 2:00pm – 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. 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. Our meetings will take place at The Firs on Old Road North from 2:00pm – 4:00pm on:

July 3rd, 17th and 31st

For further details please contact: Anne on 07931 636309

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PCYC Kempsey U-Nites Program

Combating antisocial behaviour in young people

About PCYC NSW

Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) is a leading Australian youth charity dedicated to empowering young people and building stronger, healthier communities. Established in 1937, PCYC provides a wide range of youth programs, including sports, recreation, education, and personal development opportunities, with a focus on creating safe spaces where young people can thrive. On Fridays from 4pm to 9pm, PCYC Kempsey transforms into an evening youth hub for the U-Nites program. Eight to 14-year olds can participate in a variety of sporting, cultural, and educational activities, with supervision and mentorship from PCYC staff and NSW Police.

The initiative is funded by The Benevolent Society, designed to divert Kempsey youth from antisocial behaviour or crime, by providing a safe space for young people to hang out after hours. 13-year-old participant, Mara Little said "PCYC staff make me feel safe and welcomed. U-Nites has taught me how to do boxing, we also do gymnastics, soccer, and basketball. It gets me out of the house and doing fitness, and I have made a lot of friends by being at the Kempsey Club. It's a good place to be."

U-Nites encourages young people off the streets at night, and takes the pressure off local parents, with a nutritious dinner served and a PCYC bus offering transportation to and from the Club.

PCYC



There have been more than 1,100 attendances over the last 12 months, and demand for the service is only growing. NSW Police Youth Engagement Officer, Bruce Browning said "Some of the young people we work with come from challenging backgrounds, PCYC Youth Programs provide inspiration, and the participants see that they can achieve things they never thought they could." Club Manager, Keith Robinson said "We work together with community groups like Burrum Dalai Aboriginal Corporation, The Buttery Rehab,

Pathfinders, and the Kinchela Boys Home, to help young people make better choices for themselves and their families." PCYC Kempsey is one of 67 clubs across New South Wales, with 691 active members and more than 7,000 people using the facilities each year. U-Nites is one of many PCYC Youth Programs offered at the Bloomfield Street facility. Young people also benefit from before-school fitness and mentoring through 'Fit for Life', and 'Fit for Change' prevents re-offending in at-risk teenagers.

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